



# NEWS RELEASE

## Defense Commissary Agency

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## DeCA recognized for being eco-friendly, cost-saver with its electronics management

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

**FORT LEE, Va.** – Every time employees of the Defense Commissary Agency headquarters purchase eco-friendly electronics or recycle or donate used computer hardware, mobile phones and other similar equipment, they save taxpayer dollars and also help save the environment.

Management of that electronics program in DeCA’s headquarters building earned the agency a Bronze-Level 2010 Federal Electronics Challenge Award, Oct. 7, in Washington, D.C. DeCA’s Fort Lee facility was one of 38 buildings from 10 federal agencies to be recognized as FEC Award recipients.

The awards, categorized in Gold, Silver and Bronze levels, are presented by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help the federal government improve how it buys, manages and disposes of its electronics equipment.

“When you measure the positive impact over time of something as small as a computer powering down when it’s inactive, you’ll understand why this award is such a big deal,” said DeCA’s Acting Director and CEO Thomas E. Milks. “All of our efforts to save energy and taxpayer dollars make a difference.”

Together, this year’s FEC Award recipients accomplished the following:

- Purchased more than 58,000 “green” electronics registered with [EPEAT](#), a system that helps purchasers evaluate, compare and select electronic products based on their environmental attributes;
- Reused, donated and recycled more than 51,000 pieces of office electronics;
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 7,000 passenger cars from the road for a year; and
- Saved taxpayers nearly \$11 million.

The ceremony for the FEC Awards was conducted on the last day of the GreenGov Symposium, held by the White House Council on Environmental Quality on the campus of George Washington University. The 2010 symposium invited leaders from local, state and federal governments, academia, commercial activities and nonprofit organizations to discuss challenges, solutions and best practices to improving the federal government’s environmental performance.

The FEC Awards help agencies such as DeCA meet the goals of [Executive Order 13514](#) to purchase greener electronic products, reduce the environmental impact of electronic products during use and properly recycle, and donate or dispose of obsolete electronics in an eco-friendly manner, said Janet Haase, DeCA’s chief information officer. Haase and Kathryn Tolliver, DeCA’s director of information technology management and oversight, accepted the award for the agency.

“In government we have an inherent duty to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars,” Haase said. “For IT, this means we must be prudent with how we purchase, operate and manage our electronics. But, this initiative goes beyond saving money. We also must be careful to decrease our impact on the environment.”

For a complete list of all the recipients, visit <http://www.fedcenter.gov/Announcements/index.cfm?id=15017>. For more information about the FEC Awards and the federal government’s GreenGov program, visit the following websites: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/greengov> and <http://www.federalelectronicchallenge.net/>.

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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.*