



# NEWS RELEASE

## Defense Commissary Agency

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**Release Number:** 95-11  
**Date:** November 10, 2011  
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## Commissary Gift Cards help extend holiday cheer

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

**NOTE:** To access photos and a graphic related to holiday shopping in commissaries, go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/commissary/sets/72157628092542894/>. To access video footage, click on the following links: <http://www.youtube.com/DefenseCommissary#p/u/2/wyTlOXsRiR4>, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=io5f9Wlnf7U> and <http://www.youtube.com/DefenseCommissary#p/u/1/kObu8Z3Vm5o>.

**FORT LEE, Va.** – During the holiday season, a Commissary Gift Card can be an easy option for anyone to extend the gift of groceries to service members and their families, said the director of the Defense Commissary Agency.

“Whether it’s mom and dad wanting to help out with a holiday dinner for their son or daughter stationed overseas or a military unit assisting a junior enlisted family struggling financially, the Commissary Gift Card is a quick way to extend the benefit during the holidays,” said Joseph H. Jeu. “You don’t have to be an authorized shopper to give this gift.”

Unveiled this summer, the Commissary Gift Card comes in denominations of \$25 and \$50. Anyone can purchase a card through the DeCA website, <http://www.commissaries.com>, or in a commissary. However, only authorized commissary customers can use it in a commissary.

The gift cards can be used for in-store purchases, as long as they have a balance. They cannot be redeemed for cash, and there is no monetary change for unused portions of the card. However, customers can always use gift cards with other forms of payment at the register.

“These cards are perfect for folks who want to give them as gifts to their military family

and friends or for charitable organizations and our industry partners to use as donations,” said Command Sgt. Maj. John M. Gaines Jr., senior enlisted advisor to the DeCA director.

Here are some quick facts about the Commissary Gift Card:

- The cards are available at all commissaries worldwide – on a rack at full service, front-end registers – as well as through the DeCA website, <http://www.commissaries.com>.
- The cards expire five years from the date of purchase.
- Online orders incur a handling fee. These fees are not assessed to in-store orders.
- There is no limit to the number of gift cards that a purchaser can buy. However, DeCA officials recommend organizations and activities consider purchasing online if they need \$500 or more in gift cards.
- Commissary Gift Cards can be shipped anywhere in the United States. Outside the United States, gift cards can be shipped to APO, FPO or DPO addresses.
- For customer service questions, call the toll-free phone number, 877-988-4438, which also allows the user to check the card balance.

The Commissary Gift Card replaced the DeCA gift voucher. However, customers who have unused gift vouchers will be able to redeem them through Aug. 31, 2016.

“As a soldier, I can testify that the commissary benefit is worth the trip in allowing us to stretch our paychecks,” Gaines said. “Receiving these gift cards makes the holidays even more festive.”

**-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 amounting to thousands of dollars annually. For current savings figures for various groups – single member up to a family of seven – visit <http://www.commissaries.com>. 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.*