



# NEWS RELEASE

## Defense Commissary Agency

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### **Commissaries not affected thus far by massive egg recall launched due to salmonella contamination**

*By DeCA Office of Communication*

**FORT LEE, Va.** – Military commissaries have not been affected thus far by the massive Wright County Egg voluntary recall, according to the Defense Commissary Agency’s director of health and safety.

“Although our stores may carry some of the brands such as Hillandale and Sunshine that were mentioned in the initial Aug. 13 recall action, the cartons of eggs sold in military stores are not linked to salmonella contamination,” said Col. David R. Schuckenbrock, who is responsible for addressing DeCA’s food safety issues. “We are working closely with our suppliers to ensure that if the recall expands and we are affected, we will promptly pull the recalled product off the shelves and notify our customers.”

If the egg recall expands to commissaries, DeCA will update customers with signs in the stores, posts on the agency’s Facebook site at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Defense-Commissary-Agency/136880189673357?ref=ts>, and through food safety alerts posted to <http://www.commissaries.com>. You can access this information by clicking the “Recent Food Alerts and Product Recalls” link on DeCA’s homepage. To access general food safety information on the website, choose the “News & Info” tab and select “Food Safety” from the dropdown box.

Consumers can check the status of their eggs at home by looking for the Julian date and plant code stamped on the end of each egg carton. The plant number begins with the letter P followed by its number. The Julian date follows the plant number. Example: P-1946 223.

The initial Wright County Egg recall announcement involved more than 228 million shell eggs. On Aug. 18, the recall expanded to more than 380 million eggs. The companies and Julian dates and plant codes listed in the recall are as follows:

#### Aug. 13 recall

- **Lucerne, Albertsons, Mountain Dairy, Ralph's, Boomsma's, Sunshine, Hillandale, Trafficanda, Farm Fresh, Shoreland, Lund, Dutch Farms and Kemps**, varying sizes of cartons (6-egg cartons, dozen egg cartons, 18-egg cartons).
- Julian dates of the recalled eggs range from 136 to 225.
- Plant numbers of the recalled eggs are 1026, 1413 and 1946.

#### Aug. 18 recall

- **Albertsons, Mountain Dairy, Glenview, Ralph's, Boomsma's, Sunshine, Pacific Coast, Farm Fresh, Lund and Kemps**, varying sizes of cartons (6-egg cartons, dozen egg cartons, 18-egg cartons).
- Julian dates of the recalled eggs range from 136 to 229.
- Plant numbers of the recalled eggs are 1720 and 1942.

To date, the recalled product is known to have been distributed to stores nationwide, according to the initial Food and Drug Administration recall alert sent Aug. 13. There have been hundreds of confirmed illnesses relating to the shell eggs recall and traceback investigations are ongoing, the FDA added in an update Aug. 19.

Salmonella is an organism which can cause serious, and sometimes fatal, infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with salmonella often experience fever, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with salmonella can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections, endocarditis or arthritis.

The FDA wants consumers to know that thorough cooking is perhaps the most important step in making sure eggs are safe. Consumers should remember the following when cooking eggs:

- **Cook eggs until both the yoke and the white are firm. Scrambled eggs should not be runny.**

- **Casseroles and other dishes containing eggs should be cooked to 160°F (72°C). Use a food thermometer to be sure.**
- For recipes that call for eggs that are raw or undercooked when the dish is served— Caesar salad dressing and homemade ice cream are two examples — use either shell eggs that have been treated to destroy salmonella, by pasteurization or another approved method, or pasteurized egg products. Treated shell eggs are available from a growing number of retailers and are clearly labeled, while pasteurized egg products are widely available.

Consumers with questions should visit <http://www.eggsafety.org/> or call Wright County's toll-free information number of 1-866-272-5582.

The DeCA Web site's food safety page is also a good source to access links to various consumer safety sites such as the Food and Drug Administration's Web site, <http://www.recalls.gov>. For more information on Be Food Safe, go to <http://www.befoodsafe.org/>.

“When a customer walks into any of our 252 stores, they can rest assured that a network of food safety specialists is working for them to ensure that the food there is the safest and most secure available,” Schuckenbrock said.

**-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.*