TYSON®
Jumbo Thighs
On Sale 10/1 - 10/31
$1.09 per lb.

TYSON®
Jumbo Drumsticks
On Sale 10/1 - 10/31
$1.09 per lb.

TYSON®
Split Breast with Ribs
On Sale 10/1 - 10/31
$1.09 per lb.

TYSON®
Jumbo Thighs
On Sale 10/1 - 10/31
69¢ per lb.

TYSON®
Jumbo Drumsticks
On Sale 10/1 - 10/31
69¢ per lb.

TYSON®
Split Breast with Ribs
On Sale 10/1 - 10/31
$1.09 per lb.

Smithfield®
On Sale 9/28 - 10/15
$1.69

Armour® LunchMakers®
without drink
Ham, Turkey, Chicken, or Pepperoni Pizza
2.6 oz. – 2.9 oz.

Eckrich® Smoked Sausage
All Varieties
10 oz. – 14 oz.

John Morrell® Bacon
Original Hardwood Smoked, Maple or Lower Sodium, 12 oz.

John Morrell® Bacon
Hardwood Smoked Thick
48 oz.

Nathan’s® Famous
Skinless Beef Franks
or Bun Length Franks
8 ct.

Armour® Meatballs
Original or Turkey
14 oz.

Smithfield® Anytime Favorites™
Boneless Ham Steaks
All Varieties, 8 oz.

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How to Have a Positive Shopping Experience at Your Commissary  By Julie Provost

These tips can help you get organized and make the shopping trip more enjoyable.

Here are 5 tips to help you have a more positive shopping experience at your commissary.

1. Organize your coupons. Using coupons at the commissary will save you money but only if you bring them with you. So many times I don’t think about my coupons beforehand and end up leaving them at home. Come up with a plan, carry a small coupon envelope in your purse and always plan to bring it with you when you go. Figure out what coupons you will be using ahead of time and hand them to the cashier when you check out.

If you can, match some of your coupons to what is on sale for the month. You will be able to save more money that way.

2. Have cash ready for tipping your baggers. At the commissary you will need to have a tip handy for the baggers. That is the only money that they get paid. I try to make sure that I have a few dollars with me before I get there. Having the money already in your purse or wallet is nice because you don’t have to think about it when you go to pay.

3. Make a shopping list. When shopping at the commissary you need to have a good shopping list. Plan your meals and write down what you need to get. Do an inventory of what you have at home so you don’t buy something you already have enough of.

By making a shopping list you will save yourself money because you won’t just be grabbing everything you see when you are in the commissary. You will have a list you can stick to.

If you want to be even more organized, write down what you need to buy based on where things are located in the commissary. That will help speed up your shopping trip.

4. Plan your shopping days. Don’t go to the commissary on payday if you can avoid it. The commissary will always be crowded on payday. If you have to go that day, go there early in the morning to avoid most of the crowds.

If you plan your days and budget right you can avoid having to go on the one day everyone else is getting paid too. I remember being there on a payday when I was pregnant on a hot summer day, the line was all the way to the back of the store. Not something I ever wanted to repeat.

5. Plan for your kids. If you have to take your kids with you to the commissary, make sure you plan for that. You don’t want them to get bored or make your shopping trip impossible. Think about what will help keep them entertained while you are there.

You can also have them help you with your shopping. Give them their own list to take around or ask them questions about the types of foods you are going to be buying. Keeping them busy will make for an easier trip. If your child is young enough and you can find one, a car cart can help keep them busy and excited about the shopping trip.

FACT OR FICTION: What do you know about your commissary benefit?

By Kevin L. Robinson, DeCA public affairs specialist

However, you are able to get cash back if you need to. Just ask the cashier for 5 one dollar bills. That shouldn’t be a problem since a lot of people do the same thing and the cashiers are used to people asking for small bills.

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FACT OR FICTION: What do you know about your commissary benefit?

By Kevin L. Robinson, DeCA public affairs specialist

Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Stuart M. Allison is the Defense Commissary Agency’s senior enlisted advisor to the director.

“The best way to use the commissary benefit is to be an informed shopper,” Allison says. So, to help commissary shoppers, here’s Allison’s quick guide of fact-versus-fiction information:

• The commissary is only authorized for married military members living in on-base housing: FICTION. Where a person lives or their marital status does not influence commissary access. All that matters is their status as an authorized patron. Active duty military, reservists, retirees, 100 percent disabled military veterans, Medal of Honor recipients and their authorized family members are all authorized to shop.

• Case lot sales can save patrons upwards of 50 percent: FACT. DeCA’s Commissary Customer Appreciation case lot sales offer savings of 50 percent or more on club pack and full-case items. Customers can go to www.commissaries.com to find out scheduled sales. They can also find this information on their store’s Web page.

