

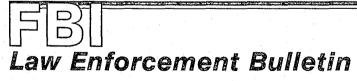
Cooperation

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United States Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, DC 20535

John E. Otto, Acting Director

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Cooperation

# Military Assistance and Surplus Government Property to Law Enforcement Agencies

"State surplus property agencies ... have available a vast variety of Government surplus property for donation to State and local law enforcement activities."

Surplus Government property has been made available to non-Federal public agencies since 1949. This provision was extended to all non-Federal, State, and local public agencies in October 1977, with the requirement that the items be used for public púrposes. In addition, since 1981, routine military assistance has been offered to civilian law enforcement agencies.

Nevertheless, many local and State police departments around the country have been unaware of these Federal assistance programs, as well as the procedures required to obtain personal property through them. Taking advantage of such benefits can greatly improve the efficiency and economy of many police agencies.

As a result of the 1986 Department of Defense Authorization Act, the Department of Justice (DOJ), in consultation with the Department of Defense (DOD) and the General Services Administration (GSA), implemented a program designed to inform civilian law enforcement officials throughout the country regarding information, training, technical assistance, equipment, and facilities available to police. The program takes advantage of existing "inplace" procedures used by both DOD and GSA.

### MILITARY ASSISTANCE

There are a number of select areas of military assistance potentially available to civilian law enforcement agencies. These include the collection of information; use of firing ranges, storage areas, hangars, airfields, riot control equipment, night vision devices, and radar equipment; training in dog handling; aerial surveillance and reconnaissance; use of bomb detection teams, ground surveillance radar, and ground sensor operations; special forces-type training; towing of drug vessels; antipersonnel intrusion detection; and breathalyzers.

Since the enactment of the original statutes that now comprise the Posse Comitatus Act<sup>1</sup> over 100 years ago, military participation in civilian law enforcement activities has been limited. This historic tradition prohibiting direct military involvement is aimed at separating the powers of the military from those of civilian law enforcement. However, in 1981, this restriction was amended, providing for certain forms of military cooperation with civilian law enforcement officials.<sup>2</sup> C. FREDRIC ANDERSON, J.D. Special Agent Criminal Investigative Division Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, DC

BY

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Appreciation is extended to Cmdr. Roger Bertsch of the Pentagon's Task Force on Drug Enforcement, Office of Force Management and Personnel, and Stanley M. Duda, Director of Property Management Division, General Services Administration, for their contributions to this article.



Special Agent Anderson

More specifically, civilian law enforcement officials may now obtain:

- Information collected during the normal course of military operations relevant to a violation of any Federal or State law within the jurisdiction of such officials;<sup>3</sup>
- The use of loaned equipment, base facilities, and research facilities of the military for law enforcement purposes;<sup>4</sup> and
- Training in the operation and maintenance of loaned equipment, as well as providing advice relevant to these purposes.<sup>5</sup>

Following enactment of these provisions, the DOD established mechanisms to fulfill its responsibilities. Guidelines were established,<sup>6</sup> and the primary responsibility for coordinating the effort was assigned to the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Force Management and Personnel.

#### **Procedures For Military Assistance**

The Pentagon's Task Force on Drug Enforcement, institutionalized on January 5, 1987, as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Drug Policy and Enforcement) in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel), has established two procedures for civilian law enforcement authorities to obtain military assistance. The first method is for the State and local law enforcement officials to make a request for assistance to one of the regional centers of the Vice President's National Narcotics Border Interdiction System (NNBIS). Each NNBIS region has a regional coordinator from either the U.S. Customs Service or U.S. Coast Guard. The NNBIS has four primary tasks:

1) Maximize DOD and the military

services involvement in support of drug interdiction without adversely affecting combat readiness;

- Increase national intelligence community support to drug interdiction;
- Mesh international interdiction efforts with United States agency efforts; and
- 4) Enhance interagency coordination and cooperation.

The NNBIS charter as a coordinating system makes it the most appropriate mechanism to obtain military assistance. Currently, 43 DOD personnel are assigned to the 7 regional centers. Their function is to perform liaison duties between DOD and Federal, State, and local civilian agencies. They are well-versed on the availability of equipment and facilities from the military bases and research facilities in their respective regions. Table 1 provides the location and telephone number of each NNBIS regional center.

