



NATIONAL SECURITY

Please Note: Each Unit is responsible to send the coupons directly to overseas locations. Coupons sent to Department Headquarters will not be mailed for you.

COUPONS FOR OVERSEAS MILITARY COMMISSARIES

U.S. military families stationed overseas are able to use coupons on base for up to SIX MONTHS after the manufacturer's expiration date. Keep in mind the time it takes to send them and have them available to commissary users, usually many weeks. Even though coupons can be used for up to 6 months past the manufacturer's expiration date, please do not mail those that are more than 2 months past expiration when you send them. By the time they arrive, they may be past the 6-month date. Only manufacturer's coupons are accepted, do not send local in-store or internet coupons. Separate the coupons into food and non-food categories and place in clear bags. Check the website before sending coupons, as it is updated monthly.

PLEASE do NOT only pick one base to send your coupons to if you are going to send them often, or in large numbers. Check the website whenever you are ready to mail the expired coupons, and choose a different base that you have not recently sent coupons to. If everyone will do this, the coupons will be well distributed instead of overwhelming... which eventually leads to complete rejection, leaving the base families with no coupons. Their circumstances can change on a monthly basis and website is doing the best they can to keep the mailing list current for everyone.

Addressing & Shipping Your Coupon Package

Since our bases overseas are US territory, the postage will cost the same as if you were mailing to an address here in the US. Clipping the coupons before mailing will also help you keep the costs down. The post office may request a specific contact name when you go to mail your coupons. If necessary, explain to them that we cannot maintain a list of personal contact names because they CHANGE constantly and that we are a volunteer group donating grocery coupons to help our military families stationed overseas. The postal worker can also open and inspect the package if that will help and verify that the contents are grocery coupons being sent to our U.S. commissaries overseas. You may wish to leave your package unsealed until you get to the post office. However, we have not experienced this problem and have never had a package of coupons returned. Addressing the package directly to the Commissary or "Family Services" should also help. Also, do not include the country or city, as it might be routed through the country's regular mail system instead of the military. We have included this extra information (City and Country) in our address list so you will know where they are located, but when you mail your envelopes you will address them like this...

Family Services (or Information We Have Listed)
Unit Number, Box Number
APO AE 00000

Do not include the city or country. Note: The APO/FPO is used for the "City" and AA/AE/AP is the "State" Ask your post office for the best way to mail your coupons so they will get there quickly. (Remember, they can only use them for up to 6 months after the expiration date.) You may also need to fill out a simple customs form which the post office will give you and attach to your letter or package. It will only take a minute to fill out the form and you can list the value of the coupons as \$0, as the coupons have no monetary value unless they are used.

For current addresses for overseas military commissaries accepting coupons, go to:

<http://www.grocerysavings.com/expiredgrocerycoupons.htm>

Please check this website monthly for the latest information. Thank you for helping our military families!!!

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Karen Degner
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
National Security Chairman
Kdegner88@gmail.com