

NEXCOM Opens Replacement Northeast Distribution Center

• SUFFOLK, Va.

On Oct. 26, the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) opened its new 350,000-sq.-ft., Northeast Distribution Center (NEDC) here at CenterPoint Intermodal Center.

The new NEDC is slated to be the distribution and freight consolidation point for 152 NEX and Marine Corps Exchange (MCX) outlets located in the Mid-Atlantic and Europe/Africa/Southwest Asia regions. The new state-of-the-art Suffolk facility replaces two older buildings located in Norfolk, Va., which handled approximately \$140 million of merchandise, at cost, per year.

“The opening of this new distribution center is truly another success story in our continuing efforts to delight our customers,” said Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi, SC, USN (Ret.), NEXCOM’s chief executive officer (CEO). “While our customers won’t see this distribution center personally, they will reap the benefits from this state-of-the-art facility.”

Congressman Randy Forbes (R-Va.), whose Fourth District encompasses the new facility, noted, “This project underscores the strategic importance and opportunity that exists for Suffolk and the entire Hampton Roads area, as they connect the Port of Vir-



NEXCOM PHOTOS

NEXCOM’s new 350,000-sq.-ft. Northeast Distribution Center (NEDC) in Suffolk, Va., replaces two older buildings that served as its former Norfolk, Va., distribution facility.



Helping to open the new distribution center during its ribbon-cutting ceremony were (left to right) Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi, SC, USN (Ret.), NEXCOM’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Suffolk, Va., Mayor Linda Johnson; Congressman Randy Forbes (R-Va.); NEDC Director Maria Haynes; NEXCOM Senior Vice President, Distribution Tom Williams; and CenterPoint Intermodal Center Senior Vice President Robert Harbour.

ginia with the rest of Virginia’s transportation networks.”

MANY BENEFITS

NEXCOM said the new NEDC offers many benefits, including increasing productivity through reduction in steps in receiving, picking and shipping; the ability to increase the amount of material handled while leveraging costs through automation; the ability to handle more merchandise than is currently being delivered to NEXs, which will lower corporate cost structure and relieve congestion in NEX backrooms; and increasing productivity through a more efficient layout and racking configuration.

AAFES Supports ‘Operation Warfighter’ Program

• DALLAS

During the summer of 2011, Staff Sgt. Andrew McElroy Jr. was serving as a tracked-vehicle mechanic/instructor in the Advanced Leaders’ Course at Fort Hood, Texas, when he was severely injured in a fall.

McElroy injured three disks in his back, suffered a broken wrist, and as a result could no longer serve in his then-current Military Occupational Specialty (MOS).

NEW CAREER FIELD

Fortunately, while stationed at Fort Hood in the Warrior Transition Unit (WTU), he discovered a program known as Operation Warfighter (OWF) that provides wounded and injured servicemembers with an opportunity to try new career fields.

Today, McElroy can be found here at the Army & Air Force Exchange Service’s (AAFES) headquarters, as a member of the Human Resources department. His new job involves reviewing resumes and pre-screening potential hires.

McElroy is just one of 11 servicemembers involved in the program who have worked at various Exchange locations, including Fort Hood, the Waco Distribution Center, Texas, Fort Carson, Colo., and at Exchange headquarters.

NEW CAREER HORIZONS

John Perry, a recruiting specialist at the Exchange, said, “We work with the WTU to

find troops who are interested in participating in an internship. It’s a win-win arrangement because the employer benefits from having an experienced servicemember on staff, and the servicemember gets to try out life in a corporate environment. The Exchange is a \$10-billion-a-year operation, so there are many opportunities.”

McElroy feels the initiative is a big benefit for him and his family. “This program has been a fabulous opportunity for me to feel productive again, and to be closer to my family. ... I work half the day at the Exchange and the other half

at the Joint Reserve Center in Grand Prairie. ... The skills I’ve learned here at the Exchange have opened up new horizons for me to pursue after my medical board is complete.”

CALLING WOUNDED WARRIORS

“I would encourage our wounded warriors to contact their leaders and give this program a try. They might just find the career of a lifetime with the Exchange,” Perry added.



AAFES PHOTO

Staff Sgt. Andrew McElroy Jr., hired from the Fort Hood, Texas, Warrior Transition Unit, helps an applicant at AAFES’s Human Resources Department.

DeCA Addresses Hawaii Container Fee Increase

• FORT LEE

On July 16, the State of Hawaii Department of Health informed various entities, including the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), that, effective Sept. 1, it was increasing the Hawaii Deposit Beverage Container (DBC) program’s container fee from 1 cent to 1.5 cents per container. The fee applies to all glass, plastic and metal deposit beverage containers that are 68 fluid ounces or less.

“According to the law, manufacturers and distributors have the option of passing on the 1.5 cents container fee on to consumers as part of the product cost,” noted Christopher T. Burns, the agency’s director of sales.

For further information on this action, the agency has designated Vicki Sliwicki, local buyer, West and Pacific areas, as the point of contact.

—E and C NEWS



Bishop

CGX Buyers Assigned New Category Responsibilities

• CHESAPEAKE

The Coast Guard Exchange (CGX) announced that Samantha Bishop, Dawn Stith and Terri Holman have taken on new buying positions in its headquarters-based Merchandising Group.

