



# NEWS RELEASE

## Defense Commissary Agency

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### **DeCA fills operations director vacancies in Europe, West**

*By Office of Communication*

**FORT LEE, Va.** – Ronald R. McMasters has been selected as director of operations for DeCA West, and Michael G. Yaksich has been selected as director of operations for DeCA Europe.

In making the announcement this morning, DeCA Director and CEO Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. said, “Both of these capable leaders have demonstrated strong results throughout their respective careers – getting the best out of people and managing resources to accomplish goals. I’m confident each of them will bring the same dynamic and passionate leadership style to their new role as the DeCA West and DeCA Europe directors of operations.”

In his new position, McMasters will oversee the operation of 113 commissaries and eight central distribution centers located throughout the Western United States, Guam, Japan and South Korea. He follows David Carey, who was selected as a deputy director for DeCA West.

McMasters was the manager of Zone 8, based at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., since 2006. There he was responsible for 12 commissaries in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas and Texas. His commissary career began in 1985 as a store manager at George Air Force Base, Calif., while in the Air Force. During his military and civilian career, McMasters held management positions at warehouse, store and region levels in the United States, Europe and Asia-Pacific area. In the military, he was a Vietnamese linguist, aircrew evaluator, and prisoner-of-war and missing-in-action liaison. He retired from the Air Force as a chief master sergeant in 1998, with 26 years of service.

Between 2001 and 2004, McMasters served as strategic planner, public affairs officer, executive assistant to the director, and chief of the performance division, with DeCA's former Midwest Region, San Antonio. Prior to his current position, he was store director at Camp Foster, Japan.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business management and intelligence, with honors, from Wayland Baptist University, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Mike Yaksich, whose entire career has been with the commissary system, has served as store director at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., since 2002, where he directed the daily operations of a commissary with annual sales of more than \$27 million. In his new position as director of operations for DeCA Europe, Yaksich will oversee the operation of 42 commissaries in 10 countries, two distribution centers and one meat processing plant. He follows Terry Batenhorst, who was selected as a deputy director for DeCA West.

Like McMasters, Yaksich is a veteran of the Air Force Commissary Service. Upon entering the Air Force in 1971, he was assigned as a meatcutter at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. He subsequently rose through the ranks to senior enlisted manager, and finally to AFCOMS liaison to Central Command Services, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Saudi Arabia.

During his civilian career with DeCA, Yaksich has served as acting chief of merchandising branch, chief of product support marketing division, and chief of the performance division for DeCA Europe.

McMasters' selection will be effective March 28, with Yaksich's selection effective April 11. Replacements have not yet been named for the positions vacated by these managers.

**-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.*