



# NEWS RELEASE

## Defense Commissary Agency

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## DeCA's 'Go Green' efforts earn environmental award

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

**NOTE:** To see DeCA's photographs related to the 2010 Federal Energy and Water Management Awards, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/commissary/sets/72157625044188219/>.

**FORT LEE, Va.** – Over the last seven years, military commissaries have worked to integrate environmental awareness into their mission of delivering the commissary benefit. Those efforts received a high-level pat on the back when the Department of Energy presented the agency with a 2010 Federal Energy and Water Management Award, Oct. 7, in Washington, D.C.

The energy and water management awards highlight outstanding efforts by federal facilities in energy efficiency, water conservation and renewable energy technologies.

“Years ago, we made environmental responsibility a major priority in DeCA. We continue to set high standards for our facilities when it comes to conserving water, being more energy efficient and recycling waste,” said Acting Director and CEO Thomas E. Milks, who traveled to Washington to accept the award. “This award confirms the efforts of our employees throughout the agency who have worked hard to meet and exceed these standards, helping us do our part in protecting the environment.”

DeCA received its award in the “Programs that Implement Efficient Energy, Water, and/or Fleet Management - Awards to Organizations” category. Other winners in that category

were the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, headquartered in Dallas; DOE's Argonne (Ill.) National Laboratory, Argonne Site Office; the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington; the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command and Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, Calif.; Naval Base San Diego; and the Navy Region Southwest, San Diego.

The award recognized DeCA's environmental management achievements for fiscal 2009 in the following areas:

- DeCA used an Internet-based data network to monitor energy and water use at more than 250 facilities, allowing employees to quickly identify and respond to usage and billing anomalies.
- DeCA's environmental management system was certified to be in compliance with federal guidelines – one of only a few government organizations to achieve this level of certification.
- Energy savings of 90 billion British thermal units, which enabled the agency to avoid energy costs of more than \$10 million in fiscal 2009 alone.
- The agency collected water savings of 43 million gallons, avoiding \$2.7 million in utility costs and more than 18,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions.
- More than 47,000 tons of solid wastes were diverted from landfills.
- A new strategic energy conservation program and a "Green Store" certification program developed in fiscal 2009 are setting the tone for DeCA's future success in environmental management.

For the complete list of categories and winners, visit

[http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/awards\\_fewm2010.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/awards_fewm2010.html).

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**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.*