



# NEWS RELEASE

## Defense Commissary Agency

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## DoD announces appointment of Milks as acting DeCA director

*By DeCA Office of Communication*

**FORT LEE, Va.** – Thomas E. Milks was appointed acting director, Defense Commissary Agency, by Dr. Clifford L. Stanley, undersecretary of defense, personnel and readiness, in an announcement made today. The appointment is effective July 1.

Milks becomes acting director following the June 30 retirement of Philip E. Sakowitz Jr., who leaves the federal government after 35 years of service. The process to select the next DeCA director began in April after Sakowitz announced his decision to retire. There is no information available as to when that process will be completed.

Since August 2009, Milks has served as the agency's deputy director and chief operating officer after serving almost two years as the director of DeCA Europe. As the chief operating officer, he is responsible for oversight of the agency's retail operations, safety and security, program management, plans, and systems engineering in support of the day-to-day operations of DeCA's worldwide chain of 253 commissaries. He is expected to retain these duties while serving as acting director.

Milks has been a member of the Senior Executive Service since July 2007, when he began his two-year tour as the director of DeCA Europe. He began his commissary career in 1977 as a commissary management specialist (intern) with the U.S. Army Troop Support Agency. He served as chairman of the operations subcommittee on the Jones Commission in 1990, a study that recommended consolidating commissary systems into one agency, which

became DeCA. He also headed the successful fielding of DeCA's Interim Business System in 1991.

As the director of sales from May 2006 to July 2007, Milks oversaw the agency's marketing business unit, which develops and implements comprehensive marketing and merchandising programs. His responsibilities included the effective management of the commissary system's transportation and subsistence program. As part of his duties as head of the MBU, he oversaw 1,816 contracts worth \$5.9 billion. He's been a deputy region director for both DeCA East and DeCA West in previous assignments.

Milks was born in Washington, D.C. He earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration in 1976 from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va. He has completed postgraduate coursework at Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, La.; Marymount University, Arlington, Va.; Florida Institute of Technology, Fort Lee, Va.; and Virginia Tech and State University, Dulles, Va. He graduated from the Army Management Staff College in 1988.

**-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.*