



United States Marine Corps

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMISSARY CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – The sale of a limited selection of popular items began this afternoon outside the commissary at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, as work continues to get the store ready for reopening, Defense Commissary Agency officials reported.

The outdoor sale began at 1 p.m. today featuring about 20 key items on display outside the store. Officials anticipate continuing this service from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily until the store reopens. Customers can also make special orders for products at the site, but those products must be among the products inside the store that have been properly inspected and cleaned.

Reopening the commissary at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California, will occur as soon as all health and sanitation standards are met, according to Keith Hagenbuch, the Defense Commissary Agency’s executive director for store operations.

“Great progress has been made thanks to the team of experts here working diligently to address the rodent control issue,” Hagenbuch said. “The reopening date will be announced as soon as everything has been done to eradicate the pest and clean the store.

“Right now the well-being of our patrons is our top priority, so we are not taking any shortcuts. We regret the inconvenience this has caused, but we and our customers expect this to be done right.”

Since the commissary closed Oct. 11 due to a health code violation resulting from a rodent control issue, DeCA’s team of public health, sanitation, engineer and store operations experts have been working with the installation’s military health personnel and the pest control contractor to address the issues. Their tasks include addressing how and where rodents are entering the store and eliminating those access points, thoroughly cleaning the store and comprehensively inspecting all products.

To help ensure it doesn’t occur again, Lt. Col. (P) Alisa Wilma, DeCA’s director of public health and safety, is tailoring integrated pest management training for the store that takes into account the environment in which it operates and is helping ensure eradication and cleaning procedures are thoroughly done.

“We’re pulling every product off of every shelf and cleaning both the shelf and the product,” Wilma said. “Everything we can do to make this store ready for opening is being done to provide the commissary benefit in a safe, clean and pest-free environment for our Twentynine Palms patrons.”