



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

Office of 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: 35-10
Date: April 7, 2010
Contact: Kevin Robinson, public affairs specialist
Tel.: (804) 734-8000, Ext. 4-8773
E-mail: kevin.robinson@deca.mil

Employees embrace new responsibilities in new assignments

By Office of Communication

FORT LEE, Va. – Several employees of the Defense Commissary Agency have been selected for new leadership assignments.

“These employees are considered to be among our best and brightest,” said DeCA Director and CEO Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. “Our agency will be stronger as they assume the mantle of increased responsibilities in their new assignments.”

The following 19 names have been announced in previous e-mail messages to the DeCA workforce:

John Spaur, store director, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., is the new manager of DeCA East’s Zone 23 based at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. At Tinker, Spaur was responsible for an operation which included 101 employees with annual sales of \$48.4 million for fiscal 2009. Prior to Tinker, he served as the store director at the Hario and Sasebo commissaries, Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan, from 2005 to 2008. He began his commissary career in 1989 as a meat cutter at Vint Hill Farms Station Commissary, Va. He transferred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1995 where he worked as an inspector for two years before returning to DeCA as a meat department manager at Naval Training Center Orlando, Fla. In 1999, Spaur rotated to Camp Foster, Okinawa, Japan, where he served as the grocery department manager, store manager, store administrator and acting store director.

Spaur fills the vacancy left by Barbara Sannino, who is now manager of the Bavaria Zone in DeCA Europe. No replacement has been announced for the store director position at Tinker Air Force Base.

Leslie Carroll is the new store director at Fort Lee, Va., having recently completed a year as store director at Naval Air Engineering Center Lakehurst, N.J. At Lakehurst, she was responsible for store operations, averaging more than \$3 million in annual sales for fiscal 2009. In March 2009, she returned to DeCA after a 14-year break in her commissary career. Carroll is a retired soldier who had previously worked for the Army Troop Support Agency, which managed the former Army commissary system, before her initial service with DeCA.

Former Fort Lee Store Director Arrie Carson was previously announced as moving to DeCA headquarters as a commissary management specialist in the performance and policy directorate's Customer Service Center of Excellence.

Donald Mitchell is the new store director at Naval Air Engineering Center Lakehurst, N.J., having recently completed two years as store manager of the Yokota Air Base Commissary, Japan. At Yokota, he was part of a management team that helped the store achieve more than \$19 million in sales for fiscal 2009. After a career in the U.S. Army, Mitchell began his commissary career in 2002 as a commissary management specialist at the Yongsan Commissary, South Korea. Previous commissary assignments include grocery manager of the Camp Howze Commissary, Korea, and merchandising manager of the Sasebo Commissary, Japan, and from 2004 to 2006 he was store director of the Lakehurst commissary.

No replacement has been announced for the store administrator position at Yokota Air Base.

Charlita Covington is the new store director of the Naval Support Activity New Orleans Commissary, La. She arrived at her new assignment in early March after serving two years as the store administrator for the Chievres Commissary, Belgium. At Chievres, she was part of a leadership team that helped the store reach more than \$10.9 million in sales for fiscal 2009. Covington began her commissary career in 1998 as a cashier at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Commissary, S.C., and has progressed through various commissary assignments in Okinawa, California and North Carolina.

Riccardo Lieffort, store director, RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom, is the new store director, McChord Air Force Base, Wash. At Lakenheath, he was responsible for store operations with fiscal 2009 sales of more than \$36.5 million. Lieffort began his civil service career as a warehouseman within the Air Force Commissary Service in 1976 at Ramstein Air

Base, Germany. He became a meat cutter at Vogelweh, Germany, in 1977. Later, at Aviano Air Base, Italy, Lieffort advanced to meat department manager from 1984 to 1986, grocery manager from 1986 to 1988 and deputy store director from 1988 to 1992. From 1992 to 2007, he served as a store director at commissaries in New York, Italy and Germany.

Former McChord Store Director Victoria Best-Rush was previously announced as manager for Zone 12. No replacement has been announced for the store director position at RAF Lakenheath.