• DeCA has a rewards card that gives its patrons access to digital coupons: FACT. The Commissary Rewards Card is a convenient way for customers to save even more with about 160 digital coupons. Patrons can download those digital coupons to the Commissary Rewards Card from the commissary website or from Smart Source “direct to card.” iPhone and Android apps make it even easier for customers to review their coupon accounts, as well as locate commissaries and their contact information.

• The 5-percent surcharge is a tax: FICTION. The 5-percent surcharge, mandated by Congress, is returned to commissary patrons in the form of continually improved commissary facilities – new stores, as well as renovations of existing ones. The savings of 30 percent includes the 5-percent surcharge.

• Baggers are commissary employees: FICTION. Baggers are not commissary employees, and are paid solely by the tips from commissary patrons in exchange for bagging/carryout services. Baggers are self-employed and work under a license agreement with an installation commander.

“Doing your homework can pay off at the cash register,” Allison said. “If you want to save more, boost your commissary knowledge. Tune in to DeCA’s social media sites, and check the commissary website for the current sales flyer, ongoing promotions, the lineup of Commissary Value Brands and available digital coupons for your Commissary Rewards Card.

“It’s your benefit,” he added. “Take the time to understand it and use it.”
SUPER SAVINGS AT YOUR LOCAL COMMISSARY!

SAVINGS OF 23% – 32% ON THESE ITEMS

HUGGIES® SNUG & DRY Diapers, Size 3, 132 ct.
ON SALE 10/9 - 10/29

HUGGIES® SIMPLY CLEAN® Wipes, 3-pack, 216 ct.
ON SALE 10/9 - 10/29

HUGGIES® SIMPLY CLEAN® Wipes, 3-pack, 216 ct.
ON SALE 10/9 - 10/29

SCOTT® Bathroom Tissue
12 rolls, 1257.6 sq. ft.
ON SALE 10/1 - 10/31

POWERBUY

KLEENEX® Brand Tissue
Ultra Soft, 4-pack, 300 ct.
ON SALE 10/9 - 10/29

SMITHFIELD® On Sale 9/28 - 10/15

$1.45
Armour® Pepperoni
Regular, Turkey or Lower Sodium
4 oz. – 5 oz.

$6.99
Armour® Meatballs
Original, 64 oz.

2/$5
John Morrell® Smoked Sausage Links
Polish or Hot
16 ct., 32 oz.

$1.79
Armour® Summer Sausage
Hickory Smoked, 10 oz.

SUPER SAVINGS AT YOUR LOCAL COMMISSARY!

October Specials

Frito-Lay® Brand
50 Ct. Classic Mix
$11.66
From 10/1 - 10/31

Frito-Lay® Brand
20 Ct. Classic Mix
$5.99
From 10/1 - 10/31

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All items may not be available in all Commissaries. Prices may vary outside the continental U.S.
The back-to-school ritual of buying school supplies, backpacks, lunch boxes, sneakers and clothing can take a bite out of your budget. I know I had sticker shock when buying school supplies for my 2 children. The total cost was insane. And we still needed to buy new tennis shoes for both of them. I pray that they don't grow out of their shoes before Halloween.

The costs of getting your kids back to school is no joke. Once school starts, the expenses don't end. There are still the after-school activities and possibly hiring a tutor to help get your student through chemistry or French.

And we still needed to buy new tennis shoes for both of them. I pray that they don't grow out of their shoes before Halloween.

You can reduce these growing expenses by shopping at stores that offer a military discount. We've compiled a list of military discounts to help your child have a great school year.

**DRESSING FOR SUCCESS**

**Old Navy.** If you are looking to buy school uniforms (or comfortable school clothes) for your military child, be sure to stop by Old Navy and take advantage of their 10% military discount. This offer is valid for active duty, retired, reserve and military spouses. You must present your military ID card at the time of purchase at the store. This discount is not available for online purchases.

**Nike.** Nike offers a 10% military discount on Nike.com as well as at Nike, Converse and Hurley stores.

**Foot Locker.** Foot Locker offers a 20% military discount.

**Finish Line.** Finish Line has a 20% military discount.

**Payless.** This shoe store offers a 10% military discount.

**Stride Rite.** If you have preschoolers, don’t forget to ask about Stride Rite’s 10% military discount.

**Adidas Shoes.** Adidas Shoes offers a 10% military discount.

**Under Armour.** Under Armour offers a 10% discount to active duty and veterans on their website and in all Under Armour stores. Online purchases are verified through ID.ME.

