



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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Deployed or TDY patrons have until 2010 to redeem CertifiChecks

Extension only affects customers away March 6 – July 31

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

FORT LEE, Va. – Authorized patrons who were deployed or away on temporary duty from March 6 - July 31, 2009, will have more time to redeem their commissary CertifiCheck gift certificates, the Defense Commissary Agency announced. These customers now have until July 31, 2010, to redeem gift certificates in a military commissary.

“Extending the redemption deadline for our troops downrange is only fair,” said DeCA Director and CEO Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. “We have an obligation to support our customers in extraordinary circumstances and this situation definitely qualifies.”

The 2010 date applies only to individuals who qualify for the deployment and TDY extension. Units, organizations and other customers who did not deploy or travel on official duty during the period noted must still redeem their commissary gift certificates by July 31, 2009.

To take advantage of the extension, customers who were deployed or on temporary duty for the entire period from March 6 to July 31, 2009, must complete a form and have it signed by a supervisor, certifying that the duty took place from March 6-July 31, 2009. The necessary form can be downloaded from DeCA’s Web site, <http://www.commissaries.com>, and also will be available in store customer service areas and cash offices. The customer must present the signed form along with the gift certificate to a cashier at the point of purchase.

Shortly after CertifiChecks Inc., ceased operations Feb. 26, DeCA announced that its

customers could continue using their commissary gift checks in stores until July 31. Since then, certificates with a face value of almost \$590,000 have been accepted by DeCA commissaries through June 13. The Dayton, Ohio-based company formally filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in April.

Since 2002, more than \$20 million in gift certificates have been purchased for authorized commissary customers, including more than \$3.9 million in fiscal 2008.

- 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 about \$3,400 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.*