Biography

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY

1300 Eisenhower Avenue, Fort Lee, Virginia 23801-1800



Joel L. Lockhart
Acting Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer

Joel L. Lockhart is the acting deputy director and chief operating officer of the Defense Commissary Agency, headquartered at Fort Lee, Virginia. His appointment is effective April 2026.

As acting deputy director, Mr. Lockhart leads integration of the Agency's strategic plan and corporate business model. His responsibilities include overseeing operations, program management, engineering and support functions of DeCA's worldwide chain of 235 commissaries across 45 states and 13 countries.

Mr. Lockhart served as DeCA's Supply Chain director from October 2024 until April 2026, when he was detailed as acting deputy director and chief operating officer. He previously held the position of director of the Logistics Directorate from March 2023 to October 2024.

As the agency's Supply Chain director, Mr. Lockhart exercised enterprise-level responsibility for global logistics and supply chain operations supporting 235 commissaries in 13 countries, including eight central distribution centers in the Pacific and Europe and a central meat processing plant in Germany, representing approximately $5 billion in annual sales and employing over 700 people. He served as the principal advisor to DeCA senior leadership on all matters related to supply chain performance and accountability.

Mr. Lockhart served more than 26 years on active duty in the United States Army. Prior to retiring from active duty in 2015, he served in a wide range of tactical, operational, and strategic-level assignments, including service in Panama, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Subsequently, he held senior roles as a defense contractor and Department of the Army civilian. Prior to his current assignment, he had served since September 2017 as senior supply management specialist in the Acquisition Logistics Policy and Programs Directorate, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Sustainment, ASA (ALT). There he was responsible for advising the ASA (ALT) leadership on strategies and resources necessary to execute supply management and property accountability policies, processes and procedures. Together, these roles span more than 39 years of professional service in support of the Department of War.

Mr. Lockhart is also a published professional author whose articles have appeared in *Army Logistician*, the Quartermaster Professional Bulletin, and the United States Warrant Officers Association *NEWSLINER*. His writings focused on property accountability, knowledge management, logistics systems integration, and warrant officer professional development, contributing to Army-wide dialogue on sustainment modernization and leader development.

EDUCATION

2001, Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts (Cum Laude), Excelsior College, Albany, New York
1995, Associate of Science in General Studies, Pikes Peak Community College, Pikes Peak, Colorado

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

2026 - Present, Acting Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer, Defense Commissary Agency, DeCA Headquarters, Fort Lee, Virginia
2024 - 2026 (April), Director of Supply Chain, DeCA Headquarters, Fort Lee, Virginia
2023 - 2024 (March), Director of Logistics, DeCA Headquarters, Fort Lee, Virginia
2017 - 2023, Senior Supply Management Specialist, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C.
2016 - 2017, Senior Logistics Business Process Analyst supporting the Department of the Army, Leidos Inc., Richmond, Virginia
2016 - 2016, (January to July) Chief of the Logistics Enterprise Systems Division, Combined Arms Support Command, Fort Lee, Virginia
2015 - 2016, Business Process Reengineering Consultant supporting the Department of the Army, Process Informatics Inc., Washington, D.C.

2015 - 2015, (April to September) Senior Logistics Business Process Analyst supporting Department of the Army, Leidos Inc., Richmond, Virginia
1990 – 2015, Chief Warrant Officer Five, U.S. Army, various assignments
1989 - 1990, Receiving Manager, Lowe's, Opelika, Alabama
1987 - 1989, Unit Supply Specialist, U.S. Army, Fort Benning, Georgia

CERTIFICATIONS

Demonstrated Master Logistician, 2012
Level III, Lifecycle Logistics, Defense Acquisition University, 2019
Information Technology Life Cycle Credential, 2022

AWARDS AND HONORS

2026, DeCA Distinguished Civilian Service Award
2026, General William G.T. Tuttle, Jr. Award
2023, Inducted into the U.S. Army Quartermaster Hall of Fame
2023, Meritorious Civilian Service Medal
2021, Army Civilian Commendation Medal
2014, Army Legion of Merit
2003, Army Bronze Star Medal
1987-2015, Army Meritorious Service Medal (7)
1995, Joint Service Commendation Medal
1987-2015, Army Commendation Medal (6)
1994, Joint Service Achievement Medal
1987-2015, Army Achievement Medal (6)
1994, Presidential Service Badge
2012, Army Staff Badge
2003, Combat Action Badge
2014, Combined Arms Support Command General Brehon B. Somervell Medal of Excellence
2003, National Defense Industrial Association Award
1998, Forces Command Major General Aubrey "Red" Newman Award
2003, U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association Leadership Award
2014, Distinguished Member of the Quartermaster Regiment
2019, Inducted into the Army Acquisition Corps

(Current as of November 2026)