



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

Office of Corporate Communications
1300 E Avenue, Fort Lee, VA 23801-1800

Tel: (804) 734-8000, Ext. 4-8524 DSN: 687-8000, Ext. 4-8524

FAX: (804) 734-8009 (two pause symbols) 7-8773

or DSN: 687-8009 (two pause symbols) 7-8773

www.commissaries.com

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Contact: Kevin Robinson, public affairs specialist
Tel.: (804) 734-8000, Ext. 4-8773
E-mail: kevin.robinson@deca.mil

Commissaries help customers prepare for any disaster

By DeCA corporate communications

FORT LEE, Va. – The appearance of Bill, the first hurricane of the Atlantic season, serves as a reminder that the Defense Commissary Agency can help customers prepare for any natural or man-made disaster.

DeCA Director and CEO Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. urges customers to check their medicine and kitchen cabinets, garages, and wherever else they may keep their “survival kits,” and use their commissary benefit to purchase items that are missing at savings of 30 percent or more.

“Hurricane Katrina was a tragic example of why it’s important for us to heighten preparedness awareness and provide customers with items that will sustain them during a crisis,” said Sakowitz. “Our ‘What’s in Your Closet’ disaster preparedness campaign is just one of the many ways in which we help our customers stay prepared without busting their budgets.”

In September, customers can stock up their pantries and prepare for the unexpected at DeCA’s worldwide case lot sales. Customers can save up to 50 percent or more on products bought in bulk. These items range from canned goods, toilet paper, paper towels, pet supplies, cleaning and laundry products, and more.

DeCA recommends customers have the following items in their emergency “closet”:

- Water – at least one gallon, daily, per person for three to seven days.
- Nonperishable foods – canned meats, fruits and vegetables; dried fruits, nuts, raisins, cereal, crackers, cookies, energy bars, granola and peanut butter; and foods for infants and the elderly.

- Paper goods – writing paper, paper plates, paper towels, toilet paper.
- Cooking items – pots, pans, baking sheet, cooking utensils, charcoal, a grill and a manual can opener.
- First-aid kit – including bandages, medicines and prescription drugs.
- Cleaning materials – bleach, sanitizing spray, and hand and laundry soap.
- Specialty foods – diet and low-calorie foods and drinks.
- Toiletries – personal hygiene items and moisture wipes.
- Pet care items – food, water, muzzle, leash, carrier, medications, medical records, and identification and immunization tags.
- Lighting accessories – flashlight, batteries, candles and matches.

“Our stores are stocked and ready with emergency-essential items, and motivated staffs are standing by to provide exceptional customer service,” Sakowitz said. “So don’t wait until disaster strikes. Visit your commissary today, and you will see – it’s worth the trip!”

For more information about how to best prepare for emergencies and natural or man-made disasters, visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency Web site: www.fema.gov; the Department of Homeland Security Web site: www.dhs.gov; and the American Red Cross Web site: www.redcross.org.

To find out when your commissary is hosting a case lot sale, go to the special case lot sale Web page at http://www.commissaries.com/case_lot_sale.cfm.

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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 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.*