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

PERSONNEL AND READINESS

SEP 21 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTOR, FORCE TRANFORMATION
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Emergency Access to Exchanges and Commissaries in Major Disaster Areas Declared as a Result of Hurricane Katrina

The Department of Defense and Congress exercise close scrutiny over the patronage of commissary and exchange facilities to ensure their continued effectiveness as integral parts of the military compensation and benefits package. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, DoD civilian employees and DoD contractors may be called upon to perform duties essential to restore and continue military operations and maintain quality of life. To support this effort, installation commanders may authorize emergency, temporary access to commissary and exchange stores by DoD appropriated and nonappropriated fund civilian employees and DoD contractors performing functions essential to restoring and continuing military operations or maintaining quality of life at installations within the federally declared major disaster areas in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi resulting from Hurricane Katrina.

The installation commander may authorize DoD civilian employees and DoD contractors emergency, temporary access to the exchange and/or commissary when the installation commander determines that: (1) existing operations are capable of absorbing the added customers; (2) goods and services necessary to subsist and maintain the employee's household are not reasonably obtained from the civilian community; and (3) permitting temporary shopping privileges for DoD civilian employees and DoD contractors will not impair reasonable access to commissary and exchange benefits by

regularly authorized patrons. DoD civilian employees and DoD contractors are not authorized to purchase uniform or state tax-free tobacco items. They may be authorized to purchase tax-free alcoholic beverages, but may not remove them from the installation. Installation commanders may prescribe purchase limitations, quantity, or other restrictions for personnel authorized access to commissary and exchange facilities under this memorandum.

This authority is effective immediately and terminates on October 28, 2005.

David S. C. Chu

cc:
Commander, Army and Air Force Exchange Service
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Director, Personnel and Family Readiness Division,
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