



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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Conklin to leave DeCA for Senior Executive Service position with DCMA

*By Kevin L. Robinson,
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FORT LEE, Va. – Pamela F. Conklin, chief financial executive with the Defense Commissary Agency, was selected in July to become a member of the Senior Executive Service with the Defense Contract Management Agency.

At DCMA, Conklin will be the executive director of financial and business operations and comptroller, responsible for managing the agency's business infrastructure and all matters pertaining to its financial operations. She is scheduled to report to her new assignment Aug. 30. DeCA has begun recruitment actions for its next chief financial executive. In the interim, Lauren "Larry" Bands, DeCA's director of accounting, will serve as acting chief financial executive.

Thomas E. Milks, acting DeCA director and CEO, talked about Conklin's achievement July 27. "Becoming an SES takes a lot of hard work, many successful experiences, and the development of multiple skills," he said in an e-mail to employees. "Very few people have the ability, education, and experience to make the cut. Pam has performed in a manner to make the grade during her days with DeCA. The DeCA family will miss her, but it is good to know that she will remain in the government, helping to deliver outstanding customer service."

Conklin will be joining DCMA as it relocates its headquarters from Alexandria to Fort Lee, Va. Initially, the forward headquarters element has moved to temporary facilities in and around Fort Lee until their permanent headquarters on post is ready. That move is part of Base Realignment and Closure 2005 law and will be completed by September 2011. There are

currently 78 military members and 511 civilians assigned to DCMA headquarters.

She said she will be the first SES to report for duty at DCMA's new headquarters. Although she is admittedly excited about her new career challenge, she said she has mixed emotions about moving on.

"After 15 years I am very sad to be leaving the DeCA family," Conklin said. "I would not be making this significant step without the support, dedication and hard work of so many throughout DeCA – from store employees all the way to the headquarters. I want to thank my fellow functional process owners and special staff group and senior leadership, but especially the resource management family – who have motivated, encouraged and supported me. Working for DeCA has truly been an honor."

Conklin was selected as DeCA's chief financial executive in 2005 following Jimaye Sones who also left for a position in another agency. During her tenure, the agency earned five of its eight consecutive unqualified opinions representing the highest assessment that an organization's financial statements could attain. The chief financial executive is responsible for all financial aspects of the agency's retail sales and operating budgets and serves as the agency spokesperson on financial issues and DeCA's liaison with DoD, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the Government Accountability Office, the financial staffs of the military departments, and retail industry representatives.

Her government career began in 1982 as a revenue officer with the Internal Revenue Service. In 1990, she held various budget-related assignments with the U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army in Heidelberg, Germany, before joining DeCA in 1995 as a budget officer for DeCA East. In 2001, she was selected to be chief of that region's resource management business area.

Conklin holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a graduate of the Army Management Staff College. She has been a member of the American Society of Military Comptrollers since 1996.

DCMA has more than 10,500 civilian and 500 military acquisition professionals who provide a broad range of contract-procurement management services for America's armed forces. The agency is organized into three geographical commands and two specialized divisions overseeing 48 contract management offices responsible for work performed at more than 900 locations worldwide.

DCMA provides contract administrative services to Department of Defense acquisition enterprise and its partners to ensure delivery of quality products and services on time, at projected cost and that meet all performance requirements. Agency personnel serve as

“information brokers” and in-plant representatives during the initial stages of the acquisition cycle and throughout the life of the resulting contracts. As of June 30, DCMA handled more than 325,000 active contracts.

-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.*