



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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Online gift basket orders end on Virtual Commissary Sept. 7

By Corporate Communication

FORT LEE, Va. – Gift baskets sold through the Defense Commissary Agency’s Virtual Commissary will no longer be available for order after Sept. 7, the agency announced today.

Stringer’s LLC, the supplier and distributor of Virtual Commissary gift baskets since 2006, informed DeCA that it would not be able to fulfill any gift basket orders after Sept. 14.

“All existing orders made on or before Sept. 7 will be completed,” said Gordon Jones, the agency’s chief of Internet sales and transportation. “We are cutting off gift basket orders on that date to allow enough time for the items to be processed and shipped by Stringer’s Sept. 14 deadline. The company has indicated that all orders placed by then will be honored.

“We are not giving up on Virtual Commissary,” he added. “We plan to review our options with other vendors.”

According to a written notice sent by Stringer’s to DeCA Aug. 31, the supplier will discontinue its relationship with the Virtual Commissary as it undergoes a business reorganization. Based in Temecula, Calif., Stringer’s is a wholesale gift basket company that specializes in supplying gifts and e-commerce fulfillment platforms for its business clients.

DeCA created Virtual Commissary and began Internet sales in October 2005, offering authorized customers 37 variations of gift baskets containing products that also could be found on the shelves of actual “brick and mortar” commissaries. Virtual Commissary offered a unique blend of products for gifts and special occasion baskets that first offered assortments of crackers, canned cheeses, cookies, candies, beverages and coffee packs. Later, the assortment expanded to

health and beauty aids. Eventually, the stock assortment grew to 100 items.

-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 more than \$4,400 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.*