



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

Corporate Communication

1300 E Avenue • Fort Lee, VA 23801-1800

Tel: (804) 734-8000, Ext. 4-8524 DSN: 687-8000, Ext. 4-8524

FAX: (804) 734-8248 DSN: 687-8248

www.commissaries.com

Release Number: 103-10
Date: October 29, 2010
Contact: Kevin Robinson, public affairs specialist
Tel.: (804) 734-8000, Ext. 4-8773
E-mail: kevin.robinson@deca.mil

Bands selected DeCA's chief financial executive

*By Kevin L. Robinson,
DeCA public affairs specialist*

FORT LEE, Va. – Lauren P. “Larry” Bands, former director of accounting for the Defense Commissary Agency, has been named the agency’s chief financial executive. He succeeds Pamela F. Conklin, who accepted a Senior Executive Service position with the Defense Contract Management Agency in August.

DeCA will begin recruitment actions for its next director of accounting immediately. Cynthia L. Morgan, DeCA’s chief of the accounting compliance and reporting division, is currently serving as acting director of accounting.

As chief financial executive, Bands is responsible for all financial aspects of the agency’s retail sales and operating budgets. He also is the agency spokesperson on financial issues and DeCA’s liaison with the Department of Defense, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the Government Accountability Office, the financial staffs of the military departments and retail industry representatives.

“With Larry’s track record in financial management, we are confident he will excel in his new position,” said Thomas E. Milks, DeCA’s acting director and CEO. “His expertise will help us make the budget decisions necessary to maintain the value of the commissary benefit.”

Bands entered federal service in 1982 as an operations research analyst with the Army Troop Support Agency at Fort Lee. In 1984, he accepted a job in the same capacity with the Combined Arms Support Command at Fort Lee, and served there until he joined DeCA in 1991 as a program analyst. In 1995, he became a budget analyst for the agency.

In 2001, Bands moved on to become the budget officer at the Defense Supply Center Richmond, Va., and eventually became deputy director and comptroller for financial operations at DSCR from 2004 to 2006. He returned to DeCA in 2006 to become the director of accounting for the headquarters resource management directorate.

Bands holds a bachelor's degree in business finance from Virginia Tech at Blacksburg, Va., a master's degree in public administration from Virginia Commonwealth University at Richmond, Va., and is a certified defense financial manager.

In addition to his duties at DeCA, Bands is serving his second term (first one was in 1995) as president of the Southside Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers.

-DeCA-

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.*