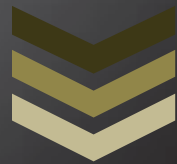


VFW Education & Training Series

Ceremonial Rifles,
Ammunition &
Military Equipment



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

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.

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 Ceremonial Rifle and Static Display 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.

Visit the Army Donations Program website at:
<https://www.tacom.army.mil/ilsc/donations/>

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 and an email address if available. Address the request to the Adjutant General, VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111. The approved request is forwarded by National Headquarters to the Commander, US Army Joint Munitions Command in Rock Island, IL for processing.

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 with the US Army Joint Munitions Command.

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 by National Headquarters stating that the post is chartered and in good standing and eligible to participate in the ceremonial rifle program, then 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 for processing.



An email address is: usarmy.detroit.tacom.mbx.ilsc-donations@mail.mil. The Donations office may be reached by calling (586) 282-9861. 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, 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. **NEVER** return any weapons to TACOM.

In most cases, the Army Donations Program Office will have prepaid shipping labels provided to assist with the return of rifles. After the returned rifles are received, provide a copy of the receipt to TACOM for validation of the return. In turn, they will send a letter to absolve the post of the responsibility/accountability for the returned rifles.

If rifles are no longer in the possession of the post, it is a requirement to state what happened to them. Either a notarized statement signed by the commander describing the circumstances surrounding their loss and the action(s) taken to recover the rifles or a police and/or fire report is required. Send this information to TACOM for review. After review, a determination is made as to the liability for the missing/lost/stolen rifles. The post will be notified if reimbursement costs are required. A triennial inventory is required once every three years or upon request from the date of issue. Care and maintenance of the conditionally loaned rifles is the responsibility of the post.



Slings are not provided through the Army Donations Program Office. The Post may order them from Amherst Arms or Fulton Armory. Contact Amherst-Arms at 941-475-2020 or www.amherst-depot.com or Fulton Armory at 301-490-9485 or www.fulton-armory.com. The Army does not endorse any specific commercial source for rifle accoutrements.

STORAGE AND SECURITY OF CEREMONIAL RIFLES

Storage of the ceremonial rifles is at the discretion of the post as long as they comply with local/state/federal regulations. Organization provides storage location on completed Certificate of Arms Storage form submitted and on file. If there is a change, notify TACOM in writing.

DAMAGED OR UNSERVICEABLE M1 RIFLES

If M1 Garand rifles are no longer functioning, the post is required to have a licensed gun dealer or an armorer certify the serviceability of each weapon in question. The post must provide a report by model, manufacturer, and serial number detailing what is wrong with each rifle and how much it costs to fix it with respect to shooting blank ammunition.

TACOM will determine if the cost to repair exceeds the cost to refurbish and ship replacement rifles to the post. If it does not, the post is required to pay for the repair costs.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR ACQUISITION OF COMBAT EQUIPMENT FOR DISPLAY AND MONUMENTAL PURPOSES

The Army Donations Program office may also conditionally provide obsolete or condemned Army combat equipment under the provisions of Public Law 100-456, Title 10 United States Code 2572. Equipment is for static display only and is not in working condition. This program does not have jeeps or vans for driving. Jeeps are no longer available to the public.

All requests for tanks, field artillery pieces, mortars, etc., should be directed to Adjutant General, VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111. This headquarters is only authorized to process requests from Veterans of Foreign Wars posts. Requests are to be made on post letterhead and contain the following: post name and number, address (not a P.O. Box number), name of contact person with telephone number and number of



active organization members in the post. All requests must be signed by the Post Commander, Adjutant or Quartermaster.

Conditional donations of obsolete, condemned combat equipment for display are made at no expense to the government. The costs for **construction of a display site limited demilitarization and removal of radiological material** (when applicable), release and transportation costs, must be paid by the requesting organization. (Do not prepare a pad until notified in writing by the donations office.) Once the VFW National Headquarters receives the request for a piece of equipment, it will be verified that the post is chartered, in good standing and eligible to participate in the program. The request is forwarded to the **Army Donations Program office at TACOM in Warren, MI**. The VFW National Headquarters does not have any forms or information as to what is available. Once TACOM receives the request, they prepare an official packet and send it to the post. The post then reviews all rules, regulations, requirements, and can make a final decision if the equipment is still desired. Unfortunately, at this time, Army equipment is not readily obtainable for use as a conditional static donation. It is recommended your post submit the initial eligibility requirements to the donations office to remain in an open status for a period of three years. If an asset does not become available within three years, the request is cancelled and your VFW Post will have to reapply.

The post has the responsibility to maintain and display the Army asset in such a way that honors and upholds the image of the United States, our military forces and the veterans. The post is required to submit an annual certificate and a photograph of the displayed item on the anniversary date of the conditional issue. In the event your organization no longer has a requirement to display the item, you are required to contact the donations office for turn in procedures. Posts are not authorized to loan, sell, transfer, move, abandon or give the asset to any other individual or organization.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1) It is not necessary to notify TACOM when transferring rifles to another Post.

True
 False

2) How often is it required to turn in the Ceremonial Rifle Inventory to TACOM?

- A. Every year from date of issue
- B. Every ten years from date of issue
- C. Every three years from date of issue
- D. It is not necessary to send an inventory list

3) How much blank ammunition is distributed?

- A. As much as you need
- B. Six boxes
- C. Twelve boxes
- D. Two boxes

4) Clips are also available through the Joint Munitions Command.

True
 False

5) I can order military jeeps and/or vans to drive in parades.

True
 False

6) Blank ammunition can be ordered for personal rifles.

True
 False

7) What is the procedure if the rifles are no longer in the possession of the Post?

- A. There is no procedure
- B. Contact the police/or fire dept. if required
- C. Contact TACOM
- D. B and C



ANSWER KEY

- 1) **False** - 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.
- 2) **C** – A triennial certification of ceremonial rifles is due every three years to TACOM from the date the rifles are issued. TACOM will provide the form(s) with instruction at the time of issuance. **Failure to update this form every three years can delay blank ammunition requests.** The same procedure applies to posts reporting static display equipment only the form/certification and photograph is due every year.
- 3) **D** - .30 blank ammo (1,240 rounds) is sent in 2 metal cans in a wooden box with no shipping charges.
- 4) **True** - Clips are issued in multiples of 25 (100 is the maximum).
- 5) **False** - Equipment is for static display only and not in working condition. Jeeps are no longer available to the public.
- 6) **False** - Blank ammunition is authorized for use in the United States Army issued ceremonial weapons only.
- 7) **D** - If rifles are stolen or in a fire, get a report from the police/fire department and forward to TACOM with a notarized statement signed by the Commander describing the circumstances surrounding their loss. If rifles are lost, send the notarized statement signed by the Commander only.

