

SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT

Regulations, procedures, and prices for obtaining blank ammunition surplus rifles, and other Military equipment available for donation is subject to change without notice. The Department of the Army has made major changes.

Be advised all requests for surplus military equipment must first go through the Washington, DC, National Headquarters Office to verify the legitimacy of the post making the request.

The Washington Office is only authorized to handle requests from chartered American Legion posts in good standing. Once verification has been made, the Washington Office 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 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 Washington Office as two different agencies, Rock Island, IL and 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 P.O. Box number)

Telephone number for all members in the post (another new change) Post commander or adjutant 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 American Legion 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 Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM).

Posts receiving surplus equipment, rifles, static display items, etc. can expect periodic 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 to be at no cost to the government and even though posts have paid for handling, shipping, packaging, crating, etc., the items are really just "on loan" from the Department of the Army.

BLANK AMMUNITION

American Legion posts needing blank ammunition for ceremonial purposes can be assured of the best possible service on requests, if they comply with the following instructions:

1. Direct a letter of request on post letterhead with an address (not a P.O. Box number) and a telephone number to Executive Director, Washington Office, American Legion National Headquarters, 1608 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006.
2. Ammunition is now provided free of charge. Please do not send any checks or money orders.
3. It is preferred the ammunition be shipped to a residence of an officer and not to the post. Provide a home delivery address in your written request along with a phone number for that residence.
4. At the present time, the only storage facility handling blank ammunition is in Missouri; orders will be shipped from there. You should receive a letter indicating your order has been processed along with a tentative ship out date. Orders are usually received within 5 working days after shipment. Federal Express will not call you to let you know they are on the way to deliver. A signature is required upon delivery. No orders should be left at the door without a signature.
5. Upon receipt of the above information from a post, the Legion's Washington Office will place an endorsement on the request stating it is a chartered post in good standing and eligible to participate in the Veterans' Program. The request, with endorsement, will be forwarded to Rock Island, IL for processing. No further correspondence should be necessary. Presently, it cannot be estimated how long it will take for ammunition requests to be filled. Requests will be handled in turn as to when received and when ammunition is available.

Do not put multiple requests (ammunition, rifles, static display equipment) in the same letter, as each request must be sent to a different agency. You can request clips through Rock Island, IL with your ammo request. State this in your request. Clips are provided free of charge.

FACT SHEET
Issue of Cartridge Caliber .30 Blank and Clips

NOTE: Only authorized organizations that have been issued weapons through the Ceremonial Rifle Program at the US Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command in Warren, MI are authorized to order and receive blank ammunition and/or clips. If you have privately owned weapons or borrow weapons from another organization, your organization is not eligible to receive blank ammunition and/or clips through this program.

The use of ammunition obtained from sources other than the Joint Munitions Command is prohibited as it may result in damage to the rifle. More importantly, it could cause harm or serious injury to the user.

NOTE: This office will only respond to requests for Caliber .30 blank ammunition or clips from an officer of the organization.

- Your request for forms to order blank ammunition and/or clips can be by letter, fax, phone call, or email.
- Request for forms must provide home mailing address, phone number of officer, post number, and city/state where the post is located. Forms are sent to the residence of the officer and not to the post. A new form needs to be requested each time you need to order blank ammunition and/or clips.
- Address your request for issue of AMSJM Form 725-2 to:
 - Commander
 - Joint Munitions Command
 - ATTN: AMSJM-CDS
 - Email: follandd@afsc.army.mil
 - 1 Rock Island Arsenal
 - Rock Island, IL 61299-6000
 - (309) 782-4608 or Toll Free 877-233-2515
 - Fax: (309) 782-7292 or (309) 782-1776
- Prefer to ship ammunition to the residence of an officer, not to the post.
- Ammunition is sent 1,240 rounds (2 metal cans in a wooden box).
- Quantity is limited to 2 boxes (2,480 rounds) of ammunition.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY/CHECKS. AMMUNITION AND CLIPS ARE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE (NO SHIPPING AND HANDLING). ALL CHECKS/MONEY WILL BE RETURNED.

Allow 6-8 weeks delivery after Rock Island receives and processes your order.

All ammunition will be shipped via Federal Express (FEDEX) from Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, Independence, MO. Normal FEDEX delivery will be Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. An officer signature is required.

