



# NEWS RELEASE

## Defense Commissary Agency

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## Commissaries to end magazine sales overseas

*By Leslie Brown,  
DeCA public affairs officer for Europe Area*

**FORT LEE, Va.** – Defense Commissary Agency officials have announced the end of magazine sales in their overseas stores beginning January 2012. This affects all commissaries in Europe, the Pacific (Japan, Okinawa, South Korea and Guam) and Puerto Rico.

DeCA will continue to sell the Stars & Stripes newspaper since they are printed in theater. Commissaries in Alaska and Hawaii are not affected by this sales change. Magazines will also continue to be available in military exchanges and bookstores located near most overseas commissaries.

“With the rising costs in transportation and declining sales, the decision was made to end the sale of magazines in our stores in Europe and the Pacific,” said Chris Burns, director of sales. “We have to be fiscally responsible with our taxpayer-provided resources, and this is one way we can do that.”

Before deciding to cease magazine sales overseas, DeCA officials had tried other options such as deleting slow-selling titles and reducing the volume of magazines shipped to overseas stores. However, the negative sales trend didn’t change.

“The decision to eliminate magazine sales overseas was not an easy one, but a decision that had to be made in our fiscally constrained environment,” Burns said. “The contract for selling magazines in the overseas stores ends in fiscal 2012, so this is the proper time to make this change.”

“By eliminating the logistical costs of airlifting magazines to overseas distribution centers, we’re able to keep other important products flowing to our store shelves,” Burns said.

**-DeCA-**

**Photo caption:** Commissaries overseas such as this one at Camp Casey, South Korea, will end the sale of magazines in January 2012. (DeCA photo).

**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.*

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