

SCDC Donates Cell Phones for Soldiers

The South Carolina Department of Corrections has partnered again this year with the Lexington County Sheriff's Department and Lake Murray ABATE to donate 4,400 used cellular telephones, chargers and other cellular telephone accessories to Cell Phones for Soldiers.

Cell Phones for Soldiers sells used cell phones and accessories to a recycling company and then takes the proceeds to buy pre-paid telephone calling cards that are issued to members of the United States armed forces serving our nation outside of the United States. The cell phones, chargers and accessories donated by SCDC have either been seized from inmates inside the Department of Corrections' 26 institutions. They may have also been seized from those who have tried to introduce them into the prisons where they are considered contraband and are illegal.

More than 120 motorcycle riders participated in the 12th Annual Freedom Ride on September 9, 2013 from Chapin to the South Carolina State House in Columbia, with all proceeds benefiting Cell Phones for Soldiers. Lake Murray ABATE sponsored the motorcycle ride in remembrance of Americans who died in terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Lake Murray ABATE is a motorcyclist' rights organization.

David Amick, a deputy with the Lexington County Sheriff's Department and a member of Lake Murray ABATE, coordinated the participation of the Sheriff's Department in the Freedom Ride and the effort to collect used cell phones for donation to Cell Phones for Soldiers. His wife Donna, who is employed in the Medical Department at SCDC Headquarters, has arranged to get pre-paid Calling Cards donated to the relatives of some of the employees at the Department of Corrections serving in the military overseas. Two of those are Brandon Harmon, an Air Force Reservist and son of Darlene and John Harmon, and Army Master Sergeant Stephanie Shields, sister of Maria Leggins.