

New Bridgeport Commissary, Marine Mart opens

By DeCA Public Affairs Division

CORRECTION: *The previous version had an error in the military designation of Fallon. It is a naval air station.*

NOTE: *To see photos of the Bridgeport Commissary and Marine Mart grand opening, go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/commissary/sets/72157634348113584/>.*

FORT LEE, Va. – A new commissary and Marine Mart opened today, making shopping a lot easier for authorized patrons near the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center at Bridgeport, Calif.

Nestled amid the picturesque landscape of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the shopping complex serves more than 3,000 active duty, Guard and Reserve, retirees and family members. The Bridgeport facility is located in the Lincoln Military Housing Area of Coleville about 21 miles from the Marine training center.

The \$10.3 million facility features a 12,166-square-foot commissary, which sells about 6,000 grocery products, and a 3,600-square-foot Marine Mart, which sells health and beauty aids, personal items, electronics, gifts, souvenirs and some groceries.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the Defense Commissary Agency's West Area director, Terry Batenhorst, told shoppers that DeCA "packed a lot of store into a small footprint" to support of the Bridgeport military community.

"This may be a small store, but it stocks a lot," Batenhorst said. "And, if you don't see something you want, the Fallon Commissary is only a phone call away. We will get it for you.

"Our employees will take good care of you – our goal is to make it worth your trip to visit the Bridgeport Commissary."

The new shopping facility is a welcome addition to the Bridgeport community, said Col. John J. Carroll Jr., commander of the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center. “We are blessed to be able to shop in a commissary and Marine Mart that was built just for us.”

DeCA’s newest store has 5,459 square feet of sales floor area, three checkout counters and it’s projected to do \$900,000 in annual sales. In addition to its 6,000-item stock inventory, the store will also offer patrons a two-day turnaround on ordering products not carried at Bridgeport from the Naval Air Station Fallon Commissary, Nev.

For customers of the new Bridgeport shopping complex, the commissary and Marine Mart was beyond anything they expected.

“There’s a much larger selection than I was expecting,” said Sgt. Charles Petersen, field wireman with the Marine training center’s base telephone operations. “It will save me a lot of gas not having to drive into town.”

For Staff Sgt. Nathan Gamboa, assistant operations chief at the Marine training center, the new commissary “blew away my expectations.” His wife, Kim, added: “I’ve been waiting for this store to open for a long time. I’m on cloud nine today. Everything is wonderful.”

Cpl. John Attard, chief cook in the center’s dining facility, was pleasantly surprised at the size and the vibrant colors. “This is over my expectations. I’m more than happy. I’m definitely going to do my shopping here.”

Janice Solberg, a retired sailor, had been waiting for the new Bridgeport store for years. “We’re excited. They’ve got a lot in this store. I’ve crossed off almost everything on my list.”

Throughout the opening day, DeCA’s industry partners gave away commissary gift cards and other prizes including an electric scooter, a computer tablet and two flat screen televisions.