The second method for obtaining military assistance is to make a request directly to a local or nearby military base or facility. While each military command is willing to provide assistance, one should bear in mind that while a specific base or facility may be convenient, it may be limited in its ability to provide the desired support due to its particular mission and resources. Such "direct" requests should be made as follows:

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- Requests to an Army command should be made to the Provost Marshal;
- -Requests to a Navy or Marine Corps command should be

## "Requests for the use of military equipment do not involve any transfer of ownership, but are on a loan/lease basis."

Table 1		
	<b>NNBIS Regional Centers</b>	
	Commercial	FTS
New York (Norineast)	(212) 466-2176	688-2176
Miami (Southeast)	(305) 536-4065	350-4065
Chicago (Northern		
Border)	(312) 353-9253	886-9253
New Orleans (Gulf)	(504) 589-4986	682-4986
Houston (Southwest		
Border)	(713) 953-9830	526-9830
Long Beach (Pacific)	(213) 514-6382	795-6382
Honolulu (Western Pa-		
cific)	(808) 514-2091	551-2091
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made to the Naval Security and Investigative Command or Base Security; and

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 Requests to an Air Force command should be made to the Commander of the Security Police.

Each of these local entities will be familiar with Department of Defense Directive 5525.5, as well as their own implementing directives which set forth guidelines for cooperation with civilian law enforcement officials.<sup>7</sup> These military contacts should be able to authorize most requests or forward them to the Pentagon for approval.

### **Restrictions on Military Assistance**

It is important to note that while the DOD has been given legislative permission to provide assistance to local law enforcement there are two significant restrictions—support provided must be within the framework of existing law and cannot be provided if such assistance would adversely affect national security or military preparedness. Military personnel are prohibited from any direct participation or assistance to civilian law enforcement activities. The following forms of direct assistance are specifically prohibited: Interdiction of a vehicle, vessel, aircraft, or other similar activity; a search or seizure; an arrest, apprehension, stop and frisk, or similar activity; and the use of military personnel for surveillance or pursuit of individuals, or as undercover agents, informants, investigators, or interrogators. In short, military assistance is prohibited in situations in which there is a reasonable likelihood of a law enforcement confrontation. While there are a few exceptions to this restriction (such as civil disturbances, disasters, and protection of the President), these exceptions rarely involve activities that are pursued by local or State law enforcement agencies.8

Training provided to civilian law enforcement agencies usually involves the operation and maintenance of equipment made available to their agencies. Regulations do not permit large-scale or elaborate training or regularly held sessions. The training is limited to situations when the use of nonmilitary personnel would be unfeasible or impractical from a cost or time perspective.

### Considerations

Requests for the use of military equipment do not involve any transfer of ownership, but are on a loan/lease basis. In a few situations, the DOD may require reimbursement as a condition to lending assistance, especially for consumables, such as batteries and fuel or for damaged or lost equipment. Law enforcement agencies should take into consideration the sometimes potentially expensive consequences of replacing military equipment that is damaged or lost.

While approval for most requests for the use of equipment or facilities can be made by local military commanders, major items such as weapons, ammunition, "combat vehicles," and the use of military personnel require Pentagon authorization.

Requests for assistance should allow adequate time for consideration. Requests should be generic; the military will provide the best equipment for the job. While it is possible to service a request rapidly, sufficient time should be allowed for the military to provide the best support. Two weeks is a good minimum lead time for a routine request, while a month should suffice for a major request requiring Pentagon approval. However, in a genuine emergency, the military can expedite the evaluation and approval process.

### SURPLUS GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

The General Services Administration (GSA) of the Federal Government has been offering surplus Federal property to non-Federal organizations since 1949. The basic authority for these donation programs is the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 and its amendments. This and related statutes authorize GSA to transfer surplus property for donation to non-Federal public agencies and other specifically designated recipients.

