



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

NOV 12 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOW FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Updated Exception to Policy Permitting Commissary and Exchange Shopping Privileges for Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense Civilian Employees Assigned to the United States Territories and Possessions

This memorandum cancels the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, "Exception to Policy Permitting Commissary and Exchange Privileges for Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense Civilian Employees Assigned to the United States Territories and Possessions," September 19, 2025, and approves an exception to paragraph 4 of Attachment 2 to Directive-type Memorandum (DTM) 21-003, "Access to Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Category C Online Activities, DoD Commissaries, and Military Service Exchanges," authorizing in-store commissary and exchange shopping privileges for Department of Homeland Security (DHS) employees stationed in the U.S. territories and possessions.

DHS employees may shop at Department of War (DoW) commissaries and exchanges located in the territory or possession where the DHS employee is assigned. These in-store commissary and exchange privileges exclude the purchase of military uniform items and do not extend to family members, unless they are otherwise authorized to shop at DoW commissaries and exchanges.

To ensure equity between civilian DoW and DHS employees, I also approve an exception to paragraph 5.a. of Enclosure 2, Department of Defense Instruction 1330.17, "DoD Commissary Program," June 18, 2014, as amended, and authorize DoW civilian employees assigned to the U.S. territories and possessions, without a valid transportation agreement in-store shopping privileges at DoW commissaries and exchanges within the U.S. territory or possession where the DoW civilian employee is assigned. These in-store commissary and exchange privileges exclude the purchase of military uniform items and do not extend to family members, unless they are otherwise authorized to shop at DoW commissaries and exchanges.

DHS Federal employees will use their Personal Identity Verification card to gain access to DoW installations and as proof of eligibility when shopping at a DoW commissary and military exchange in the U.S. territory or possession where the DHS Federal employee is assigned. To ensure smooth entry, DHS employees are encouraged to contact the local DoW installation's Visitor Control Center for guidance on access procedures.

These exceptions to policy will remain in effect for 2 years unless either cancelled or incorporated sooner into an appropriate DoW issuance. My point of contact is Pyper Brenner at (703) 475-0727 or pyper.j.brenner.civ@mail.mil.


Anthony J. Tata