



# NEWS RELEASE

## Defense Commissary Agency

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## DeCA announces nominees for 'Best Commissary' awards

*By Cherie Huntington,  
DeCA public affairs specialist*

**FORT LEE, Va.** – Of the 253 Defense Commissary Agency stores around the world, 25 have been nominated to compete for the agency's most prestigious honors, the annual Best Commissary Awards.

“We think of these awards as our Oscars, Emmys and Tonys, rolled up into one,” said Philip E. Sakowitz Jr., DeCA director and CEO. “They not only salute the excellence of our employees and industry partners as they deliver a world class benefit throughout the year, they also challenge others to meet or beat that performance level. Every nominated commissary should be considered a winner.”

Finalists in the respective categories are:

- **Director's Award – best U.S. superstore:**

Fort Eustis Commissary, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

Fort Lewis Commissary, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Langley Commissary, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

Little Creek Commissary, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Va.

Naval Base San Diego Commissary, Calif.

- **Bill Nichols Award – best large U.S. commissary**

Carlisle Barracks Commissary, Pa.

Keesler Air Force Base Commissary, Miss.

Moody Air Force Base Commissary, Ga.

Marine Corps Air Station New River Commissary, N.C.

Norfolk Naval Shipyard Portsmouth Commissary, Va.

- **Dan Daniel Award – best large overseas commissary**

Andersen Commissary, Joint Region Marianas, Guam

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Commissary, Germany

Camp Humphreys Commissary, South Korea

U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen Commissary, Netherlands

Spangdahlem Air Base Commissary, Germany

- **Richard M. Paget Award – best small U.S. commissary**

Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport Commissary, Miss.

Fort Hunter Liggett Commissary, Calif.

Mountain Home Air Force Base Commissary, Idaho

White Sands Missile Range Commissary, N.M.

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Fla.

- **Mendel Rivers Award – best small overseas commissary**

Cairo Commissary, Egypt

Garmisch Commissary, Germany

Kelley Barracks Commissary, Germany

Sagamihara Commissary, Japan

Fleet Activities Sasebo Commissary, Japan

DeCA's Best Commissary awards recognize overall excellence in commissary operations and service. Selection of nominees is highly competitive and is based on operations, performance and accountability. The awards honor legislators who protected the commissary benefit and championed quality-of-life issues for the military and their families.

Winning stores are objectively evaluated in four areas: accountability, unit cost, commissary customer service survey and sales. The standard for accountability requires all departments in the store – meat, grocery and produce – be within the allowable tolerance for

their physical inventory during fiscal 2009. For unit cost, a store must have a decrease in unit cost from previous years' average. Under the commissary customer service survey criteria, the store must meet or exceed the DeCA average or the average for its sales band category. And, under sales, commissaries located in the United States must show a positive sales growth, averaging fiscal 2009 with previous years' sales.

Each finalist is subject to an unannounced inspection by the DeCA Inspector General's office and an unannounced command visit.

Winners will receive their awards at the DeCA and American Logistics Association 2010 Training Event and Conference to be held in Atlanta in June.

**-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.*