

**AR 608-4  
OPNAVINST 3460.7A  
AFJI31-217  
(FORMERLY AFR 125-13)  
28 AUGUST 1969  
CONTROL AND REGISTRATION OF WAR TROPHIES AND WAR TROPHY  
FIREARMS**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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**DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY, THE NAVY, AND THE AIR FORCE**



ARMY REGULATION  
 No. 608-4  
 OPNAVINST 3460.7A  
 AIR FORCE REGULATION  
 No. 125-13  
 MARINE CORPS ORDER  
 No. 5800.6A

DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY,  
 THE NAVY, AND THE AIR FORCE  
 WASHINGTON, DC, 28 August 1969

**PERSONAL AFFAIRS**  
**CONTROL AND REGISTRATION OF WAR TROPHIES AND WAR TROPHY**  
**FIREARMS**

This is a complete revision of AR 643-20/OPNAVINST 3460.7/AFR 125-13/MCO 5800.6, 16 July 1965, and changes are made throughout. Local limited supplementation of this regulation is permitted, but is not required. If supplements are issued, one copy of each will be furnished to the next higher headquarters.

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**Section I. GENERAL**

**1. Purpose.** This regulation establishes policy, defines responsibility, and prescribes minimal procedures and requirements for control over the possession and retention of war trophies, including war trophy firearms, and requirements for the introduction of such items into the United States.

**2. Applicability.** Major commanders will be guided by this regulation in issuing local instructions pertaining to the possession and retention of war trophies, including war trophy firearms, and the shipment of such items into the United States by U.S. military personnel.

**3. Civil requirements.** Nothing in this regulation supersedes Federal, State or local laws, or regulations pertaining to firearms, or precludes compliance with any regulation or directive promulgated by installation or major oversea commander. Owners are reminded of their responsibility to

comply with State laws and local published ordinances applicable to the transportation to, possession of and receipt of a firearm at their place of residence.

**4. Definitions.** For the purpose of this regulation, the following definitions apply:

*a. United States.* All States of the Union, the District of Columbia, commonwealths, and any and all possessions or Territories of the United States.

*b. War trophy.* Any item of enemy public or private property utilized as war materiel (i.e., arms, military accouterments) acquired in a combat area or zone within a prescribed period of time, and authorized by the commander to be retained under the provisions of this regulation.

*c. Firearm.* Any weapon (including a starter gun) other than an antique firearm which will or

\*This regulation supersedes AR 643-20/OPNAVINST 3460.7/AFR 125-13/MCO 5800.6, 16 July 1965.

is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device.

*d. War trophy firearm.* Firearms of small caliber up to and including caliber .45 (or equivalent expressed in terms of other linear measure), and all gauges of shotguns, except for "firearms" prohibited by the National Firearms Act (26 U.S.C. 5801-5862) further described in paragraph 6.

*e. Destructive device.*

(1) Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas (a) bomb, (b) grenade, (c) rocket having a propellant charge of more than 4 ounces, (d) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of

more than one-quarter ounce, (e) mine, or (f) device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses.

(2) Any type of weapon (other than a shotgun or shotgun shell which is generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting purposes) by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter; and

(3) Any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in (1) or (2) and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

## Section II. PROHIBITED ITEMS

**5. Prohibited articles.** *a.* The following categories of articles and material are not considered as war trophies, and may not be retained or introduced into the United States under the provisions of this regulation:

(1) United States property or property of any allied nation.

(2) United States property issued or otherwise provided to other governments and captured from enemy forces during hostilities.

(3) Name plates removed from any type of equipment (name plates will not be removed from captured equipment, except as authorized by the appropriate commander).

(4) Live ammunition, explosives, or any item containing explosives.

(5) Weapons defined as "firearms" by the National Firearms Act and further described in paragraph 6.

(6) Electronic equipment (radios, radar equipment) or component parts thereof.

(7) Flammables of any nature.

(8) Government-owned or privately owned equipment of any enemy which is not designed to be issued to or carried by an individual (i.e., motor vehicles, aircraft, motorcycles, machine tools, surgical or dental instruments).

(9) Government-owned or privately owned articles of a household nature, objects of art or historical value, or articles of worth, such as silver or goldware, chinaware, linens, furniture, stamp

collections, coin collections, gems, jewelry, and paintings.

(10) Articles, including works of art or science, which were the property of municipalities or institutions dedicated to religion, charity, education, the arts and sciences, or other items of local value as may be determined by the oversea commander.

