



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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Feds Feed Families

Stateside commissaries serve
as collection sites for donations through July 31

By DeCA Corporate Communications

Note: To read this release online, go to
the DeCA [website](http://www.commissaries.com).

FORT LEE, Va. – The USDA’s Feds Feed Families (FFF) campaign for 2020 has started for federal workers, and Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) customers and employees who want to donate to food banks and pantries.

This year’s program runs June 1-July 31 and for the first time, the Department of Defense has delegated the campaign lead to DeCA, said Randy Eller, the agency’s director of logistics.

“We are proud of taking the lead for a campaign that allows us to showcase how caring and giving our people are, and demonstrates the Department’s commitment to helping people in need,” Eller said.



For the past 11 years, commissary customers and employees have traditionally set the pace for the Department of Defense (DOD) donations. In 2019, DeCA collected more than 753,000 pounds of donations, about 73 percent of the over 1 million pounds collected by DOD. The Naval Base San Diego Commissary led all DeCA stores in donating over 86,000 pounds.

Participating installations help collect items most needed by food pantries and then donate them to area food banks. Commissary customers and employees have a couple options to participate:

- by purchasing needed food and personal hygiene products for donation while shopping at stateside commissaries, or bringing items from home and dropping them off at donation bins at the store
- by purchasing prepackaged donation bags available in stateside commissaries for less than \$10. The bags include Freedom's Choice products such as canned meat, pasta meals, popcorn and water.

Once collected, installation officials work with the commissary to deliver donations to local food banks.

Some of the most-needed items include:

- Canned vegetables – low sodium, or no salt
- Canned fruits – in light syrup or their own juices
- Canned proteins – tuna, salmon, chicken, peanut butter and beans
- Soups – beef stew, chili, chicken, turkey or rice
- Condiments – tomato-based sauces, light soy sauce, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing or oils
- Snacks – individually packed snacks, trail mix, dried fruit, granola and cereal bars
- Multigrain cereals
- 100% juice – all sizes, including juice boxes
- Grains – brown and white rice, oatmeal, bulgar, quinoa, couscous, pasta, and macaroni and cheese
- Paper products and household items – paper towels, napkins and cleaning supplies
- Hygiene items – diapers, deodorants, feminine products, toilet paper, soap, toothpaste and shampoo

For more information on this campaign, go to the U.S. Department of Agriculture [website](#).

-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.

Stay Connected to Your Commissary Benefit

COMMISSARIES.COM: Visit www.commissaries.com to learn more about the Defense Commissary Agency: check out the latest news, find a store near you, see what's on sale, create a shopping list, learn of food and product recalls, scan employment opportunities, read frequently asked questions, submit a customer comment form online through DeCA's Your Action Line and more.

COMMISSARY CONNECTION E-NEWSLETTER: Stay connected with the latest news about your most valued benefit, Hot Links to additional savings, shopping spree, contests, commissary promotions, events and more, go to www.commissaries.com/subscribe.cfm and subscribe to the Commissary Connection newsletter.

COMMISSARY CONNECTION BLOG: To see regular posts about topics of interest to commissary customers, including commissary news, human interest stories, shopping tips, videos and notifications about programs or events, go to <http://commissaryconnection.dodlive.mil/>. You can also subscribe to this forum by going to www.commissaries.com/subscribe.cfm.

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