Cory Reilly, store director at Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev., is the new store director for the Sasebo and Hario commissaries, both located on U.S. Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan. Reilly has been with DeCA since 1991. He had been store director at Fallon since 2006, responsible for store operations, with annual sales of \$5.8 million in fiscal 2009. Prior to Fallon, he served for two years as store manager at Sasebo and two years as meat department manager at Camp Foster, Okinawa. He has also worked at Camp Courtney, Japan, and Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton, Wash. Before joining DeCA, Reilly served for 23 years with the U.S. Navy, retiring in 1991 as a chief petty officer.

Former Hario Store Director Barney Patsel retired in October 2009 with 15 years of civil service.

No replacement has been announced for the store director position at Fallon.

Velma Siler, store director at El Centro, Calif., is the new store director at Corpus Christi, Texas. Siler has been a manager with DeCA since 2001. At the El Centro Commissary she was responsible for store operations, with sales of \$1.5 million in fiscal 2009. Siler has also served as perishable manager at Naval Air Station North Island, Calif.; grocery manager at Naval Air Station New Orleans, La.; produce manager at Corpus Christi, Texas; and produce manager at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

Former Corpus Christi Store Director Blair Marshburn retired in November 2009.

No replacement has been announced for the store director position at El Centro.

Drew Peach is the new store director at Naval Air Station North Island, Calif., after completing two years as the store director at Altus Air Force Base, Okla. At the Altus Commissary, he was responsible for store operations, with sales of \$8.5 million in fiscal 2009. Prior to his position at the Altus Commissary, he served as store administrator at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., for five years. Peach has been a manager with DeCA since 2003. Before joining civil service, he gained private sector experience in the retail and service industries in Tucson, Ariz., working for three years as a food and beverage manager with Lowes Ventana

Golf Resort and five years as a sales manager with Thrifty's. Peach served on active duty with the U.S. Army from 1972 to 1981.

Former North Island Store Director Thomas Testerman was previously announced as the new store director for Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. No replacement has been announced for the Altus store director position.

Anthony Piccolo is the new store director at Kirkland Air Force Base, N.M., after completing more than two years as the store director at Fort Hamilton, N.Y. At Fort Hamilton, he was responsible for store operations, averaging more than \$18 million in annual sales. Piccolo joined civil service after working as an executive project superintendent for a residential developer firm in Florida. Piccolo retired from the U.S. Air Force after a 21-year career in which he served as a security supervisor, combat support superintendent, services superintendent, grocery department manager, troop support supervisor and subsistence operations specialist.

Former Kirkland Store Director Dale Pudwill, a lieutenant colonel with the Air Force Reserve, is serving a four-year assignment with the services squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. No replacement has been announced for the store director position at Fort Hamilton.

William Feggans is the new store director at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif. He comes to Barstow after serving as a general manager at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. At Fort Huachuca, Feggans managed the produce department, with annual sales averaging \$2.1 million. He began his commissary career in 1980 with the Army Troop Support Agency at Giessen, Germany. He has worked as a grocery manager and store foreman at Augsburg, Germany, and as a warehouse supervisor at both Germersheim, Germany, and Fort Irwin, Calif. From 1998 to 2001, he was a security agent for music industry celebrities.

Former Barstow Store Director Robert Hoak-Kagey was selected as store administrator at Fort Irwin, Calif. No replacement has been announced for the general manager position at Fort Huachuca.

Teresa De Jesus, store director at Garmisch, Germany, is the new store director at Lajes Field, Portugal. At Garmisch, she was responsible for store operations, averaging more than \$3.5 million in annual sales. As the new store director at Lajes Field, De Jesus is quite familiar with the local culture. She is a native of Vila Nova de Milfontes, Portugal, and served at Lajes Field as a store administrator in 2000. De Jesus had been the store director at Garmisch since 2007. Her commissary career began in 1987 as a front end manager at Nuremberg, Germany, where she would eventually become store manager by 1992. Her DeCA career has also taken her to stores in Florida and Texas.

Former Lajes Field Store Director Jim Marino was previously announced as the new store director at Naval Support Activity Annapolis, Md.

Belinda Little, store administrator, Incirlik, Turkey, will become store director at the Garmisch, Germany. At Incirlik, she was part of a leadership team that helped the store achieve more than \$1.4 million in sales for fiscal 2009. Little's commissary career spans 26 years and includes duty in Germany, Italy, Turkey and the United Kingdom as well as several stateside locations. She started as an entry-level store worker in Wiesbaden, Germany, and has worked her way up to the level of store director.