**Abercrombie & Fitch.** The military discount at this store may be 10% or 15%, depending on the location.

**Aeropostale.** This clothing store offers a military discount of either 10% or 20% depending on the location.

**American Eagle Outfitters.** American Eagle Outfitters has a 10% to 15% military discount that is available, at the manager’s discretion.

**Claire’s.** They have a 20% military discount on accessories and jewelry.

**Kohl’s.** Kohl’s offers a 15% military discount at select stores nationwide.

**Gap.** The Gap offers a 10% discount on the first of every month. It is available in store only.

**WHEN YOUR CHILD NEEDS HELP ON HIS HOMEWORK**

**Tutor.com.** Active duty service members and their dependents (grades K-12) can receive free tutoring and homework help through Tutor.com. Tutor.com says that “Students can get personalized help in 40 Math, Science, Social Studies, English and World Language subjects, including Algebra, Statistics, Biology, Essay Writing, Spanish, German and French.” Tutors are also available to help students prepare for the SAT and ACT. Students can connect with tutors online through their smart phones and tablets 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The service is available every day except on January 1, Thanksgiving and December 25. This free service is funded by the Department of Defense (DoD) MWR Library Program, the DoD Navy General Library Program, the DoD Voluntary Education Program and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance.

**Hire a military spouse.** Let’s say your wife is the math whiz in your house, but she’s away for training when your teenager is asking you questions about his geometry homework. Consider hiring a military spouse to temporarily or occasionally tutor your child. Many military spouses have degrees in education and because of various circumstances they aren’t working full-time. They may be interested in spending 5 hours a week teaching your military child. This can be an affordable option for face-to-face tutoring for military families.

**PREPARING FOR COLLEGE TESTING**

**eKnowledge.** Is your military child dreading the ACT or SAT test? Consider enrolling her in eKnowledge’s SAT and ACT College Test Preparation Programs. This interactive, multimedia and online course is available to military dependents for free.

**WHEN YOU’RE FEELING THE PITCH OF PRIVATE TUITION**

Many private schools offer a military discount, but you need to ask for it. Before you pay the enrollment fees, be sure to speak with a school administrator. Parents should be ready to explain their situation (active duty family, one income) and then ask directly if there’s a possibility of a discount.
Do Special Privileges for the Military Magnify the Civilian-Military Divide

by Veronica Jorden

Do a quick online search for military discount or military offer and thousands upon thousands of webpages come up. And it’s not just restaurants or retail stores, car rentals, apartment rentals, colleges and car dealerships all offer special pricing and discounts for active duty service members, veterans, National Guard and military spouses. Add in our medical coverage, housing pay, debt relief, and educational and retirement benefits, and it’s not hard to see why some feel that service members and their families receive too many special privileges and considerations.

But even though we know more than anyone that these benefits and privileges are earned by our service members, it can be disheartening when we find ourselves in the crosshairs of public opinion. Often when these arguments are raised, we feel like we are standing on the other side of some kind of cultural divide.

Can the average American truly appreciate our way of life? Can they understand why these special provisions are available for military families? At the same time, we must consider our own motivations. Are we asking for too much?

The Difference Between Benefits and Privileges

To those who think we are, as a community, overpaid and over-privileged, a quick review of the difference between benefits and privileges is in order. The housing, educational, retirement and medical benefits are just that—benefits. Just like any other job, these benefits are part of the total compensation package offered by an employer to an employee upon the acceptance of a position.

Yes, these benefits are funded by federal taxes, a system our community also pays into, but any American who chooses to apply and accept a position in the military is entitled to receive them. These things are not privileges, they are earned compensation.

That being said, it is important to understand that there is a limit to these benefits. I’ve heard military spouses complain about the military not paying for an airline ticket home for a funeral or about how school loan debt for dependents should be forgiven. While arguments could be made for additional benefits in both cases, the truth is, the military isn’t a wannabe-just-give-it-to-me free for all. We cannot simply expect that our every need and want be subsidized by the American taxpayer. The U.S. military is not a welfare state. We must be careful about considering ourselves to be a community more deserving than others. We are no more American than our civilian neighbors. Benefits earned should be benefits received. Everything else is on us to manage.

All Those Military Discounts

While most businesses offering a military discount do so as a way to give back and say thank you, let’s not lose sight of the fact that it is still a marketing technique used to attract customers. The U.S. military community is fairly unique as far as our spending habits are concerned. Job security offers our community of consumers the ability to spend more than their civilian counterparts in many areas. Offering a discount attracts customers from the million plus strong military community. It’s no different than offering a discount to those who have student ID or are over 55 years old.

