



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: 93-11
Date: November 7, 2011
Contact: Kevin L. Robinson, public affairs specialist
Tel.: (804) 734-8000, Ext. 4-8773
E-mail: kevin.robinson@deca.mil

Dowling selected acting chief operating officer

By DeCA Corporate Communication

FORT LEE, Va. – Mike Dowling, executive director of the Defense Commissary Agency’s Logistics and Engineering Group, will don another, more familiar hat as DeCA’s acting chief operating officer effective immediately.

The announcement came today from Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA director and CEO. Dowling’s selection follows the Nov. 1 retirement of Thomas E. Milks as COO. Dowling, who previously served as acting COO from November 2007 to July 2009, will continue to perform his duties as executive director of Logistics and Engineering.

“We are putting Mike in familiar territory with his selection as acting chief operating officer,” Jeu said. “With his experience and expertise, I’m confident the commissary benefit will be operating smoothly during this transition.”

As the acting COO, Dowling’s duties include oversight of the agency’s retail operations, health and safety, program management, plans, commissary support functions and systems engineering in support of the day-to-day operations of DeCA’s worldwide chain of 247 commissaries. Commissary annual sales totaled more than \$5.9 billion in fiscal 2011.

Dowling became the executive director of the Logistics and Engineering Group Oct. 9 after the agency transitioned from its three regional offices – DeCA East, DeCA Europe and DeCA West – to five geographic areas: Europe, East, Central, West and Pacific.

As a result of the realignment, Dowling, previously the director of DeCA Europe, returned to the agency’s Fort Lee headquarters. In his role as the executive director of Logistics

and Engineering, Dowling directs all agency operations affecting logistics, acquisition management, engineering, and all central distribution centers.

Dowling began his federal service on active duty with the U.S. Army from 1978 to 1989, where his assignments included a tour as commissary officer and company commander in Cairo, Egypt.

After the Army, he began his civil service career with the Army Troop Support Agency in 1989. While working at the organization known as TSA, he was appointed to the transition team that helped consolidate the military services' commissary organizations into the Defense Commissary Agency in 1991. His involvement in developing the agency's distribution planning established the concept used in Europe today.

By the summer of 2004, Dowling had completed a tour in headquarters at Fort Lee, as the agency's director of performance and policy and deputy to the chief operating officer. He had previously served nine and a half years in Europe in a variety of leadership positions including director of the region's logistics division, interim deputy region director and chief of its operations business area.

Dowling was selected to the Senior Executive Service in 2004 and went on to serve the first of two tours as director of DeCA Europe. After three years in Europe, he served briefly as the director of DeCA East before being called upon to serve his first stint as acting COO from November 2007 to April 2008. He returned to DeCA East as director in April 2008 and served there until called upon again to serve as acting COO again in March 2009.

When Milks became the COO in July 2009, Dowling once again set sail for Europe as director of DeCA Europe.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History in 1978, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Ill. His awards include the Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, three DeCA Meritorious Civilian Service Awards, the Superior Civilian Service Award and the National Performance Review Hammer Award.

-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.