



# NEWS RELEASE

## Defense Commissary Agency

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## Even more savings at your commissaries!

DOD invests extra funding  
in benefit to help reduce  
prices and help strengthen  
economic security  
of military families

*By DeCA Corporate Communications*

**Facebook-friendly version:** Service members and their families will soon see a 3-5 percent decrease in pricing on most grocery items in their commissaries as part of a Department of Defense (DOD) initiative to bolster the economic security and stability of the military community. *To read the rest of the story, [click here](#). To download the graphic on Flickr, [click here](#) or on DVIDS, [click here](#).*

**FORT LEE, Va.** – Service members and their families will soon see a 3-5 percent decrease in pricing on most grocery items in their commissaries as part of a Department of Defense (DOD) initiative to bolster the economic security and stability of the military community.

DOD’s [“Taking Care of Service Members and Families”](#) initiative lays out comprehensive actions to support military members struggling with the financial impacts of inflation, supply chain disruptions and the pandemic.



**Authorized military patrons will soon see a 3-5 percent reduction in prices of most items in their commissaries. (DeCA photo: Kevin Robinson)**

“The Department’s added investment in our budget allows us to reduce commissary prices at the register about 3-5 percent on most items – particularly on food staples that struggling military families need most such as bread, eggs, milk and more,” said Bill Moore, director and CEO of the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA). “With this boost we can achieve at least 25 percent in overall savings for eligible patrons who shop their commissaries.”

Commissary customers are expected to see price changes at most locations by mid-October. Pricing on some products and categories will vary.

Before the additional funding, DeCA was able to provide service members and their families with discounted groceries that cost on average 22 percent less than civilian grocery stores for fiscal year 2022.

“Going forward with the Department’s initiatives, we want to sustain the increased savings through fiscal year 2023 and exceed the 25 percent benchmark to the extent our resources allow,” Moore said.

“In addition to the savings, we provide healthy food options, clean and safe stores, convenience and premier customer service for our service members and their families,” Moore said. “Commissaries are there when our military families need them most, even in disasters or pandemics or periods of inflation. We’re an insurance policy to ensure food security for our military families. With all that value and now additional savings, our patrons would be very smart to shop their commissaries!”

“Taking Care of Service Members and Families” aligns with DOD’s overall campaign for economic security, first announced November 2021 when the Department unveiled its [“Military Leader's Economic Security Toolkit”](#) on Military OneSource. The webpage is a central landing spot to help leaders connect service members and their families with resources they need to help boost their economic readiness.

The commissary benefit portion of the economic toolkit is spotlighted on the DeCA website, specifically on its [“We’re Stronger Together”](#) page that links military members to the following patron savings and nutritious options:

- Timely sales promotions as well as specific items highlighted in the biweekly sales flyer
- Private label brands and Your Everyday Savings! (YES!) programs that offer better prices on popular, core items
- Healthy options with dietitian-approved recipes, meal plans and quick, ready-to-eat, economical meal options via the deli and 174 dietitian-approved fueling stations

DeCA is also expanding efforts to ensure all eligible patrons know about their benefit, particularly targeting the millions of disabled veterans (DAV) who became eligible for the

benefit in January 2020, said Marine Sgt. Maj. Michael Saucedo, senior enlisted advisor to the DeCA director.

“We are working closely with veterans’ groups to reach our DAVs and with the active duty military to increase awareness of the benefit to troops earlier in their careers,” he said. “And as we spread the word on this much-needed benefit to all our eligible customers, we are striving to anticipate our patrons’ needs, offer premier customer service and do what it takes to be their grocery provider of choice.”

Commissaries are also pushing out more initiatives to include the following to help boost the benefit for eligible patrons:

- Expanding hours of operation and using technology to improve access in more convenient ways than ever before. To date, 56 stores have converted from six- to seven-day operations, seven stores have converted from five- to six-day operations and 43 stores have adjusted hours to better fit the shopping preferences of their communities.
- Working with installations on piloting bulk deliveries to barracks or other specified locations with future plans to expand
- Expanding online shopping and curbside pickup with online payment now available at all stores
- Piloting home grocery delivery at eight CONUS locations, with agency-wide expansion planned soon thereafter

“The commissary system’s commitment to saving military communities money has not wavered for over 30 years,” Moore said. “We remain steadfast in our efforts to improve the quality of life of our eligible patrons by saving them at least a quarter on every dollar they spend on groceries compared to ‘outside the gate’ grocery stores. That’s \$50 back in your pocket on a \$200 grocery bill!

“We are a food security resource for our customers, and as such, we are doing everything we can to get our precious military families the products they need – at the lowest price possible,” he added.

**-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. Commissaries provide a military benefit, saving authorized patrons thousands of dollars annually on their purchases compared to similar products at commercial retailers. The discounted prices include a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. 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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