



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: 108-10
Date: November 4, 2010
Contact: Kevin Robinson, public affairs specialist
Tel.: (804) 734-8000, Ext. 4-8773
E-mail: kevin.robinson@deca.mil

Military Family Month

Commissary benefit helps service families stay strong

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

FORT LEE, Va. – Military families are taking center stage in November by proclamation of President Barack Obama, and the Defense Commissary Agency is joining the commander in chief in recognizing and honoring them for their countless contributions and sacrifices.

“At DeCA, we believe we embody the spirit of the president’s proclamation every day by providing a vital commissary benefit with savings and job opportunities that help military families be economically stronger,” said DeCA’s Acting Director and CEO Thomas E. Milks.

Commissaries exist as part of the Defense Department’s nonpay compensation to reinforce military families’ quality of life. On the average, authorized commissary shoppers save 30 percent or more on groceries – that equates to a return of more than \$4,400 annually for a family of four. In fiscal 2010 alone, commissaries saved their customers more than \$2.69 billion.

However, the economic boost doesn’t stop there, Milks said, as DeCA also helps bolster military families with employment opportunities. About 62.5 percent of DeCA’s total workforce is made up of military spouses and other family members.

“We like to consider ourselves the extended family of the service members we support,” he said. “In fact, at DeCA we are fond of saying ‘Your Family is Our Family,’ because you would be hard-pressed to find a commissary employee who isn’t the spouse or family member of an active-duty member, Guardsman, reservist, retiree or veteran.

“It’s this sense of family at the commissary,” Milks added, “that gives deployed service members the confidence that their families are being taken care of when they are away.”

DeCA’s industry partners also support the children of military families through scholarships that help families defer the rising costs of a college education. Since 2000, nearly 5,500 students of military families have received about \$8.3 million in grants for higher learning through the Scholarships for Military Children program.

During November, in observance of Military Family Month, visitors to the DeCA website, <http://www.commissaries.com>, will see a special banner, which recognizes the value of military families. However, the site is a constant source of information year round for families to maximize their commissary benefit.

To read the complete text of the president’s proclamation, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/10/29/presidential-proclamation-military-family-month>.

-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.*