



# NEWS RELEASE

## Defense Commissary Agency

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**Release Number:** 30-10  
**Date:** March 23, 2010  
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## Look for new items at DeCA's Virtual Commissary

*By Tammy L. Moody,  
DeCA marketing and mass media specialist*

**FORT LEE, Va.** – Easter is coming, then there's Mother's Day, Father's Day and numerous other holidays on which gift giving might be in fashion. That's where the Defense Commissary Agency's Virtual Commissary can help, as you can conveniently sit at your computer and shop online for gift baskets for all occasions.

Authorized commissary shoppers can find 64 items on the site, with a number of new items for children coming before Easter. To use Virtual Commissary, visit <http://www.commissaries.com> and select the "Shopping" tab, then "Virtual Commissary" from the drop-down box.

"We have some really cute things for children on there, such as Tinker Bell and princess tea sets," said René Vitikacs, commissary management specialist in charge of the site. "Along with the seasonal items, we also have everyday gift baskets filled with gourmet coffees, chocolates and cheeses.

"These are great 'day brighteners' for your loved one downrange or from them to you," she added.

DeCA sells these baskets at cost plus the 5 percent surcharge, with an additional fee for shipping and handling.

To gain access to Virtual Commissary, a customer must be entered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System or DEERS. Command-sponsored Department of

Defense civilians assigned overseas are also eligible to use the shopping venue. Customer information, it should be noted, is not archived by DeCA.

Once inside the secure portal on commissaries.com, shoppers make their selections and provide payment and shipping information before being transferred to the manufacturer's site. There, they finalize their purchase, which includes shipping and handling fees.

Like most Internet shopping sites, the shipping and handling charges vary depending on the size and weight of the item, shipping method, location and speed of delivery. By clicking on the image of the gift basket they want, customers can find out more about what's in the package as well as the availability for overseas delivery to APO and FPO addresses.

"According to our vendor, they make all of the gift baskets on site at their facility," Vitikacs said. "At the time they receive the orders, their processing team selects the boxed gift, applies the shipping label and sends it out the same day. So you can shop anytime and give a great gift to your loved ones, wherever they are."

**-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.*