

Base celebrates CFC success, welcomes 21 AF/CC

By Col. James Norris
437 AW vice commander

Tuesday we had the honor of hosting the Trident Area Combined Federal Campaign Awards luncheon at the Charleston Club. It was well attended. All Trident Area Federal agencies were honored for their fantastic support of the 1999 CFC campaign. Many agencies far exceeded their monetary goals.

There are many people to thank, but I would like to express my appreciation to Maj. Paul LeVigne for his leadership in serving as the overall coordinator for the Charleston AFB campaign. Charleston AFB holds the record for the single largest non-private sector employee campaign.

We increased our contributions by more than \$10,000 this year, raising a whopping \$265,614. I'd also like to thank Mr. David Wild, postmaster, for his leadership in making this such a success.

Wednesday the National Defense Transportation Association took an outing to the Military Traffic Management Command port facilities and toured the United State Navy Ship Dahl medium speed, roll-on, roll-off ship. Great participation for a great event! All attendees were very impressed. My thanks to the local NDTA chapter.

We were indeed fortunate to have Maj. Gen. John Hopper, 21st Air Force commander, as the guest speaker at our national prayer breakfast Thursday. It was great

for him to take time out from his busy schedule to do this. While here he also awarded the Airman's Medal to Tech. Sgt. James Morrison and Staff Sgt. Andreas Wesely, both from the 16th Airlift Squadron. This is a very prestigious medal. Congratulations to both award winners. You will find more details on page one of this week's paper.

Thursday I attended the 17th Airlift Squadron change of command ceremony. Lt. Col. Scott Grunwald relinquished command to Lt. Col. John "Red" Millander. I want to thank Scott for his great contributions and superb leadership of the 17th. I wish him and Debbie continued success. Colonel Grunwald will be heading to the logistics group before he leaves for

Senior Service School this summer. We welcome Colonel Millander and his wife Debbie to this key leadership position and I'm confident the men and women of the 17 AS will continue their great success under his new leadership.

On Monday, Col. Karl Young assumes the duties of vice commander as I shift my focus to outprocessing activities. It's been my pleasure to be a part of Team Charleston for more than two years. I know you will give Colonel Young the same great support. I want to invite everyone to the retirement dinner on Thursday and the ceremony Feb. 18. Both will be at the Charleston Club. Flyers are posted around the squadrons. Good luck and farewell.

Action Line

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play.

First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at 963-5581 or send an e-mail to action@charleston.af.mil

Callers are encouraged to leave their name and phone number so we can provide a personal reply. Remember the easiest way to resolve problems is to call the agency responsible directly or to use your chain of command.

Commonly used phone numbers:

Security Forces.....	963-3600
Base Exchange.....	552-5000
Commissary.....	963-5695
Housing Office.....	963-3859
Medical Group Information.....	963-6700
Family Support Center.....	963-4406
Education Office.....	963-4573
Charleston Club.....	963-3914
Fitness and Sports Center.....	963-3347
Services.....	963-3800
TRICARE.....	1-800-444-5445



Brig. Gen.
Robert D. Bishop, Jr.

Check writing policy

I recently wrote a check for a purchase at the Base Exchange. I had to show my driver's license so the cashier could write my license number on the check. She then had to have my military ID, so she could write my social security number on the check also. I asked her why and she said it was a requirement.

I don't know where that check is going or who will have access to it. I know of two people who have had their identity stolen and spent months trying to recover from bad credit and debts for things they didn't purchase. I recently saw a program on this subject and it said if you have your social security number on your checks, get it off ASAP because this is becoming a widespread national crime. The driver's license number is enough at stores off base and certainly should be enough on base.

Thank you for your comment. Your concern is understandable. To set the record straight, this is a nationwide policy. Title 10, US Code Sections 3013 and 8013 require annotation of the SSN on all checks. The cashier must compare the SSN on the check with the check writer's ID card. This provides protection for the check writer and the government in the event there is a problem with the check at a future date.

While your SSN does not have to be imprinted on the check, in order for the cashier to accept the check, it must be on there in some form. Handwriting it on the check when it is presented limits the chance your SSN will be used inappropriately.

Cashing a check or using one to pay for purchases is certainly a personal choice, and in light

of current news stories such as those you've cited, it's understandable if you elect not to do so. Unfortunately, current policy requires that we ask for your social security number from you if you elect to use a check. If the cashier asked for a drivers license number, that was a mistake.

I hope this provides insight to the AAFES regulation. AAFES will continue to safeguard the confidentiality of this information to the utmost of our abilities. Thank you for shopping with us. For more information, call the AAFES general manager, George Smith, or the store manager, Beth Pritchard, at 963-5679.

Mail delivery

I talked with the NCO Club three months ago about receiving credit card applications for the club at my work address.

Today, I got another one from Frank Black Jr., Chief of AF Clubs. I don't think it is right for Mr. Black to be giving away my work address to these people, or selling it or whatever they're doing. I don't belong to the club and I don't want to belong to the club, never have. As far as I'm concerned, this is a violation of the privacy act. The club says they don't know anything about it.

Thank you for your inquiry concerning Air Force club membership application mailings. These mailings are done centrally by our AF club card contractor working in conjunction with AF Services Agency. If more information is needed, the Air Force Club Card Program manager, Mr. Steve Burgess, may be contacted via e-mail: Stevphen.Burgess@agency.af.mil

Airlift DISPATCH

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