



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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Commissary Commando winners announced for 2010

By Ben Rouse,

DeCA corporate communication

NOTE: To see photographs related to Commissary Commando, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/commissary/sets/72157625087337297/>.

FORT LEE, Va. – The Defense Commissary Agency has selected the six winning teams who introduced the most single service members to the commissary benefit during May’s annual Commissary Commando Competition.

This year’s \$1,500 grand prize winner is the Single Marine Program at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. The following five teams earned place awards and an honorable mention:

- 1st place, \$1,000: Single Airmen Program, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas
- 2nd place, \$750: Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, Fort Stewart, Ga.
- 3rd place, \$500: Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, Fort Carson, Colo.
- 4th place, \$250: Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, Fort Eustis, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.
- Honorable Mention, \$150: Single Marine Program, Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii

“DeCA congratulates the winners and thanks all the contestants for giving it your all,” said Acting Director and CEO Thomas E. Milks. “The Commissary Commando Competition is just one of many activities we use to help bring new service members to their commissary, and in the process we are educating them about one of the best nonpay benefits the military has to offer.”

During Commissary Awareness Month in May, single service programs partner with commissaries to compete in the Commissary Commando Competition. The main goal is to introduce young, new, single or unaccompanied soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen to the savings associated with commissary shopping, which for a single member can top \$1,500 annually.

Store directors and coordinators for the Army's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, Marine's Single Marine Program, Air Force's Single Airmen Program and Liberty Single Sailor Program show the commissary to as many service members as possible, using games such as supermarket sweep, turkey bowling and eating contests with prizes that include bikes, gift checks and more. Also, commissary directors educated visitors about the commissary benefit via tours and trivia questions.

This year more than 50 groups brought in service members for tours, with 17 of the groups submitting entries to compete in Commissary Commando.

Every year the competition is sponsored by a coalition of food industry partners, who are part of the American Logistics Association's Consumer Awareness Team, and who also provide the cash prizes. The team meets with DeCA marketing reps to judge the submissions. Winners are selected based on creativity, originality, presentation and total number of service members brought into the commissaries.

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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.*