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December 28, 2005

NOTICE TO THE TRADE – DeCA NOTICE 06-37

SUBJECT: Produce Conversions Announcement

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) has recently completed a series of actions in order to identify a conversion schedule for contracting directly for fresh fruit & vegetable (FF&V) support for its military commissaries. These efforts included a coordination meeting with the Defense Supply Center–Philadelphia (DSC-P) on November 2, 2005, and an Industry Roundtable conference that convened on November 16, 2005 in Atlanta, Georgia, where DeCA advised industry of its objectives. Approximately 170 members of industry attended the latter session. Based on the input received from all sources, DeCA has finalized its conversion schedule, which is now publicized for future industry planning purposes.

The attached map depicts numbered areas of the United States (and associated DeCA stores) that will be grouped together for contracting purposes. All commissaries cannot be converted at once; therefore, the numbered areas also represent DeCA's sequence for conversion. The initial area to be converted will be the Midwest section (#2) of the U.S., with a solicitation covering this area expected to be issued in late January 2006. Additional solicitations will follow for the other areas as soon as they are ready for release. All solicitations will contain specific criteria applicable to a particular requirement, as well as any group of stores located within that area. Solicitations will not be identical, therefore, potential offerors are encouraged to carefully review each solicitation issued to familiarize them with DeCA's specific FF&V requirements for each area of coverage. Once ready for issuance, the solicitation documents will be available electronically (via e-mail) to any interested party.

DSC-P has agreed to continue to provide FF&V contracted support for all store locations until DeCA is able to fully secure contracted support. As DeCA awards contracts for specific geographic areas, DSC-P support in those areas will also progressively diminish. Accordingly, the objective for DeCA is to complete formal contract awards for all commissary locations and assume full coverage from DSC-P not later than September 30, 2006.

Point of contact for this notice is Mr. Larry Hahn, (804) 734-8884 or [larry.hahn@deca.mil](mailto:larry.hahn@deca.mil).

/s/

Scott E. Simpson  
Chief Operating Officer

Attachment:  
As stated