



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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Release Number: 16-10
Date: February 17, 2010
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DoD appoints new chairman of DeCA Board of Directors

By Office of Communication

FORT LEE, Va. – Air Force Lt. Gen. Richard Newton III was appointed chairman of the Defense Commissary Agency Board of Directors by Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Plans Gail McGinn. McGinn is currently performing the duties of the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Newton's appointment was effective Jan. 1. He succeeds Army Lt. Gen. Mitchell Stevenson, who had served as board chairman since 2008. Stevenson is the Army deputy chief of staff for logistics.

The commissary board is responsible for advising the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness on the prudent operation of the commissary system and assisting in the overall supervision of the Defense Commissary Agency.

Newton has been the Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel since January 2008. Before his current assignment, he served as Air Force assistant deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and requirements.

Newton is a 1978 graduate of the Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science in history. After graduating from the academy, he became a T-38 instructor pilot and executive officer with the 47th Flying Training Wing at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. He is rated as a command pilot with more than 2,900 flight hours on B-2, B-1B, B-52G/H and T-38 aircraft.

His other assignments included B-52G aircraft commander, instructor pilot and flight examiner with the 379th Bomb Wing, Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Mich.; commander, 393rd Bomb Squadron, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., commander, 28th Operations Group, Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.; and commander, 5th Bomb Wing, Minot Air Force Base, N.D.

From December 2001 through August 2002, Newton served as deputy director of the

developing aerospace leaders support office, for the Air Force's deputy chief of staff for personnel in Washington, D.C. His other assignments included deputy director for global operations for the Joint Staff in the Pentagon (2003 to 2005), and director of plans and policy for the U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. (2005 to 2006).

Newton earned a Master of Arts in management from Webster University, St. Louis, Mo., in 1983, and a Master of Science in national security strategy from the National War College, Washington, D.C., in 1996.

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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 about \$3,300 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.*