

F. Department of Defense (DOD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program:

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Consumer Service (USDA/FCS) and SDA, Division of Food Distribution has successfully teamed up with the Department of Defense, Defense Personnel Support Center (DOD/DPSC), to deliver nutritious, high- quality fresh produce to children participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). This project supports the goals of the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children, USDA's comprehensive iterated plan to update the nutrition standards of school meals. Improving school access to high-quality, fresh fruits and vegetables that will appeal to kids is an important component of this initiative. DOD operates a nationwide system to purchase and distribute a wide variety of high quality fresh produce to their military installations, federal prisons, and veteran's hospitals.

The program has enabled schools to increase their offerings of fresh produce to children and introduce them to new fresh fruits and vegetables. Exposing children to attractive, tasty fruits and vegetables can contribute to lifelong nutritious eating habits and good health.

SFAs must inform the SDA office of their intentions to participate in the DOD Program by completing the DOD Request Form at the beginning of each school year A minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of sixteen

percent of the SFAs Total Entitlement can be set aside to buy fresh fruits and vegetables through the DOD Program.

1. SFA must contact a representative of DOD at 800-795-3544 to establish an account.
2. When ordering, the SFA shall:
 - a. Place orders for fresh products directly with the Defense Subsistence Office (DSO) in Nashville, TN by using the Tap It Program;
 - b. Include the five-digit code, quantity, requisition number and requested delivery date (consistent with established lead times);
 - c. Identify any unique ordering requirements (e.g. count, size or grade) for DSO to ensure that accurate quality and quantity of fresh products are purchased; and
 - d. Notwithstanding normal ordering schedules and lead times, the SFA may contact the DSO to order from available DSO stocks on hand of fresh products in cases of an emergency.

2. Shipment and Delivery:

- a. When the fresh product is shipped to the SFA, the SFA shall be responsible for off-loading the fresh product from the tailgate in an expeditious manner, if the SFA is delinquent in off-loading and detention charges accrue, the SFA will be responsible for the detention and other charges caused by the delay.
- b. Unless otherwise directed by DSO, the SFA shall exchange any pallets received from prior shipments or from pallets on hand.
- c. The SFA shall notify DSO if the shipment has not arrived within one hour of the scheduled delivery time and take any corrective action requested by DSO;
- d. Prior to accepting any shipment, the SFA shall count and verify the shipment and annotate any overages or shortages on the vendor's ticket or government bill of lading;
- e. Prior to accepting any shipments, the SFA shall inspect the fresh product and call the DSO if there is any non-conformance, such as product quality or product damage during shipment, to determine disposition of the product.
DSO shall evaluate any non-conforming fresh products,

utilizing field buyers, DSO Produce Specialist or FCS or AMS representatives, and advise the SFA as to whether to accept or reject the product and what actions to take if the fresh produce that has been accepted is later determined to be non-conforming.

- f. Acceptance of a shipment shall be made by signing the delivery ticket or government bill of lading;
- g. The SFA shall notify the DSO within 24 hours of delivery of any quantity discrepancies discovered prior to acceptance or rejection of product; and
- h. Within 24 hours of delivery, the SFA shall notify DSO of any quality or condition defects of the fresh product discovered after acceptance of the fresh product.