



NEWS RELEASE

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Release Number: 102-10
Date: October 26, 2010
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DeCA West store director assignments announced

*By Nancy O’Nell,
DeCA West public affairs officer*

FORT LEE, Va. – Eight store director assignments highlight commissary management changes that occurred over the summer in DeCA West.

“These eight store directors, now in place for a few months, have already impacted customer service and operating efficiencies at their stores,” said Keith C. Hagenbuch, DeCA West director. “I commend each manager for their hard work and accomplishments that brought them to this point, and I am confident they will continue to excel in delivering the commissary benefit to the military community in Japan, Korea and the United States.”

The assignments are:

- **Daniel Smith**, Naval Fleet Activities Yokosuka Commissary, Japan
- **Jeffrey Dusich**, Camp Courtney, Okinawa Commissary, Japan
- **Gayle McGrath**, Altus Air Force Base Commissary, Okla.
- **Fred Pena**, Tinker Air Force Base Commissary, Okla.
- **Dwight Waterman**, Naval Air Station El Centro Commissary, Calif.
- **James Dellinger**, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Commissary, Japan
- **Lindsey Johnson**, Sagami-hara Housing Area Commissary, Japan
- **Robert Riley**, Command Fleet Activities Chinhae Commissary, South Korea

Daniel Smith is the new store director at the Naval Fleet Activities Yokosuka Commissary. He was selected after serving for three years as store director at the Camp

Courtney store. Smith joined civil service in 1986 after four years in the Marine Corps. Most of his commissary career has been served in Japan and Guam where he has held the store administrator position at the Andersen Air Force Base Commissary, Joint Region Marianas, Guam; Misawa Air Base, Japan; and Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan. Smith also worked as grocery manager at Camp Courtney and produce manager at Camp Kinser, both in Okinawa, Japan.

Smith replaced Totolua Ripley who is now a business solution specialist at DeCA headquarters, Fort Lee, Va. Smith was replaced at Camp Courtney by Jeff Dusich.

Jeffery Dusich is the new store director for the Camp Courtney Commissary. Dusich returns to Japan after more than two years as store director at Marine Corps Base Hawaii-Kaneohe Bay. Dusich was also the store director at Kaneohe Bay from 2001 to 2006. He has returned to Japan, where he previously served as store director for the commissaries at Yokota Air Base and Naval Fleet Activities Yokosuka and as the store administrator at Camp Kinser. Dusich gained zone-level experience in Japan when he assisted the Zone 35 manager as a commissary management specialist from 1999 to 2001.

Dusich also has first-hand operations knowledge of central distribution centers, which he gained while chief of DeCA's Okinawa Central Distribution Center from 1995 to 1997. Dusich retired from the U.S. Air Force with 20 years of service. A highlight of his military career included an assignment as senior enlisted aide to the commander of U.S. Air Forces Europe and Allied Air Forces Central Europe. He holds a bachelor's degree in management studies from the University of Maryland.

Dusich replaced Daniel Smith who is now store director at Naval Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan. No replacement has been announced for the store director position at Kaneohe Bay.

Gayle McGrath returns to Altus Air Force Base Commissary as store director, where she once served as assistant grocery manager and grocery manager. McGrath was selected after serving for two years as a commissary management specialist at DeCA Europe headquarters, Kapaun Air Station, Germany. With more than 30 years of commissary experience, McGrath began her commissary career as a cashier at Crailsheim Army Base, Germany, then spent the next 11 years at the Clear Creek and Warrior Way commissaries at Fort Hood, Texas. McGrath gained grocery manager experience at commissaries now at Joint Base San Antonio: Fort Sam Houston, Randolph Air Force Base and Lackland Air Force Base. She also served as store manager in Germany at Heidelberg Commissary.

McGrath replaced Drew Peach who is now store director at Naval Air Station North Island, Calif.

Fred Pena is the new store director for the commissary at Tinker Air Force Base Commissary. He previously served for two years as store director at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M. After serving in the U.S. Marines for four years, Pena worked for the Navy Exchange Service Command and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service on Okinawa, Japan, from 1980 to 1985. He started working for the commissary at Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan, progressing from merchandiser to store manager. He has also served as store manager at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, and store director at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Pena replaced John Spaur who was previously announced as manager for Zone 23, based at the McGuire Air Force Base Commissary, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. No replacement has been announced for the store director position at Cannon Air Force Base.

Dwight Waterman is the new store director at the Naval Air Station El Centro Commissary. He was selected after serving as grocery manager at Camp Pendleton Commissary, Calif., for one year. Waterman began his DeCA career in 1990 as a store worker at Kelley Barracks, Germany, moving quickly into management positions. In Germany, he served as grocery manager at Kelley Barracks and as store administrator at Kelley Barracks and Panzer Kaserne. In 1999, he moved to California to become store administrator at the former Marine Corps Air Station El Toro store. Waterman returned to Germany in 2000, where he served as store administrator at Ansbach, then at Bitburg Air Base, Germany.

Waterman replaced Velma Siler, who was previously announced as store director at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas. Brian Hoolehan replaced Waterman at Camp Pendleton.

James Dellinger is the new store director at the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni Commissary. He was selected after serving for two years as assistant store director at Andersen Air Force Base Commissary, Joint Region Marianas, Guam. Dellinger gained his first commissary experience, while in the military, assigned as a stock accounting clerk at Schwabisch Hall, Germany. He retired from the Army as a master sergeant with 21 years of service. A highlight of his military career was serving in Germany with the U.S. Army Troop Support Agency as commissary management specialist and noncommissioned officer for the Heidelberg District. He joined civil service in 1993 and has since served as the store manager at Wiesbaden, Baumholder and Hanau in Germany and at Pusan Air Base, South Korea, and as the assistant store director at Chievres, Belgium, and Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga.

Dellinger replaced Karen Chaney, who is now store director at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England. No replacement has been announced for the assistant store director position at Andersen Commissary.

Lindsey Johnson is store director at the Sagamiara Housing Area Commissary. He was selected after serving as store manager for three years at Travis Air Force Base, Calif. Johnson served in the U.S. Air Force with security forces and commissary services for 20 years, retiring in 1993. He gained management experience with DeCA at Beale Air Force Base, Calif.; Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.; Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; and Harrison Village, Ind.

Johnson replaced Ronald Yoder who is now store director at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Ruby Ervin has replaced Johnson at Travis Air Force Base.

Robert Riley returns to Command Fleet Activities Chinhae as store manager, where he also served, from 2006 to 2008, as the store's retail manager. Riley began his commissary career in 2003 as a sales store checker at Pusan Air Base, South Korea. Within two years he was promoted to customer service manager at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, and two years later to retail manager at Command Fleet Activities Chinhae. He worked for two years as general manager for Los Angeles Air Force Base Commissary before returning to Chinhae.

Riley replaced Charles Phillips who is now store administrator at Taegu Air Base, South Korea. Emily Thornton has replaced Riley at Los Angeles Air Force Base.

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About DeCA: *The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices – savings worth more than \$4,400 annually for a family of four. A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.*