And when you consider that a lot of military folks I know tend to spend more when there is a military discount offered or leave bigger tips, any military discount is funneled right back into the economy. Despite the stereotypes, members of the military community aren’t cheapskates. We’re not sitting at home hoarding all the savings we get from military discounts.

A Community Apart?

We are a community unlike any other in that we exist because our nation demands a strong and professional military. And while our role as citizens is unique, we must not lose sight of the fact that we are part of much larger whole and should continue to serve our country with grace and humility. We must not close ranks, but instead remain open and engaged in the conversation about the future of this country, including its military. After all, while long and distinguished, even a career of service in the military must come to an end. And we will need to cross that cultural divide and rely on the strength and acceptance of our civilian communities to help us make that transition.

Do you think that military discounts add to the cultural divide between the military community and civilians?

11 Companies That Will Let You Move Within Their Corporation When You Move

by Meg Flanagan

COMCAST-NBC UNIVERSAL

This media heavy hitter is the top-rated employer by Military Friendly for 2017. Not only has Comcast-NBC Universal committed to hiring 10,000 veterans and military spouses, they make it easy to balance work and life. There are military advisory committees, the option to move to part-time during deployments and job relocation assistance. Even if there is not a position with the company at the next duty station, Comcast-NBC Universal will help military spouses find their next position.

HILTON

Hilton has committed to hiring 10,000 military spouses and veterans by 2018. In addition to this commitment, Hilton has properties around the world. While not explicitly stated, it is implied that military spouses hired at one Hilton location may be able to transfer to another location. There are also remote positions available.

ADECCO

Adecco is a staffing agency that provides temporary workers in a variety of fields. According to Rachelle Chapman, Military Liaison and Senior Manager for Strategic Partnerships, temping is a great fit for military spouses. Adecco has national reach, which allows military spouses to continue to work through Adecco to find new temporary employment after a PCS. Plus, there is the ability to work in several fields which will diversify your skill set.

STARBUCKS

Along with a great cup of coffee, Starbucks offers competitive job benefits for military spouses. There are expanded education benefits, flexible scheduling and the opportunity to transfer to another Starbucks location following a PCS. Starbucks has also created 32 military-friendly stores across the United States. These stores are primarily operated by military spouses and veterans.

U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Military bases are often a hub of federal employment. Military spouses can leverage their recent PCS to receive hiring preference. There are positions in a wide variety of career fields and for those with different levels of education or experience. Spouses can claim hiring preference for 2 years following their sponsor’s PCS orders. Being hired for a federal position does require work and lots of documentation. However, you can register in advance of your next PCS move to facilitate easier job searching and hiring.

AAFES

Every military base has one. Your local AAFES Exchange is a great place for military spouses to seek employment. Military spouses can readily transfer their position to another AAFES location too. To be eligible, spouses must:

• be PCSing with their sponsor
• have worked for AAFES for at least 6 months
• have at least satisfactory employee evaluations
• and be transferring within the same employment category

MCCS

For Marine Corps spouses, working for Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) is a great option. There are opportunities across a variety of fields available and military spouses can claim preference. There are positions available at Marine bases in the United States and overseas.

LA QUINTA

La Quinta Inns & Suites are located nationwide. For many military families, La Quinta provides a welcome pet-friendly refuge during PCS season. The hotel chain also has a military spouse and veteran hiring initiative in place. According to their website, La Quinta offers jobs in a variety of roles that are transferable and has the opportunity to promote within the company.

BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON

Booz Allen Hamilton is a diverse company and a leader across many sectors. Having been founded by a veteran and working closely with the DoD, Booz Allen Hamilton is committed to employing military spouses and veterans. They have dedicated military hiring programs and offer benefits to military spouses and veterans. According to first-person stories featured on their website, military spouses have been able to transfer jobs within the company after PCSing.

L BRANDS

L Brands’ stores are ubiquitous in malls across the world: Bath & Body Works; Victoria’s Secret, La Senza and Henri Bendel. The company employs over 88,000 people across their brands and corporate office. L Brands frequently promotes from within its current employee pool and offers relocation. While there is no specific military spouse or veteran hiring program, with stores located around the world, you stand a great chance of being able to transfer to another location.

WELLS FARGO

Wells Fargo has made a commitment to support veterans and military families. The banking firm has opportunities to translate military service into job skills. They also provide relocation assistance for spouses who are moving because of their family member’s military service. Wells Fargo will help employees to find a similar job in their next location. There are more services dedicated to hiring veterans, but there are also military support teams and initiatives within the company.

Do you work for a company that allows you to move your job with you? Give them a shout out in the comments. Thank them for being a military spouse-friendly employer.
Prices in this flyer may not be available in all commissaries or the product may not be available, especially in Alaska, Hawaii or Overseas locations.

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