

BASE WAIVES CLUB DUES FOR DEPLOYED TROOPS

Paragraph 1.13.3, AFI 34-272 states "Waive club membership dues for personnel during deployment to a contingency location for 30 days or more, where there is no Air Force club. Accomplish this by either placing the member in a 'no-dues' status for the duration of the deployment, or by providing coupons equivalent to the dues paid during the deployment for use at the home base."

"This requirement has been in the AFI for years," said Frank Black Jr., Chief of Air Force Clubs, Headquarters Air Force Services Agency. "The key to success here is that we (clubs) are aware that the member is deploying."

"We want to make sure club members are aware of their 'waived dues' benefit," said Ken Tyler, Community Support Flight Chief, "and that they or their commander and/or first sergeant notify the club when members are being deployed."

"According to Black, Air Force clubs have had several instances where club members have had difficulties with club dues, payments and bank fees during deployments—difficulties that in most cases could've, should've been avoided."

Concerning bank fees and charges, sources say finance fees accrue to any account that is revolved. If payments are not made on time, late fees are posted. Like other bills (mortgage, car insurance, electric, gas, rent, etc.), members must make arrangements to pay them while deployed. "In fact, it is our understanding that such financial counseling is provided before troops are deployed," added Black.

Air Force club members have five options to choose from to ensure their club bills are paid on time.

- by mail
- at the club
- over the phone
- via the Internet
- "auto pay"

"While mail, payment at the club, over the phone (and even via the Internet in most cases) would not be viable options for deployed troops, auto pay set up with the bank is an excellent—the best option," said Black. "They simply have the bank automatically deduct the amount of their club bill from their checking or savings accounts." People can choose to make a minimum payment or have a predetermined amount drafted. If club dues are waived and there are no charges made to the account by themselves, spouses or other "authorized users," no payment will need to be made since the "balance due" will be zero. "Using the auto pay feature eliminates the concern about non-receipt of monthly statements and late payments resulting in late fees and finance charges," said Black..

For more information, contact your Air Force club (Officers, 722-1340; Enlisted, 722-1192).