Following the departure of Buyer Sean Sommer, Bishop was reassigned to handle Sommer's former categories, including electronics, computers and prerecorded entertainment. Bishop, who formerly was responsible for women's apparel, cosmetics, fragrances, jewelry and watches, was succeeded by Stith, who had been CGX's logo and giftware buyer. Following Stith as logo and giftware buyer is Holman, who had been the assistant logo and giftware buyer.

UNIQUE NEEDS

According to CGX Director of Merchandise Sarah Mikus, "Samantha is familiar with our unique assortment needs and varying store demographics, and Dawn was the assistant buyer in her new area for five years, so she is familiar with all of these departments." Scott Potet, CGX director of marketing, told *E and C News*

that Holman has "very thorough knowledge of the CG logo business and has come up with many ideas for new items that are currently driving the business."

Holman's move was effective on Sept. 20, while Bishop and Stith's moves became effective on Oct. 8.



Stith

AAFES Execs' Roles Shift

• DALLAS

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) announced a series of personnel changes, effective in the August 2012 to December 2012 time frame.

In September, Kevin Beason, Waco, Texas, distribution center (DC) manager II in the Logistics Directorate (LG) relocated to headquarters as chief, Supply Chain Operations (LG). Morgan Meeks succeeded Beason as the Waco DC manager.

An August move saw Judd Anstey, public relations branch manager in the exchange service's Marketing Directorate, promoted to senior public relations manager.

The chart below is a roundup of these and other recent personnel moves announced by the exchange service in early October.



Anstey

Little Creek Combo Mini-Mart Hits Green and Healthy Target

• JEB LITTLE CREEK-FORT STORY

A new Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) Mini-Mart opened here on Sept. 13. The new one-story building, located on "D" Street near Gate 5, combines a 9,931-gross-square-foot Mini-Mart, gas station and package store into one facility.

Constructed to meet the Silver-level Leadership in Engineering and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, the store features wider aisles, three registers for faster checkout, an expanded coffee bar, and a food and snack assortment emphasizing healthy snacks, and other patron-friendly amenities.

"We have significantly raised the level of support on base to our servicemembers and their families with the opening of this new facility," said Capt. Charles Stupard, USN, Commander, JEB Little Creek-Fort Story. "I applaud our NEX team, our Public Works Department and the contractor for closely working together to make this day a reality."

Also speaking at the event were Rear Adm. Robert Bianchi, SC, USN (Ret.), NEXCOM chief executive officer (CEO), and Rear Adm. Mark Guadagnini, USN, deputy commander, Fleet Management, and chief of staff, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. Guadagnini also serves as chairman of the Facilities Committee, NEX/Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Board of Directors.

"This Mini-Mart is truly another success story in our continuing efforts to delight our customers," Bianchi said. "We are happy to bring another world-class shopping environment to our military members and their families who live and work at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story."

"This new modern facility provides greater convenience to our customers in fueling their vehicles and expands the merchandise assortment available in one location," said Christina Giordano, general manager for the NEX on JEB Little Creek-Fort Story. "It also allows us to expand products to our military families at our main store."

According to Guadagnini, the project is an example of NEXCOM's \$50-million year-long capital program designed to preserve and enhance quality of life for servicemembers and their families.

PERSONNEL MOVES

NAME	NEW POSITION	FORMER POSITION	EFFECTIVE
MARKETING DIRECTORATE			
Judd Anstey	senior public relations manager	public relations branch manager,	August 2012
LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE			
Kevin Beason	chief, supply chain operations	distribution center manager, Waco DC, Texas	September 2012
Maheshi Ruffin	senior logistics analyst	logistics operations manager	September 2012
STORE/DC LEVEL			
Michael Ryan	general manager (dual), Bitburg, Germany, Exchange	general manager (dual), Kirtland AFB, N.M.	September 2012
Thomas Matthew	food court manager, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii	food court manager, Fort Campbell, Ky.	October 2012
Lori Maggard	Central Region food program specialist	food court manager, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii	October 2012
Morgan Meeks	distribution center manager, Waco DC, Texas	assistant distribution center manager, Waco DC, Texas	September 2012
Yong Raines	assistant distribution center manager, Waco DC, Texas	logistics operations manager, Dan Daniel DC, Va.	November 2012
Cynthia Ryan	food court manager, Fort Campbell, Ky.	area food program specialist, Eglin AFB, Fla.	December 2012
HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) DIRECTORATE			
Michelle Jones	regional HR manager, Fort Stewart, Ga.	senior career manager	August 2012
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) DIRECTORATE			
Angelita Garcia	telecommunications engineer	disaster recovery analyst	August 2012
FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING DIRECTORATE			
Gregory Hardin	general accounting manager	general accounting operations manager	September 2012
REAL ESTATE DIRECTORATE			
Charles Olney	headquarters facility manager, OCONUS, Europe Region	real estate programmer (certified)	September 2012
Charles Watkins	real estate programmer (certified)	headquarters facility mgr., OCONUS Europe Region	September 2012
SERVICES DIRECTORATE			
Michael Smith	telecom business manager, OCONUS, Europe Region	telecom business manager, OCONUS, Dallas, Texas	January 2013
AUDIT DIRECTORATE			
Walter Lowe	auditor III	auditor II	September 2012
Scott Perdue	auditor III	auditor II	September 2012

Source: AAFES