(11) Items which are more valuable to research, training, military intelligence, historical, or other purposes than as a trophy, i.e., special purpose clothing, scientific research papers, technical books, weapons or equipment of peculiar design or modification.

(12) Any item, article, or piece of equipment obtained in violation of international law or in violation of any treaty law in effect between the United States and any other country. See FM 27-10, The Law of Land Warfare.

(13) Any other article or materiel not included above but determined by appropriate major commanders to be potentially detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of individuals will be prohibited for retention or shipment as war trophies.

(14) Any weapon, by whatever name called, which propels or expels a gas or gas-producing material, either by means of an explosive or compressed air.

*b.* Subparagraphs *a*(1) and (2) above are waived for the purpose of categorizing only the following weapons when captured from the enemy by U.S.

Forces personnel in the PACOM combat zone, as war trophies:

- (1) U.S. Rifle, Caliber 30, M1903 series.
- (2) U.S. Rifle, Caliber 30, M1917.
- (3) British Enfield, Caliber 30, M1917.

**6. Weapons prohibited by National Firearms Act.** The following categories of weapons, regardless of the degree of serviceability (serviceable or welded-up), fall within the purview of the National Firearms Act, and are not authorized to be retained as war trophy firearms under this regulation:

*a.* Shotguns having a barrel or barrels less than 18 inches in length.

*b.* A weapon made from a shotgun if such weapon as modified has an overall length of less than 26 inches or a barrel or barrels of less than 18 inches in length.

*c.* A rifle having a barrel or barrels of less than 16 inches in length.

*d.* A weapon made from a rifle if such weapon as modified has an overall length of less than 26 inches or a barrel or barrels of less than 16 inches in length.

*e.* Any other weapon or device capable of being

concealed on the person from which a shot can be discharged through the energy of an explosive, a pistol or revolver having a barrel with a smooth bore designed or redesigned to fire a fixed shotgun shell, weapons with combination shotgun and rifle barrels 12 inches or more, less than 18 inches in length, from which only a single discharge can be made from either barrel without manual reloading and shall include any such weapon which may be readily restored to fire.

*f.* Machinegun, meaning any weapon which shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot, automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. The term shall also include the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any combination of parts designed and intended for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun, and any combination of parts from which a machinegun can be assembled if such parts are in the possession or under the control of a person.

*g.* A muffler or a silencer for any firearm whether or not such firearm is included within this definition.

*h.* Destructive devices.

### Section III. AUTHORIZATION, REGISTRATION, AND SHIPMENT

**7. Authorization of war trophies.** *a.* Members of the United States Armed Forces may be authorized to retain and bring into the United States items of enemy equipment acquired in a combat area or combat zone within prescribed periods of time, unless otherwise prohibited under the provisions of this regulation.

*b.* Authority to acquire war trophies, including war trophy firearms, resulting from military operations of World War II and the Korean War has terminated.

*c.* Designation of combat areas or combat zones and time periods for acquisition of war trophies will be announced in appropriate Departmental directives.

*d.* An individual authorized to retain war trophies, including war trophy firearms, will be issued DD Form 603-1 (War Trophy Registration/Authorization) by the appropriate major commander. DD Form 603-1 (image size 7 by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches) will be locally reproduced on 8- by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch

paper and prepared in triplicate (fig. 1) and will include—

(1) Identity of the individual retaining the trophy and inclusive period of service in the over-sea command.

(2) Description of the war trophy article, including a serial number, if available, of any war trophy firearm.

(3) Signature of designated representative of the commander authorizing retention of the article. The original copy will be retained by the individual concerned. One copy may be packaged with the article or carried by the individual accompanying the shipment, but must be made available to the appropriate U.S. official at the port of entry. The remaining copy will be retained by the command executing the certificate. Additional registration requirements pertaining to war trophy firearms are prescribed in paragraph 8.

**8. Registration of war trophy firearms.** *a.* Requirement for registration of war trophy firearms

is in addition to certificates of authorization for all war trophy articles prescribed in paragraph 7.

b. Registration of war trophy firearms is the responsibility of major oversea commanders, and will include the following procedures:

(1) Execution of DD Form 603 (Registration of War Trophy Firearms) in duplicate, by any of the following:

(a) Provost marshals of commands or installations.

(b) Shore patrol officers of commands or installations, or, in the absence thereof, by proper authority designated by the appropriate naval command.

(c) Security and law enforcement officers of U.S. Air Force commands or installations.

(2) The original copy of DD Form 603 will be retained by the individual authorized possession of the war trophy firearm, to be presented upon request by proper authority. It is not transferable.

