



Command Chaplain Leads MCICOM in Feds Feed Families

The Department of Defense set a new record for its participation in the Feds Feed Families (FFF) Campaign - collecting donations of almost 3.3 million pounds of perishable and non-perishable food. The generous donations of DoD personnel will help stock the shelves of food banks around the country.

Founded in 2009 by President Obama with his signing the Edward M. Kennedy serve America Act, which encouraged federal employees to expand their service and support to communities, Feds Feed Families was designed to help food banks and pantries stay stocked during summer months when they traditionally see a decrease in donations and an increase in need. USDA once again led the 2016 Feds Feed Families campaign with the support of the Office of Personnel Management Chief Human Capital Officers Council (CHRC) and other agency partners. The campaign began on June 1, 2016 and ran through August 31, 2016.

CHRC Officers lead the program throughout the federal government, allowing the DoD in particular to campaign and collect food far beyond the National Capital Region in concert with the Department of Agriculture's efforts.

MCICOM's participation was a great success this year. Led by Capt (USN) Herbert Griffin, MCICOM Chaplain, command donations this year accounted for over 280,000 pounds of food, worldwide. "The success of any program begins and ends with people," said Capt. Griffin. "Men and women, boys and girls, who demonstrate a passion for those in need has been a hallmark of our country. We have been called a 'generous country and a caring nation'. These statements are true but not by decree, but by each individual who seeks the wellbeing of his/her neighbor. The results of this year's Feds Feed Families Drive has given positive testimony to our corporate belief; we are our neighbors' keepers! The thousands of people who participated by contributing food, money, and by volunteering their time to the 2016 Feds Feed Families Drive are humbled by this success and encouraged to surpass these efforts in the coming years!"

By region, MCICOM donations were as follows: MCINCR – 12,112 lbs.; MCIPAC – 168,127 lbs.; MCIEAST – 81,112 lbs.; MCIWEST – 19,807 lbs.

Over the past seven years, the federal workforce has collected 42.1 million pounds of food and nonperishable items, said officials, noting that during last year's Feds Feed Families drive food donations across the federal government totaled 15 million pounds of food items.