RIFLES

Under the provisions of Public Law 1028, 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 American Legion is only authorized to handle requests from chartered Legion posts in good standing. The Army Donations Program office at 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.

An American Legion post wishing to obtain rifles for ceremonial use should forward its request through the Washington Office of The American Legion. The request should be on post letterhead with an address, not a P.O. Box number, a telephone number, a contact person, the number of active organization members, and should be signed by the post commander or adjutant. State the number of rifles desired up to a maximum of 15. Failure to include any of these requirements will cause the letter of request to be returned to the post. 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 Headquarters, US Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, Attn: AMSTA-LC-LSDD, M/S: 419, 6501 East 11 Mile Road, Warren, MI 48397-5000. An e-mail address is: donations@tacom.army.mil. The command may be reached by calling 1-800-325-2920, ext. 48469 or 45371 or visit their Website at: www.tacom.army.mil/ceremonial_rifle. E-mail or fax requests cannot be processed, as the signed original must be forwarded.

Once TACOM receives the endorsed request, forwarded by the Washington 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 or adjutant. Return the original forms to TACOM. The sooner the forms are completed and returned, the quicker the request will be filled and rifles sent to the post. Presently it takes approximately ninety days for rifles to be shipped after receipt of the eligibility requirements from the post. The American Legion National Headquarters has no forms to send to posts. The only thing done by the Legion is to verify on the request the post is eligible.

Currently, surplus M1 Garand rifles are available for ceremonial use on a conditional basis. These rifles are shipped from Springfield, Inc. located in Geneseo, Illinois. 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-LC-LSDD, M/S:419, Warren, MI 48397-5000. The post is provided with shipping instructions for defective or unserviceable rifles. NEVER return any weapons to TACOM.

Transportation for the return of the rifles is at the expense of the post. After the rifles are returned, 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 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. If the rifles were lost or stolen prior to 1980, a notarized statement signed by the commander describing the circumstances surrounding their loss and the action(s) taken to recover the rifles is acceptable. For rifles lost, stolen, damaged, etc., after 1980, a police and/or fire department 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 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 Donations Program Group Office. The post may order from Amherst Arms or Fulton Armory: **Amherst Arms**, PO Box 1457, Englewood, FL 34295. Their telephone number is: 1-941-475-2020. The address for **Fulton Armory** is: 8725 Bollman Place # 1, Savage, MD 20763. Their telephone number is: 1-800-878-9485.

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.

DAMAGED OR UNSERVICEABLE RIFLES

If 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 currently has an informal agreement with the Civilian Marksmanship Program to perform this service at no cost to the post. However, if no one volunteers to inspect, clean, repair the M1 Garand rifles, the post must contact a licensed weapons expert.

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 following organizations are presently authorized to acquire through donation obsolete, condemned surplus combat equipment for decorative and/or monumental purposes:

Municipal Corporations Soldiers' Monument Associations State Museums

An incorporated museum, operated and maintained for educational purposes only, when charter denies it the right to operate for profit.

A post of The American Legion

A local unit of any other recognized war veterans association

Equipment is for static display only and is not in working condition. For instance, this program would not have jeeps in condition for driving or other movable vehicles. Equipment in working order should be obtained at military R&R activities or at bases with surplus sales.

All requests for tanks, field artillery pieces, mortars, etc., should be directed to the Washington Office of The American Legion, 1608 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006. This headquarters is only authorized to process requests from American Legion posts. Requests are to be made on post letterhead and contain the following: post name and number; address (not a P.O. Box number); Telephone number and name of contact person; number of members in the post; and all requests must be signed by the commander or adjutant.

Donations of combat equipment for display are made at no expense to the government. The costs for handling, demilitarization, where applicable, and transportation, must be paid by the requesting organization. The method of transportation may be chosen by the receiving organizations if such choice is economically advantageous and the item to be transported does not exceed weight or measurement limitations established by State Highway Departments if truck transportation is indicated.

Once the Washington Headquarters receives the request for a piece of equipment, it will be endorsed stating the post is chartered and in good standing and eligible to participate in the program. The request is forwarded to the proper agency at TACOM in Warren, MI. The Washington 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 then make a final decision if the equipment is still desired.