Eugene Davis is the new store director at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, after serving as the store manager at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., since 2007. At Nellis, he was part of a management team that helped the store reach annual sales of \$59 million in fiscal 2009. Davis has been with DeCA since 1998 and was a commissary intern from 2001 to 2002. Prior to Nellis, he was store director at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. Davis joined DeCA following a 15-year military career in the Air Force. With Air Force Services, he managed the community activities center at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, and was supervisor, overseeing lodging and dining facilities at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Former Eielson Store Director Craig Cleaveland is now the frozen food buyer at DeCA headquarters, Fort Lee, Va.

Rhonda Smith, store director at Barbers Point, Hawaii, is the new store director at Fort Carson, Colo. Smith has been with DeCA since 1990. She has been store director at Barbers Point since 2008, responsible for store operations, with annual sales of \$5 million. Prior to Barbers Point, she served as store manager at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. She has also worked at Imperial Beach, Calif.; Lakenheath Air Force Base, United Kingdom; Fort Hood, Texas; and at Ansbach, Frankfurt, Illesheim Storck Barracks and Wiesbaden, Germany.

Former Fort Carson Store Director Monique Mullin-Mings is now a zone manager in Europe for Zone 32.

Sheila Bramlett, general manager, Fort Belvoir, Va., will become store director at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. At Belvoir, Bramlett was part of a management team that helped the store achieve more than \$104 million in sales for fiscal 2009. Her career began as a cashier at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., in 1998. She was selected in 2001 to be a commissary intern at Langley Air Force Base, Va. While at Langley, she was responsible for the operation of nearby Fort Monroe annex. In 2004, she was assigned as the store administrator at Naval Air Station

Brunswick, Maine, and in 2006, she served as the store director for the commissary at Marianas Support Activities, Orote Point, Guam.

Marjorie “Chris” Milligan, store administrator at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., will become store director at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. At Robins, she was part of a leadership team that helped the store achieve more than \$31 million in annual sales for fiscal 2009. Milligan has been with DeCA since 1993. She has also been store director at the U.S. Military Academy West Point, N.Y., and she was a commissary management specialist for DeCA East’s former office in San Antonio, Texas. Mulligan began her commissary career at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, as a store checker and later served as the store’s produce manager.

Former Fort Sam Houston Store Director Ralph Maastricht is now store administrator at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. No replacement has been announced for the Robins Air Force Base store administrator position.

Lori Looney, general manager at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., will become the new store director at Grand Forks. At Grand Forks, she was part of a leadership team that helped the store achieve more than \$8 million in sales for fiscal 2009. Looney began her commissary career in 1987. She has worked in Germany as a produce manager at Augsburg and Ansbach, and as an annex manager at Dexheim. Before moving to Grand Forks, she was grocery manager at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Former Grand Forks Director Royden Hunnewell is now store director at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. No replacement has been announced for the Grand Forks grocery manager position.

Edwin Auld, store administrator at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., will become store director at Holloman. At Holloman, he is part of a leadership team that helped the store reach more than \$14 million in annual sales. Auld started his commissary career in 1989 with the Army Troop Support Agency at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. His career has taken him across the U.S. as store manager at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.; Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; and Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and as grocery manager at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. In Germany, he has been assistant store director at Vogelweh Housing Area, store manager at Ramstein Air Base and assistant manager for DeCA Europe’s central meat processing plant.

Former Holloman Store Director Mike Bathgate is now store administrator at U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, Germany. No replacement has been announced for the Holloman store administrator position.

Ronald Yoder is the new store director at Yokota Air Base, Japan. He comes to Yokota after having served as the store director at Sagamihara Housing Area, Japan. At the Sagamihara Commissary he was responsible for store operations, with sales of \$3.8 million in fiscal 2009. Yoder has been with DeCA since 1995. He has also served as store director at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan; store administrator at Naval Station Everett-Smokey Point, Wash; produce manager at Yokota Air Base, Japan; and store manager at Camp Kure, Japan.

Former Yokota Store Director Michael Auderer is now store administrator at Misawa Air Base, Japan. No replacement has been announced for the Sagamihara store director position.

-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 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.*