

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 § 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, U.S. caliber 30 M1 (Garand), is currently the only ceremonial rifle being donated. The weapon is safe to fire blank ammunition.
- b. Military equipment for display, and M1 rifles may be *conditionally* donated to recognized veterans' organizations for ceremonial purposes, however, rifles donated to any one Post or Chapter is limited to no more than 15 rifles.
- c. The replacements 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.
- d. Display equipment and ceremonial rifles *remain the property* of the United States government and *cannot* be loaned, sold, transferred, or given to anyone else.

2. APPLICATION & PROCEDURE FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR CEREMONIAL RIFLES

- a. A written, formal request must be completed and signed by the current *Post Commander 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 use.

If the request is for rifles, include the number desired, the intended use of the weapons, the intended storage location of the weapons (*cannot be a private residence*) 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 United States Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) 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 or Quartermaster*. Some forms require notary public endorsement and completion by the law enforcement.
- c. 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.

3. STORAGE AND SECURITY OF CEREMONIAL RIFLES

- a. In the arms room of a National Guard Armory, U.S. Army reserve center, police department arms room, a military installation, or in a room with a barred and padlocked door that provides reasonable break-in protection for windows. Rifle bolts will be removed and stored separately in a locked container in another room with barred and padlocked doors.
- b. A log will be maintained showing serial numbers of weapons and names of the individuals whenever rifles are checked out and in.

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

d. Acceptable methods of storage include: In a room with barred or no windows and a double lock; in a locked gun cabinet/safe not located in a public access area; in a glass-faced, locked cabinet that requires a chain interlocking the trigger guards and fastened to the wall; in a gun rack located in a secure room with an interlocking chain secured to the wall.

e. Unacceptable methods of storage include: In a private residence; in a gun cabinet within a public access area (club, bar, etc.); in a glass-faced cabinet without additional security; or displayed openly to the public.

4. DISPOSITION OF DONATED RIFLES

a. If for any reason it may become necessary for the Post to dispose of donated rifles, disposition instructions must be requested, in writing, from the *Post Commander* or *Quartermaster*, to TACOM, Attn: AMSTA-LC-CID, Warren, Michigan 48397-5000.

b. The Post is provided with the information to return the rifles to Anniston, Alabama. The Post is required to contact the U.S. Postal Service or UPS 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.

c. 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.

d. After Anniston receives the rifles, and they return the receipt to you, make a copy and send the receipt to TACOM. They will send a letter to your organization to clear the Post of all liability for the returned ceremonial rifles.

5. BLANK AMMUNITION & CLIPS

a. A written, formal request must be completed and signed by the current *Post Commander* 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. The approved request is forwarded by VFW National Headquarters to the Commander, Joint Munitions Command, ATTN: AMSJM-CDS, 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 from Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, Independence, MO. Normal FEDEX delivery is between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The ammunition is to be shipped to a residence and not the post. A signature is required upon delivery. If it's absolutely necessary to deliver the ammo to a post, either the *Post Commander's* or *Quartermaster's* signature is required. This will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

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 (800) 878-9485. Their website is www.fulton-armory.com. VFW National Headquarters and the Army does not endorse any specific commercial source for rifle accessories.