



United States Marine Corps

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PRESS RELEASE #17-029

October 15, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMISSARY CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – Due to a recently reported health code violation resulting from a pest control issue identified by a routine inspection in the commissary, it is now closed until further notice. Officials from the Defense Commissary Agency, the Department of Defense agency responsible for the commissary, are continuing to work diligently to improve the conditions of the commissary in order for it to be suitable for operations. MCAGCC is supporting them in these efforts.

The commissary was inspected and it was determined that the produce and bakery/deli areas were the source of the violations. While there are no indications that any food is at risk, ready to eat foods (like fruits and vegetables) should be washed before consumption and packaged foods should be completely sealed.

Combat Center Chief of Staff, Col. Ricardo Martinez, expresses his sincere concerns

about our Combat Center's Marines, sailors, service members, retirees and their family's health, safety and well-being, as well as his commitment to reopening the Commissary as soon as it is 100% safe for continued operations. DeCA is currently executing a comprehensive plan to bring our commissary up to the standards our military families deserve. This plan includes extensive sanitation, pest control and employee training.

Officials from DeCA Headquarters are aboard the Combat Center working diligently to meet the commander's intent for a safe and prompt reopening.

DeCA has engaged a robust pest control contract and early results show progress. Complete assessment of store products by military food inspectors are ongoing to ensure that all items are safe for consumption. This is a collaborative effort between DeCA food safety and the independent military food inspectors.

MCAGCC leadership alongside DeCA officials toured the commissary late Sunday afternoon and observed a very thorough cleaning in progress. We will continue to provide daily updates.