

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

1. INTRODUCTION

a. Public Law 106-65 (10 USC Code 4683) allows for the *conditional* donation of M1 rifles to eligible organizations for use by that organization for funeral ceremonies of a member or former member of the armed forces, and for ceremonial purposes. The rifle, a U.S. caliber .30 M1 (Garand), is currently the only ceremonial rifle being donated. The weapon is safe to fire blank ammunition.

b. Public Law 100-456 (10 USC Code 2572) authorizes the *conditional* donation of certain types of military combat equipment no longer needed by the military department concerned to approved organizations and entities for memorial or historical static display.

c. Due to limited availability, military equipment *conditionally* donated for display is limited to one piece. However, rifles donated to any one Post or Chapter is limited to no more than 15 rifles.

d. The replacement or exchange of ceremonial rifles is authorized on a one for one basis if the organization's weapons have been destroyed by fire or flood, lost through theft, or are unserviceable beyond repair.

e. Display equipment and ceremonial rifles ***remain the property*** of the United States government and ***cannot*** be borrowed, loaned, sold, transferred, or given to anyone else.

2. APPLICATION AND PROCEDURE FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR CEREMONIAL RIFLES

a. 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 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.

If the request is for military display equipment, include the type of equipment desired and the intended display site.

If the request is for rifles, include the number desired, the intended use of the weapons, and the number of active organization members. If the request is for replacement rifles, include the manufacturer and serial numbers of the rifles on hand and the quantity of rifles desired. The approved request is forwarded by VFW National Headquarters to the US Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command (LMC) for processing.

b. Upon receipt of an approved application for military equipment or ceremonial rifles, TACOM will provide the requesting organization with a self-explanatory checklist and the specified forms. These documents require the signature of the Post Commander, Adjutant, or Quartermaster. Some forms require a notary public endorsement. An exterior photograph of the organization's building, if applicable, is also required.

c. Return the requirements within 60 days to TACOM or contact them for an extension when completing the eligibility requirements. Otherwise, the request is closed for non-response and your organization will have to reapply.

d. The issue of rifles at no cost is based upon an organization meeting the specific requirements of the law and policy that govern this program along with the availability of funds. TACOM cannot make this determination until the review of an organization's qualification documentation is completed.

e. If your organization was previously issued M1 Garand rifles and they are not functioning properly, the Post is required to have a licensed gun dealer or armorer certify the serviceability to fire blank ammunition for each weapon in question. They must provide a report listing by model, manufacturer, and serial number, what is wrong with each rifle and the cost to fix it. TACOM will then determine if the cost to repair exceeds the cost to refurbish and authorize replacement of the rifle(s). If not, the Post is responsible for the cost to repair.

Care and maintenance of the conditionally loaned rifles is the responsibility of the post.

3. STORAGE AND SECURITY OF CEREMONIAL RIFLES

a. Storage of the ceremonial rifles is at the discretion of the Post as long as you comply with local/state/federal regulations. It is not recommended to store the weapons at a private residence.

b. It is recommended to maintain a log showing serial numbers of weapons and names of the individuals whenever rifles are checked out and in for use by your organization.

c. The *Post Commander, Adjutant or Quartermaster* is required to sign a notarized certificate regarding storage and security as indicated above.

4. DISPOSITION OF DONATED RIFLES

a. If for any reason it may become necessary for the Post to dispose of, or to return donated rifles, disposition instructions must be requested in writing, from the *Post Commander, Adjutant, or Quartermaster*, to TACOM, Attn: AMSTA-LCL-SMD, M/S: 419D, 6501 East 11 Mile Road, Warren, Michigan 48397-5000. NEVER return any weapons to TACOM.

b. Shipping costs for the return of rifles is at the expense of the Post.

c. The Post is provided with the information to return the rifles with receipt requested to Anniston, Alabama. Two known carriers who can ship weapons are the U.S. Postal Service or UPS. Please contact them to get their requirements for returning the rifles. The organization may have to go through a licensed gun dealer to have the rifles packaged and sent to Anniston Army Depot. Let the carrier know the rifles are Army property and are being returned to an US Army depot. NEVER return any weapons to TACOM. The Army does not endorse any

specific mail carrier. Therefore, you can choose any, but please ensure you comply with local and state laws.

d. A copy of the serial numbers for the rifles along with a document number assigned by TACOM should be listed and packed in the box. If the rifles are split into more than one box, this information should be included in all of the boxes.

e. After Anniston receives the rifles and they return the receipt to you, make a copy and send the receipt, along with a list of the returned rifles to TACOM. TACOM will send a letter absolving your organization of all liability for the returned ceremonial rifles.

6. BLANK AMMUNITION AND CLIPS

a. A written, forma 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.

b. 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.

c. 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 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.

d. 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.

6. SLINGS AND REPAIR PARTS

Slings and repair parts are not provided through TACOM. Your organization is required to obtain slings and repair parts from commercial sources. Two known sources are: Amherst Arms, PO Box 1457, Englewood, FL 34295, phone no. (941) 475-2020. Their website is www.amherst-depot.com. Another source is Fulton Armory, 8725 Bollman PL. #1, Savage, MD 20763. Their phone no. is (301) 490-9485. Their website is www.fulton-armory.com. VFW National Headquarters and the US Army does **not** endorse any specific commercial source for rifle accessories.