



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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DeCA honors top stores in recycling

By DeCA office of communication

FORT LEE, Va. – Commissaries that have excelled in the agency’s recycling efforts were honored June 9 during DeCA’s first Solid Waste Management Awards at the 2010 Conference and Training Event in Atlanta, Ga. Store directors of the winning commissaries were on hand to accept the awards from DeCA Director and CEO Philip E. Sakowitz Jr.

The winning stores and region by category are:

- **Outstanding Performance in Cardboard Recycling Efficiency** – Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Commissary, S.C.; Naval Air Station Patuxent River Commissary, Md.; Grand Forks Air Force Base Commissary, N.D.; Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany Commissary, Ga.; Moody Air Force Base Commissary, Ga.; Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Commissary, N.C.; Barksdale Air Force Base Commissary, La.; Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Commissary, Ariz.; Yuma Proving Ground Commissary, Ariz.; Tobyhanna Army Depot Commissary, Pa.; Columbus Air Force Base Commissary, Miss.; Naval Air Station Meridian Commissary, Miss.; Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay Commissary, Ga.; Richards-Gebaur Commissary, Mo.; Fort Benning Commissary, Ga.; and Norfolk Naval Shipyard Portsmouth Commissary, Va.
- **Most Improved Stores in Recycling Efficiency** – Naval Air Station Patuxent River Commissary, Md., (*with a 99 percent increase in efficiency*); Laughlin Air Force Base Commissary, Texas, (*with a 30 percent increase*); and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island Commissary, S.C. (*with a 25 percent increase*). These stores are the most

improved based on an actual percentage of improvement from fiscal 2007 through fiscal 2009.

- **Waste Capacity Reduction** – McGuire Air Force Base Commissary, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., and Los Angeles Air Force Base Commissary, Calif.
- **Best Zone** – Zone 13, Hawaii. This award recognizes the zone that has done the most to move toward the universal goal of zero waste going to the landfills.

The award for Outstanding Performance in Cardboard Recycling Efficiency recognizes those stores that have exceeded the agency’s goal of 55 percent efficiency in cardboard recycling. After a recycling study of 22 stores, it was determined that for every \$1 million of sales, a store would generate more than 27.6 tons of cardboard, if recycled at 100 percent efficiency. Fifty-five percent of that equates to 15.2 tons per \$1 million of sales.

The Waste Capacity Award is based on the reduction in Defense Working Capital Fund costs for trash removal. McGuire and Los Angeles earned this achievement for being the first stores to voluntarily reduce the number of containers and pickups per week.

Personnel at McGuire Commissary, without any formal training, took the initiative to remove one compactor and have the remaining one emptied only once a week. Their savings amounted to \$50,000 for the agency. The Los Angeles Commissary began with seven dumpsters, several of which were being used by the base recycling center, being dumped three times per week – all being charged to DeCA. Now the store only has three dumpsters for its exclusive use, being emptied three times per week.

Zone 13, winner of the Best Zone Award, has increased the type of materials it is recycling, reduced the number of waste containers and reduced the number of times per week they are being dumped, as well as participated in installations’ recycling initiatives.

“Many organizations will say that they are ‘Going Green’ because it may be the trend of the day. But at DeCA we take protecting the environment very seriously,” Sakowitz said. “Whether it’s increasing the number of green products, offering reusable shopping bags, reducing our demands for energy and water or in this case recycling waste, we are dedicated to reducing our carbon footprint on the environment. These stores are examples of that commitment.”

-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.