



# NEWS RELEASE

## Defense Commissary Agency

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## Owens assumes duties as internal audit director

*By Kevin L. Robinson,  
DeCA public affairs specialist*

**FORT LEE, Va.** – Keith M. Owens has joined the Defense Commissary Agency as director, internal audit, effective Sept. 27. He comes to DeCA from the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General, where he served as audit program manager.

Before Owens arrived, William H. Johnson Jr. had served as acting director, internal audit, since Jan. 17. Johnson, the deputy director, had become acting director when previous director, Diana P. Graff, was selected to become the deputy chief of staff, effective January 2010.

“When you look at Keith’s background, you see a wealth of expertise and experience in many different fields,” said Thomas E. Milks, DeCA acting director and CEO. “He will be a welcome addition to headquarters and a force multiplier in our delivery of the commissary benefit.”

Owens is responsible for all matters pertaining to examining and auditing various systems, operations, programs and procedures used within DeCA. He will develop and conduct audits that are consistent with the agency’s business objectives.

Owens entered the U.S. Army in 1981 as a quartermaster officer. During his active-duty career, he served in Germany, North Carolina and South Korea and progressed in rank to major. He transitioned from active duty in 1992 to the U.S. Army Reserve.

It was in 1992 that he also entered civil service as an auditor with the DoD Office of the Inspector General. Over the next 18 years he served in various positions in that office, progressing in rank from senior auditor to program director and then on to program manager.

Owens currently serves as a colonel in the Army Reserve with more than 29 years of military service. He is branch qualified as an Army logistician and comptroller officer, having military specialty skills as an inspector general, auditor and commissary officer.

From 1989 to 1991, he served in South Korea as the Taegu and Camp Carroll commissary officer, operating then under the Army Troop Support Agency. Also, from 1998 to 2002, he served as chief, Internal Review and Management Controls for the 9<sup>th</sup> Theater Support Command (Reserve). He has deployed in support of operations Joint Endeavor and Joint Guard (Germany/Bosnia), Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan/Cuba) and Iraqi Freedom.

Owens is a DoD level III-certified logistics auditor and evaluator and was named 1995 Office of the Inspector General Auditor of the Year.

His military awards and honors include the Bronze Star, Secretary of Defense Medal for the Global War on Terrorism and the Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign medals.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Virginia State University, Petersburg, Va., in 1981.

#### **-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.*