#### Table 2 State Agencies For Surplus Property

#### Alabama

P.O. Box 210487 Montgomery, AL 36121-0487 (205) 277-5866

#### Alaska

2400 Viking Drive Anchorage, AK 99501 (907) 279-0596

#### Arizona

312 South 15th Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85007 (602) 255-5701

#### Arkansas

8700 Remount Road North Little Rock, AR 72118 (501) 835-3111

#### California

140 Commerce Circle Sacramento, CA 95815 (916) 924-4838

#### Colorado

4700 Leetsdale Drive Denver, CO 80222-1397 (303) 388-5953

### Connecticut

P.O. Box 170 Wethersfield, CT 06109 (203) 566-7190

#### Delaware

P.O. Box 299 Delaware City, DE 19706 (302) 834-4512

#### District of Columbia

No. 5, DC Village Lane, SW Washington, DC 20032 (202) 767-7830

#### Florida

560 Larson Building Tallahassee, FL 32301 (904) 488-3524

#### Georgia

1050 Murphy Avenue, SW Building 1A Atlanta, GA 30310 (404) 656-2681

#### Massachusetts

Room 1010

Michigan

Minnesota

1 Ashburton Place

Boston, MA 02108

(617) 727-5774

P.O. Box 30026

(517) 335-9105

(612) 633-1644

Whitfield Road

(601) 939-2050

P.O. Drawer 1310

930 Lyndale Avenue

Helena, MT 59620 (406) 444-4514

P.O. Box 94661

Lincoln, NE 68509 (402) 471-2677

Capitol Complex

(702) 885-4094

New Hampshire

12 Hills Avenue

(603) 271-2602

New Jersev

Concord, NH 03301

82 Executive Avenue

Edison, NJ 08817

1990 Siringo Road

Santa Fe, NM 87502

(201) 287-9256

(505) 827-9420

New Mexico

2700 Van Dorn Street

(314) 751-3415

Capitol Station

Jefferson City, MO 65102

Jackson, MS 39208

Mississippi

Box 5778

Missouri

Montana

Nebraska

Nevada

Lansing, MI 48909

5420 Highway 8, Arden Hills

New Brighton, MN 55112

P.O. Box 884 Agana, GU 96910 (671) 472-2271

Hawaii 729 Kakoi Street Honolulu, HI 96819 (808) 548-6946

#### Idaho

Guam

P.O. Box 7414 Boise, ID 83707 (208) 334-3477

#### Illinois 3550 Great Northern Avenue **Rural Route 4** Springfield, IL 62707 (217) 793-1813

Indiana 601 Kentucky Avenue Indianapolis, IN 46225 (317) 232-1384

#### lowa State Capitol Complex Des Moines, IA 50319 (515) 281-5391

Kansas Rural Route 4, Box 36A Topeka, KS 66607 (913) 296-2351

Kentucky 514 Barrett Avenue Frankfort, KY 40601 (502) 564-4836

### Louisiana

Box 44351, Capitol Station Baton Rouge, LA 70804 (504) 342-7860

#### Maine

State Office Building Station 95 Augusta, ME 04333 (207) 289-3521

#### Marvland

P.O. Box 122 Jessup, MD 20794 (301) 596-1080

State surplus property agencies and local law enforcement activities. have been established by each State. The surplus property can afford unthe District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, limited possibilities for law enforcement Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Isunits to acquire needed property at a lands, and Guam to distribute property minimal cost. designated as surplus by the Federal Government. These agencies have

### **Procedures For Obtaining Surplus Government Property**

Information concerning the availability of surplus property can be ob-

#### New York

Bldg. 18-State Office Building Campus Albany, NY 12226 (518) 457-3264

#### North Carolina P.O. box 26567

Raleigh, NC 27611 (919) 733-3885

North Dakota 1812 Lee Avenue Bismarck, ND 58501 (701) 224-2273

Northern Mariana Islands Saipan, CM 96950 Telephone No. 9768

### Ohio

226 North Fifth Street Columbus, OH 43215 (614) 466-4485

### Oklahoma

P.O. Box 11355 **Cimarron Station** Oklahoma City, OK 73111 (405) 521-2135

#### Oregon

1655 Salem Industrial Drive, N.E. Salem, OR 97310

Pennsylvania

Harrisburg, PA 17105

San Juan, PR 00905

(401) 277-2113

tained by contacting the respective State agency. (See table 2.) These agencies advise applicants of eligibility requirements and procedures to be followed in acquiring Federal surplus property and of the conditions and restrictions placed on the property.

