



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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Willis appointed acting director of DeCA East

By Office of Communication

FORT LEE, Va. – Donna Willis, a deputy director of Defense Commissary Agency East, has been appointed the region’s acting director, effective Jan. 4. Her appointment temporarily fills a position vacated by Bob Vitikacs, who retired Dec. 31.

“Bob did a fantastic job leading the region as acting director for several months, and Donna is a great person to lead DeCA East while the selection process for a permanent director continues,” said Philip E. Sakowitz Jr., DeCA director and CEO. “Her broad range of commissary knowledge and experience, both overseas and stateside, will ensure the region’s continued success. I’m grateful that she accepted this assignment, and I’m confident that the region will continue to excel under her leadership.”

DeCA East encompasses 100 commissaries in 28 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, with annual sales in fiscal 2009 exceeding \$2.8 billion. Willis has been one of the region’s two deputy directors since December 2008.

Before coming to DeCA East, Willis was deputy director of DeCA’s performance and policy directorate, and had served three years as zone manager for the United Kingdom Zone, DeCA Europe. She began her commissary career in 1977 as an intern with the Air Force Commissary Service and has served in a variety of assignments throughout her career in the commissary system, to include store, region and headquarters levels.

- 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 \$3,300 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.