

POLICY AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONDITIONAL DONATION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, CEREMONIAL RIFLES AND BLANK AMMUNITION TO VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT

Regulations, procedures, and prices for obtaining blank ammunition, surplus rifles, and other military equipment available for donation are subject to change without notice.

Be advised all requests for surplus military equipment must first go through the Kansas City, MO National Headquarters office to verify the legitimacy of the post making the request.

The VFW National Headquarters is only authorized to handle requests from chartered Veterans of Foreign Wars posts in good standing. Once verification has been made, the VFW National Headquarters sends requests to the appropriate agencies for processing. When requests are made to Congressional offices or other military departments, without the proper verification and endorsement, the acquisition process is greatly slowed down. Separate letters must be sent for each type of equipment being requested. If both rifles and ammunition are needed, separate requests should be forwarded to the VFW National Headquarters as two different agencies, the Joint Munitions Command in Rock Island, IL and the US Army TACOM Life-Cycle Management Command in Warren, MI will be handling the items. This is a change from past handling procedures.

Requests are to be made on post letterhead and contain the following:

Post name and number

Address (not a PO Box number)

Post commander, Adjutant or Quartermaster must sign request.

These are requirements set forth in new policies and procedures established by the Army. Any correspondence lacking any of these items will be returned to the post causing a delay in processing. Posts are reminded equipment donated by the Department of the Army to Veterans of Foreign Wars posts remain the property of the United States Army. Transfer of any equipment obtained through the Surplus Program is unauthorized without the written permission of the **United States Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command (TACOM)**.

Posts receiving surplus equipment, rifles, static display items, etc. can expect periodic (ceremonial rifle inventories are conducted at the time of issue and every three years or as requested; static displays are conducted at the time of issue and every year or as requested) inspections to assure accuracy of information provided by the donor and compliance with the terms of this Conditional Deed of Gift, proper storage and handling, etc. This program is at no cost to the government, and even though posts may have to pay (or have paid) for handling, shipping, packaging, crating, etc., the items are really just "**on conditional loan**" from the Department of the Army.

BLANK AMMUNITION

A written, formal request must be completed and signed by the current Post Commander, Adjutant or Quartermaster, one of who needs to be the contact person. Include that contact person's residential mailing address (street number) and phone number, not the Post's. Address the request to the Adjutant General, VFW National HQ, 406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111. The approved request is forwarded by VFW National Headquarters to the Commander, US Army Joint Munitions Command, ATTN: AMSJM-CDS (Dawn Folland), 1 Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, IL 61299-6000.

The .30 blank ammo (1,240 rounds) is sent in 2 metal cans in a wooden box. The quantity is limited to two boxes and provided free with no shipping charges. Clips are also available. They are issued in multiples of 25 (100 is the maximum).

Between 6-8 weeks after Rock Island processes the request, the ammo is shipped FEDEX Ground from Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, Independence, MO. The recipient will be notified of the tentative ship out date by letter from the US Army Joint Munitions Command in Rock Island, IL. Normal FEDEX Ground delivery is between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Prefer the ammunition be shipped to a residence and not to the post. A signature is

required upon delivery. If absolutely necessary to be delivered to the post, an Officer's signature is required. This will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Blank ammunition is authorized for use in United States Army issued ceremonial weapons ONLY. Ammo is not authorized to posts who receive rifles through any other source. The use of ammo obtained from sources other than the US Army Joint Munitions Command is prohibited as it may result in damage to the rifles. More importantly, it could cause harm or serious injury to the user.

NOTE: US Army Joint Munitions Command will contact TACOM Army Donations Office to confirm that the organization's rifles are from the program and all records are current.

RIFLES

Under the provisions of Title 10 United States Code (USC) 4683, the Secretary of the Army, under regulations prescribed, may conditionally lend or donate excess M-1 rifles (not more than 15), slings, and cartridge belts to any eligible organization for use by that organization for funeral ceremonies of a member or former member of the armed forces, and for other ceremonial purposes. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is only authorized to handle requests from chartered VFW posts in good standing. The Army Donations Program Office in Warren, MI is responsible for issuing and management of rifles for ceremonial use. Title 10 USC 4683 allows conditions to be imposed on the use of the rifles as may be necessary to ensure security, safety, and accountability. The Secretary may impose such other conditions as considered appropriate.

A Veterans of Foreign Wars post with more than 15 ceremonial rifles is required to return to the US Army the balance of the rifles in order to be in compliance with federal law. If this situation exists, the Veterans of Foreign Wars post will request disposition instructions from the Army Donations Program. No further ceremonial rifles or ammunition will be issued until the Veterans of Foreign Wars post is compliant.

A Veterans of Foreign Wars post wishing to obtain rifles for ceremonial use should forward its request through the VFW National Headquarters. Address the request to the Adjutant General, VFW National HQ, 406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111. The request should be on post letterhead with a street address (not a PO Box number), contact person with telephone number, and the number of active organization members. It should be signed by the Post Commander, Adjutant or Quartermaster. State the number of rifles desired up to a maximum of 15. The request is endorsed stating that the post is chartered and in good standing and eligible to participate in the ceremonial rifle program. It is forwarded to US Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, Attn: **AMSTA-LCL-IWD**, M/S: 419D, 6501 East 11 Mile Road, Warren, MI 48397-5000. An email address is: usarmy.detroit.tacom.mbx.ilsc-donations@mail.mil. The Donations office may be reached by calling (586) 467-6302. Email requests cannot be processed, as the signed original must be forwarded.

Once TACOM receives the endorsed request, forwarded by the VFW National Headquarters Office, processing will begin and an eligibility package will be sent to the post. This package will include the checklist and forms required for completion by the Post Commander, Adjutant or Quartermaster. Return the original forms to TACOM. Presently it takes approximately ninety days for rifles to be shipped after receipt of the eligibility requirements from the post.

Currently, surplus M1 Garand rifles are available for ceremonial use on a conditional basis. These rifles are shipped from the Civilian Marksmanship Program. Normal Overnight FEDEX Ground delivery will be Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. **Ceremonial rifles remain the property of the United States Government. The rifles cannot be loaned, sold, transferred, or given to anyone else without the written approval of the Army Donations Program office.** If for any reason the post no longer requires the use of the conditionally loaned rifles, submit a written request to the US Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, 6501 East 11 Mile Rd., Attn: **AMSTA-ICL-IWD**, M/S:419D, Warren, MI 48397-5000. The post is provided with shipping instructions for defective or unserviceable rifles. **NEVER** return any weapons to TACOM.