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South Dakota

Huron, SD 57350

(605) 353-7150

P.O. Box 8120

(512) 661-2381

(801) 533-5885

871/2 Barre Street

(802) 828-3394

(804) 786-7268

Virgin Islands

P.O. Box 1437

(809) 774-0414

Washington

P.O. Box 1529

(206) 931-3931

West Virginia

Wisconsin

Wyoming

P.O. Box 1585

(608) 266-8024

(307) 777-7669

Montpelier, VT 05602

1910 Darbytown Road

Richmond, VA 23231

St. Tbomas, VI 00801

Auburn, WA 98071-1529

2700 Charles Avenue

Dunbar, WV 25064 (304) 768-7303

Madison, WI 53701

2045 Westland Road

Cheyenne, WY 82002-0060

Vermont

Virginia

Wainwright Station

522 South 700 West

Salt Lake City, UT 84104

Tennessee

Texas

llfah

20 Colorado Avenue, SW

6500 Centennial Boulevard Nashville, TN 37209 (615) 741-1711

San Antonio, TX 78208-0120

(503) 378-4714

# P.O. Box 1365

Stop 61/2

Carson City, NV 89710

(717) 787-5940 Puerto Rico

Blasdel Bldg., Room 104

P.O. Box 4112 (809) 723-4685

Rhode Island 301 Promenade Street

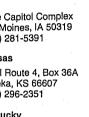
Providence, RI 02908

South Carolina

1441 Boston Avenue West Columbia, SC 29169 (803) 734-4335

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available a vast variety of Government surplus property for donation to State



## "The General Services Administration ... has been offering surplus Federal property to non-Federal organizations since 1949."

(Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New

(Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia (except Wash-

ington DC, metropolitan area), Pennsylvania and

(Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and

(Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and

(Arizona, California, Commonwealth of the Northern

Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, and Nevada)

Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont)

Boston Federal Office Building

10 Causeway Street, 9th floor

Boston, MA 02222 (617) 565-7300

#### Table 3

#### GSA Regional Offices

For additional information on acquiring Federal surplus property in the GSA region serving your area contact:

Region 1

**Region 3** 

Region 5

Wisconsin)

**Region 7** 

Texas)

Region 9

West Virginia)

Ninth and Market Sts.

Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215) 597-7000

230 S. Dearborn Street

Chicago, IL 60604

(312) 353-5504

819 Taylor Street Fort Worth, TX 76102 (817) 334-4824

525 Market Street

(415) 974-9234

San Francisco, CA 94105

Director

Federal Supply Service Bureau General Services Administration Region

#### National Capital Region

(Washington, DC, and nearby Maryland and Virginia) 7th and D Sts., SW Washington, DC 20407 (202) 472-5000

#### **Region 2**

(New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands) 26 Federal Plaza New York, NY 10278 (212) 264-3930

#### **Region 4**

(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) 75 Spring Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303 (404) 331-2949

#### Region 6

(Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska) 9001 State Line Road Kansas City, MO 64114 (816) 523-7050

#### **Region 8**

(Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming) Bldg. 41-Denver Fed. Ctr. Denver, CO 80225 (303) 236-7547

#### **Region 10**

Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) GSA Center Auburn, WA 98002 (206) 931-7563

The process for obtaining surplus property varies from State to State. Most agencies operate on a self-sustaining basis by assessing recipients a modest service charge to cover handling, transportation, and administrative expenses. In all cases, requesting agencies must establish eligibility. This requires the completion of certain forms by the requesting police agency, which are submitted to the appropriate State agency and retained as a matter of record. State agencies obtain property by screening for it at military bases and other Government installations within their territories, and screening efforts vary significantly. While screening is done by State agency personnel, individual agencies may request to be allowed to screen for property. Screening by prospective recipients has a distinct advantage in that items can be viewed at their respective locations and decisions made whether they are suitable for use before expenses are incurred for shipping the items to recipients' locations.

If particular items desired by a department are not available, each State agency may transmit individual requests to regional GSA offices (see table 3), so that a nationwide search can be made in an attempt to locate equipment. If the equipment is not located as a result of the search, a "wish list' is maintained, and the requester will be notified by the State agency when suitable items are available.

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#### Footnotes

118 U.S.C. sec. 1385, entitled "Use of Army and Air Force as Posse Comitatus"; previously cited as 10 U.S.C. sec, 15.

210 U.S.C. sec. 371-378 (Public Law 97-86, effective 12/1/81).

310 U.S.C. sec. 371.

410 U.S.C. sec. 372. 510 U.S.C. sec. 373(a).

6Department of Defense Directive 5525.5 (revised 1/15/86), entitled "DOD Cooperation with Civilian Law Enforcement Officials."

<sup>7</sup>The military services implementing directives referred to are as follows: Army regulation 500–51, entitled "Support to Civilian Law Enforcement"; Secretary of the Navy Instruction 5820.7A, entitled "Cooperation with Civilian Law Enforcement Officials"; Air Force Regulation 55–35, entitled "Operations Support to Civilian Law Enforcement Officials."

8For a more complete listing of the types of permissible direct assistance to civilian law enforcement, see enclosure 4 of the Department of Defense Directive 5525.5.