



# NEWS RELEASE

## Defense Commissary Agency

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### **Brown selected executive officer to DeCA director**

*By Kevin L. Robinson,  
DeCA public affairs specialist*

**FORT LEE, Va.** – Norman E. Brown, former director of workforce development for the Defense Commissary Agency, has been selected to become the executive officer to the DeCA director effective Jan. 13. John M. Williams, deputy director of workforce development, will serve as the acting director until a permanent director is selected.

Brown's selection followed the appointment of Joseph H. Jeu as the DeCA director and CEO on Jan. 3. As Jeu's executive officer, Brown will provide direct support to the director by assisting in management and providing authoritative advice and recommendations to the director on line and staff programs with in-depth analysis of key operational, management and administrative programs and systems. It will be his responsibility to assist Jeu in planning, evaluating, integrating and coordinating activities from internal agency directors, division chiefs and regional directors as well as actions from the Department of Defense, stakeholders and industry partners.

"Norm is an outstanding leader with more than 25 years of commissary experience," Jeu said. "His wealth of knowledge and extensive service as a commissary leader and prior executive officer made him the ideal choice for the position.

"His recent focus on workforce development has led to vast improvements to the system we use to train and develop employees," the director added. "I am confident that Norm will continue his track record of success. I'm delighted that he has accepted his new leadership role."

As director of workforce development, Brown had overseen the development of training and education for DeCA's future leaders for all career fields. He also served as chairman of the Commissary Career Advisory Board, a group that sets the succession management direction for the General Schedule Commissary Management series – 1144 – career managers who oversee commissary, zone, region and headquarters programs.

Brown's commissary career began when he was an airman in 1984, working as a subsistence operations specialist at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. During his 10 years in the Air Force, he was first assigned to the Air Force Commissary Service and later to DeCA. Brown worked as a troop support manager at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam; a grocery manager and later a store manager at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.; and a troop support manager at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

Upon leaving the Air Force in 1995, Brown became a civilian commissary officer at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. Over the next nine years, he would go on to serve as a commissary officer at Norfolk Naval Shipyard Portsmouth, Va.; a chief of store operations for the Northern Area at Fort Meade, Md.; executive officer at DeCA's Eastern Region in Virginia Beach, Va.; and a store director at Naval Station Norfolk, and for both Langley Air Force Base and Fort Monroe simultaneously, all in Virginia.

After coming to headquarters from the Eastern Region in 2004, he served first as an executive assistant in the corporate operations group at DeCA headquarters in Fort Lee, and later as an executive officer to the DeCA director for four agency directors: Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael P. Wiedemer, Patrick B. Nixon, Richard S. "Rick" Page (acting director) and Philip E. Sakowitz Jr.

**-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.*