



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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Release Number: 107-10
Date: November 4, 2010
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Gift vouchers extend holiday cheer to commissary shoppers

*By Kevin L. Robinson,
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FORT LEE, Va. – During November and December, the Defense Commissary Agency is reminding anyone who wants to send some holiday cheer to authorized military shoppers that they can do so with gift vouchers.

Whether it's helping military families in need enjoy heartier holiday meals or just giving the gift of groceries to single service members in the barracks, the gift vouchers are an ideal way of allowing recipients to enjoy their commissary benefit, said DeCA's Acting Director and CEO Thomas E. Milks.

“One of the lasting traditions of the military involves its members ‘taking care of their own,’ ” he said. “These vouchers allow the friends and family of authorized shoppers to do just that and really add some joy to someone’s holiday meals.”

Gift vouchers are available in \$25 denominations. Anyone – civilian or military – can purchase them, but only authorized shoppers can redeem them in a commissary.

Here are some more quick facts about gift vouchers:

- Vouchers are available at commissary customer service areas, cash offices and from cashiers at full-service checkout lanes.
- There are no additional costs for purchasing or redeeming a gift voucher.
- You cannot exchange them for cash. However, if a purchase is made in the commissary with a voucher, the purchaser will receive change for the unused portion of the voucher.

- The vouchers are nonrefundable.
- Vouchers expire five years after the date of purchase.
- DeCA is not responsible for replacing lost, stolen, destroyed or mutilated vouchers, and commissaries can refuse to redeem any voucher that appears to be altered, copied, or the serial number is unreadable or missing.
- Purchasers can buy an unlimited amount of vouchers. However, anyone who purchases more than \$1,000 in vouchers at one time must notify the commissary a week in advance so that the store has enough vouchers for other customer demands.

In mid January, DeCA will unveil a gift card program, available in \$25 and \$50 denominations, which will replace the gift vouchers and allow online and in-store purchases. Once commissaries receive their first gift cards for sale, they will no longer sell gift vouchers. However, customers who have already purchased gift vouchers will be able to redeem them up to five years from the date of purchase.

-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.*