



NEWS RELEASE

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DeCA noted for how it does business

*By Kevin L. Robinson,
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FORT LEE, Va. – Every day, the employees of the Defense Commissary Agency perform millions of tasks from headquarters to store level to deliver the benefit to its authorized customers. In fiscal 2010, DeCA’s statement of assurance – its written confirmation that the agency successfully managed those tasks – was noted among the best in the Department of Defense.

DeCA tied for first place on its fiscal 2010 statement with the U.S. Special Operations Command and the Defense Logistics Agency. This is the fourth time in the last five years that DeCA has achieved a first-place score, previously scoring first in 2006, 2007 and 2009.

“DeCA is privileged to be identified by the OSD comptroller as a leader in reporting and certifying the management of how we go about our business,” said Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA director and CEO. “We strive every day to maintain a culture of accountability in everything we do to deliver the commissary benefit.”

Each year, military activities file a statement of assurance with the Office of Management and Budget by Sept. 1. This document is an agency director’s written verification that an organization’s internal controls are sound and have no reportable weaknesses.

Internal controls are the organization, policies and procedures that an agency uses to perform its mission and maintain the integrity of that performance. Agencies are evaluated on their achievements in reviewing and testing their internal controls in the following categories: (1)

the efficiency and effectiveness of operations, (2) the reliability of financial reporting, and (3) the agency's compliance with all laws and regulations.

“How our employees perform their jobs carries a great impact on how we do business as an agency,” said Larry Bands, DeCA's chief financial executive. “Employee attention to detail and being a good steward of taxpayer dollars both influence the day-to-day operation of commissaries and make us a more efficient operation.”

DoD presented DeCA's internal control program in its fiscal 2010 reporting guidance as an example for other agencies to emulate. Billie Sue Goff, manager for DeCA's internal controls program, was also requested to be a speaker at DoD's Managers Internal Controls Conference in March.

“This agency, along with SOCOM and DLA, has been identified as a ‘gold standard’ for how a defense organization is supposed to manage its internal control program,” Goff said. “And, that is a tribute to our workforce. Every day, worldwide, from headquarters to the stores, we demonstrate our commitment to doing our best for the people who receive the commissary benefit.”

-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 amounting to thousands of dollars annually. For current savings figures for various groups – single member up to a family of seven – visit <http://www.commissaries.com>. 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.*