(3) The duplicate copy will be forwarded by the certifying officer direct to The Provost Marshal General, Department of the Army, Washington, DC 20314.

**9. Shipment of war trophies.** a. War trophy firearms may not be mailed or shipped to the United States but may be personally transported or included in accompanied baggage subject to carrier regulations and as prescribed by the major oversea commander. Special restrictions upon movement of firearms on vessels or aircraft are defined in AR 55-71.

b. Other authorized war trophies may be mailed, shipped, included in authorized baggage, or carried personally to the United States as prescribed by the major oversea commander.

**10. Violations, seizures, and disposition.** a. Articles or material unlawfully shipped or carried

into the United States are subject to be seized by the United States Customs, or other appropriate military or civilian authority or agency. The attention of all members of the Armed Forces is directed to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 103, concerning the possession and disposition of captured or abandoned property which has become the property of the United States. Captured enemy property, including war trophy firearms, is the property of the United States, as captor, and, therefore, is subject to recovery by the United States Government.

b. Property seized may be held for legal considerations and then disposed of in accordance with appropriate law, Departmental instructions, or orders of cognizant authority.

c. Captured enemy army ground-type materiel seized as contraband pursuant to law or regulation by Federal, State, or military authorities will be released to the commander of the nearest military installation for shipment as shown in table 1.

d. Captured enemy naval materiel seized as contraband pursuant to law or regulation by Federal, State, or military authorities will be forwarded to the activities listed in table 2, with notification of such seizure being sent to the Chief of Naval Operations (OP-092) Washington, DC 20350.

e. Captured enemy aerospace materiel seized as contraband pursuant to law or regulation by Federal, civil, or military authorities will be turned over to the nearest Air Force installation for shipment to the Commander, Foreign Technology Division, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433. Notification of the shipment, to include a description of the items shipped, will be mailed to HQ, USAF (AFNIE), Washington, DC 20330.

**Table 1. Military Installations****First United States Army Area**

<i>Type of materiel</i>	<i>Address</i>
Ordnance, signal, quartermaster, and chemical.	Letterkenny Army Depot Chambersburg, PA 17201
Engineer.....	U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Laboratories Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
Medical.....	The Surgeon General ATTN: MED MI Department of the Army Washington, DC 20315

**Third United States Army Area**

Ordnance, signal, quartermaster, and chemical.	Anniston Army Depot Anniston, AL 36200
Engineer.....	U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Laboratories Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
Medical.....	The Surgeon General ATTN: MED MI Department of the Army Washington, DC 20315

**Fourth United States Army Area**

Ordnance, signal, quartermaster, and chemical.	Red River Army Depot Texarkana, TX 75500
Engineer.....	U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Laboratories Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
Medical.....	The Surgeon General ATTN: MED MI Department of the Army Washington, DC 20315

**Fifth and Sixth United States Army Areas**

Ordnance, signal, quartermaster, and chemical.	Tooele Army Depot Tooele, Utah 84074
Engineer.....	U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Laboratories Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
Medical.....	The Surgeon General ATTN: MED MI Department of the Army Washington, DC 20315

**Table 2. Military Activities**

**Atlantic Coast**

<i>Type of materiel</i>	<i>Address</i>
All-----	U.S. Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Facility, Stump Neck, Indian Head, MD 20640

**Pacific Coast**

All-----	Commander Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group, Pacific, NAD, Oahu, West Loch Branch, FPO San Francisco 96612
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WAR TROPHY REGISTRATION/AUTHORIZATION		
INSTRUCTIONS: This form will be prepared for <u>all</u> types of war trophies. Original to owner; 1 copy with trophy; 1 copy retained by issuing command. If war trophy is a firearm, DD Form 603 will also be prepared.		
Theater and inclusive period of service in oversea command		
Name of Owner (Last, First, MI)	Service Number/SSAN	Grade/Rank
Organization	Permanent Home Address	
DESCRIPTION OF WAR TROPHY		
Describe Item (if firearm, indicate make, type - rifle/pistol)		
Serial Number or Identifying Mark (if firearm, include country of manufacture)		
Date	Typed Name, Grade, Org of Authenticating Officer	
Station	Signature	

DD Form 603-1, 1 Jul 65

(Paper size 8 x 5-1/4 inches; image size 7 x 4-4/6 inches)

Figure 1.

The Army office of primary interest in this joint publication is the Office of The Provost Marshal General. Army users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications) to The Provost Marshal General, ATTN: PMGE, Department of the Army, Washington, DC 20314.

By Order of the Secretaries of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force:

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The Adjutant General.*

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