



## *Biography*

### DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY

1300 Eisenhower Avenue,  
Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia 23801-1800

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#### ***Command Master Chief Mario S. Rivers*** **Senior Enlisted Advisor to DeCA Director**

Navy Command Master Chief Petty Officer Mario Rivers is the Defense Commissary Agency's senior enlisted advisor to the director, a position he assumed in October 2023.

He is responsible for advising the DeCA director on all service members' needs related to the commissary benefit and serving as the agency liaison with the senior enlisted chiefs of the armed services. The commissary system includes more than 13,000 employees, a headquarters, five areas and 235 commissaries located in 45 states and 13 countries around the world.

Prior to being assigned to DeCA, Rivers had served since 2020 at Navy Region Hawaii Headquarters as Region Command Master Chief. He led 279 tenant commands with 93,000 military and civilian members, including 36 aircrafts in seven fixed wing aviation squadrons, 18 submarines, and 10 homeported ships that were mission critical to operations throughout the United States Indo-Pacific Command area of responsibility.

During the 167-day Red Hill water crisis, he established partnerships with personnel from all armed services that provided 2.3 million gallons of potable water, and relayed logistical support to 7,000 families during the busiest demand signals and most impactful crises to hit Pearl Harbor in the last 30 years.

Rivers began his military career in May 1994, continuing his father's legacy as a sailor. He enlisted a month after graduating with honors from Booker T. Washington High School in Pensacola, Florida.

Upon completion of recruit training in Great Lakes, Illinois, he attended Seaman Apprentice Training. He started his sea duty in 1995 as an undesignated Seaman Recruit onboard USS Supply (AOE 6) in Norfolk, Virginia. Rivers soon converted to the Retail Services Specialist rate in 1996, later earned his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin and advanced to the rank of Petty Officer Second Class.

Rivers transferred to Fleet Training Center (FTC) Norfolk in November 1999, where he was a Retail Services Specialist "C" School instructor for Resale Operations Management and Barber curriculum. As an instructor at FTC Norfolk, he was hand-selected to create and teach the first Resale Operations Management II curriculum. While serving at FTC Norfolk, he received his certification for Master Training Specialist, advanced to Petty Officer First Class, and was selected as the 2002 Instructor of the Year.

Rivers began his next sea tour onboard the USS Hayler (DD 997) in Norfolk, Virginia. While onboard, he deployed to the 4th Fleet to conduct Counter Drug Operations, and was a member of its decommissioning crew.

From August 2003 to January 2007, he was stationed onboard USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) in Mayport, Florida. Under his guidance, the Sales and Service Division was awarded the prestigious 2005 "Best of Class" for Sales and Services, and two consecutive "Ships Store Excellence" awards. Prior to ending his tour at sea, he was promoted to Chief Petty Officer.

In February 2007, Rivers was assigned to Navy Supply Corps School Athens, Georgia, as a Supply Corps Basic Qualification Course instructor and Command Senior Enlisted Leader. He was directly responsible for the training, mentorship, and subsequent graduation of 620 Naval Officers. During his tour of duty, he was advanced to Senior Chief Petty Officer, selected as Navy Supply Corps School 2008 Instructor of the Year, and awarded the 2008 Senior Enlisted Instructor of the Year for Center for Service Support.



Following his tour at Navy Supply Corps School, Rivers transferred to the USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) in July 2010. Serving as the ship's Division Chief and Sales Officer, his leadership was instrumental in the ship winning the 2011 "Ships Store Excellence" award. While onboard, he applied for and was selected into the Command Senior Chief program. He was hand-selected by U.S. Fleet Forces' Fleet Master Chief Charles "Chuck" Clarke as a facilitator on the Fleet Chief Petty Officer Training team in March 2013, and subsequently advanced to Master Chief Petty Officer in May 2013.

In December 2013, Rivers returned to sea and became the third Command Master Chief onboard the USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109). While onboard, he established the highest standards of excellence and produced exceptional results culminating in the 2015 Battle Efficiency Award, 2015 Unit Tactics Award, two consecutive Retention Excellence awards, and the ship's first opportunity to fly the Enlisted Surface Warfare Pennant. During this tour he completed a deployment to 6th and 7th Fleet.

From 2016 to 2018, he served on the USS San Jacinto (CG 56) as Command Master Chief, where he was a driving force behind achieving two consecutive Battle Efficiency Awards in 2016 and 2017, as the best cruiser in Carrier Strike Group 10. He aggressively led the crew through a highly successful integrated training cycle, a seven-month deployment to the 5th and 6th Fleet, and the first ever Optimized Fleet Response Plan phase for a cruiser.

In May 2018, Rivers was assigned to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida, as Command Master Chief. His business acumen and dynamic leadership supported 126 mission partners being serviced by 25,000 military and civilian employees, and earned the command its third consecutive Retention Excellence award. His invaluable executive leadership was essential in supporting the commanding officer's mission, as well as the needs of the staff in day-to-day operations, where he was instrumental in leading the installation through a devastating terrorist attack on Dec. 6, 2019, when a shooter killed three people and wounded eight others.

#### **MILITARY EDUCATION/TRAINING**

Navy Senior Enlisted Professional Military Education  
Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education  
Honor graduate of the Navy's Senior Enlisted Academy (Class 153 Grey)  
Command Master Chief, Chief of the Boat Course (Class #112)  
Senior Shore Leadership Course  
Navy Senior Leader Seminar  
Executive Leadership Symposium  
Indo-Pacific Orientation Course

#### **CAREER CHRONOLOGY**

2020 - 2023, Region Command Master Chief, Navy Region Hawaii, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam  
2018 - 2020, Command Master Chief, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida  
2016 - 2018, Command Master Chief, USS San Jacinto (CG 56) Norfolk, Virginia  
2013 - 2016, Command Master Chief, USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109) Norfolk, Virginia  
March 2013 - December 2013, Facilitator, Fleet Chief Petty Officer Training Team, Norfolk, Virginia  
2010 - 2013, Senior Chief Petty Officer, Division Chief and Sales Officer, USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7)  
Norfolk, Virginia  
2007 - 2010, Chief Petty Officer (later promoted to Senior Chief Petty Officer), Supply Corps Basic  
Qualification Course Instructor and Command Senior Enlisted Leader, Navy Supply Corps School  
Athens, Georgia  
2003 - 2007, Petty Officer First Class, USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) in Mayport, Florida  
2002 - 2003, Petty Officer First Class, USS Hayler (DD 997) in Norfolk, Virginia  
1999 - 2002, Petty Officer Second Class, Retail Services Specialist "C" School instructor for Resale  
Operations Management and Barber curriculum, Fleet Training Center (FTC) Norfolk, Virginia  
1995 - 1999, Seaman Recruit, USS Supply (AOE 6) in Norfolk, Virginia, Rivers, later converted to Retail  
Services Specialist rate (1996), later earned Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin and advanced  
to Petty Officer Second Class  
July 1994, Recruit Training and Seaman Apprentice Training, Naval Station Great Lakes, Illinois

#### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Meritorious Service Medal (3rd award)  
Navy Commendation Medal (4th award)  
Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (8th award)

Good Conduct Medal (9th award)  
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

*(Current as of May 2024)*