



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

Corporate Communication

1300 E Avenue • Fort Lee, VA 23801-1800

Tel: (804) 734-8000, Ext. 8-6105 DSN: 687-8000, Ext. 8-6105

FAX: (804) 734-8248 DSN: 687-8248

www.commissaries.com

Release Number: Corrected 20-11
Date: March 1, 2011
Contact: Kevin Robinson, public affairs specialist
Tel.: (804) 734-8000, Ext. 4-8773
E-mail: kevin.robinson@deca.mil

Would a shutdown affect commissaries?

Customers asked to stay connected
to local military news outlets for specific information

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

NOTE: *Information in the previous news release about access to the DeCA website was in error. In the event the DeCA website, www.commissaries.com, was taken offline because of a government shutdown, it would not be possible to redirect visitors to other websites.*

FORT LEE, Va. – In the event of a government shutdown, commissary customers are asked to check their local military installation news outlets before, during and after the event to determine if stores serving their area are open.

“As a matter of course, the Defense Commissary Agency plans for any event that could affect the operation of its stores,” said Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA director and CEO. “We are currently updating existing plans to adjust commissary operations in case of a government shutdown. If this action does occur, we will use all available media to notify our customers of any specific changes in commissary operations. Customers should also stay abreast of the news that affects services on their installations.”

If a shutdown occurs, commissary customers also should monitor the Department of Defense website, <http://www.defense.gov>, for any breaking news that affects service members and government civilians. During that time, customers can attempt to access <http://www.commissaries.com>, but the agency’s website could be down.

When the federal government’s fiscal year begins Oct. 1, operations and programs must be funded through appropriations enacted by Congress and signed into law by the president. If

Congress and the president have not approved annual funding, Congress may pass a continuing resolution to extend government operations for a period of time. As of Tuesday morning, Congress had yet to approve another funding extension granting continuing resolution authority. The current authority is set to end midnight March 4.

Since 1980, all agencies in the government have been required to plan for potential government shutdowns. Despite a shutdown, DoD would still continue support to its deployed troops and must continue operations necessary for the safety of human life and protection of property. These types of activities would be “exempt” from any temporary stoppage of government activities.

-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.*