

It'll cost ya: Abandoned vehicle policy holds owners responsible

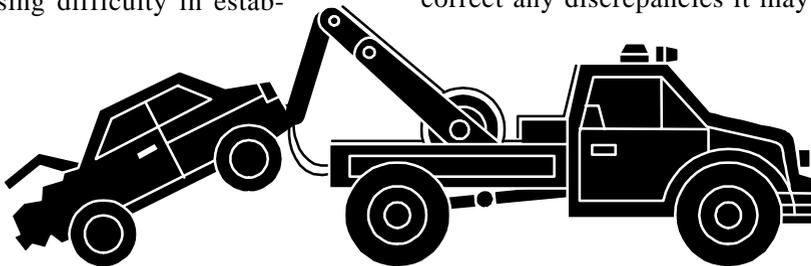
Base no longer held liable for disposition costs of vehicles left behind by irresponsible owners

A new policy governing abandoned vehicles on Charleston AFB took effect Aug. 20, holding owners of vehicles considered abandoned liable for all fees.

Prior to the new program, owners who abandoned their vehicles on base were not held liable for payment of the costs incurred for disposition of the vehicles. Charges for transportation, tow trucks, manpower and processing were all at the expense of the 437th Airlift Wing.

Implementation of the new policy will have many benefits. Not only will it save the wing from using its resources to clean up unsightly vehicles, it will also expedite the process of identification and removal of the vehicles. The criteria for labeling a car, van, truck, trailer, mobile home, camper, or motorcycles as abandoned are as follows:

- Vehicles with expired license plates, tags or registration.
 - Heavy body damage or major engine or transmission parts missing.
 - No military or state registration, or improper vehicle registration causing difficulty in establishing ownership.
 - Vehicle is unattended on a roadway or street and is obstructing traffic.
- Vehicles meeting these criteria will be



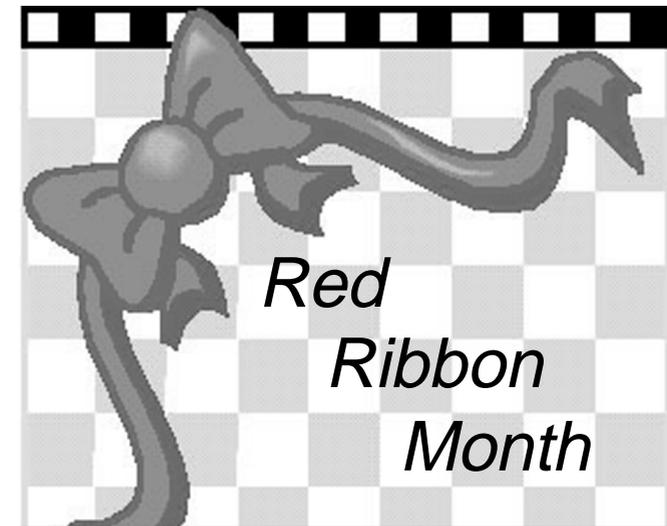
ticketed by security forces as possibly abandoned. All efforts will be made to contact the registered owner of the vehicle. The owner will have three working days to correct the violation and respond to the Security Forces Control Center. After three days, the vehicle will be towed by a civilian towing company.

To reclaim a vehicle, owners may pay all associated costs to the company responsible for towing their vehicle or sign a Waiver of Interest in the vehicle as payment. These fees consist of a \$75 towing charge, a \$12.50 a day storage charge (towing companies are required to keep the vehicle for 60 days before disposal), and a \$140 title search fee. The towing company will make a claim for the vehicle title as payment for service for vehicles left unclaimed after 60 days. Owners who refuse to pay the charges are considered to have waived interest in the vehicle.

Currently, there are many vehicles that meet abandonment criteria on base. To avoid impoundment of your vehicle, ensure you maintain current state and base registrations, do not allow the vehicle to present an appearance of disrepair, and park only in authorized area.

If you are scheduled to be TDY for an extended period of time, notify your first sergeant of any problems with your vehicle and designate, in writing, someone to correct any discrepancies it may have.

For more information on the policy, contact Security Forces Investigations at 963-3605. (Submitted by 437 SFS)



Charleston AFB Red Ribbon activities continue

■ Millennium Calendar Contest, "A New Millenium without Drugs!" for ages 5–12, deadline to enter is Tuesday. For more info contact the Drug Demand Reduction at 963-6849.

■ Anti-drug magic show, "Never give up!" will be performed by Midyette Magic at Lambs Elementary School Thursday. For more information, call the Drug Demand Reduction at 963-6849.

■ Halloween night, individuals will pass out anti-drug material to Charleston AFB Trick-or-Treaters.

■ The Youth Center is sponsoring a base wide Halloween Party tonight and Saturday. Stop by for face painting, pumpkin games, Straight Walk and refreshments. Three different times are scheduled. For information, call the Youth Center at 963-5684. (Submitted by Staff Sgt. John West, ADAPT Program)