



NEWS RELEASE

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Kolath takes over as Great Lakes store director

*By Rick Brink,
DeCA East public affairs officer*

FORT LEE, Va. – Buddie Kolath is settling into his new job as store director of the Naval Station Great Lakes Commissary, Ill.

The former Laughlin Air Force Base Commissary, Texas, store director got the nod for the job through the Defense Commissary Agency’s career assignments program, filling the vacancy created when Alex Varela retired earlier this year from the Great Lakes store.

“Buddie is a good fit for Great Lakes,” said Rogers E. Campbell, DeCA East director. “He’s a proven performer with the experience, knowledge and leadership skills necessary to ensure the commissary provides the highest levels of customer service and satisfaction that make the commissary worth the trip.”

Kolath arrived at Great Lakes in May after serving nearly two years as the Laughlin Commissary store director. In 19 years with DeCA his career has progressed from sales store checker to store director. He’s gained a wealth of experience working a variety of jobs, including meat cutter, materiel handler, produce manager, grocery manager, store manager and assistant store manager at commissaries in Colorado, South Korea and Texas.

-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.