



Ammunition & Explosives Amnesty



For many people, particularly military personnel, collecting war trophies (souvenirs) is a practice as old as combat itself. Munitions (e.g., unused U.S. or enemy; unexploded ordnance or UXO, also called duds) are ammunition and explosives (AE) that are illegal to keep and potentially lethal. Although there are many stories of deaths and injuries from souvenirs, few consider the danger souvenirs pose to their family, friends, and community. Taking AE as souvenirs is a serious safety concern. As such, the Department of Defense instituted restrictions on taking war trophies and collecting munitions as souvenirs.

In 2006, two children were killed and several others injured by a grenade kept for over 15 years as a “conversation piece.” The owner believed it was safe (inert), but tragically it was not. Is keeping a munition as a souvenir worth the risk posed to your family, friends or neighbors, or even career?



Typical amnesty turn-in point.

When military or law enforcement authorities confiscate contraband AE, disciplinary action may be taken. So, what do you do if you discover you did not turn in or you have a munition you kept as a souvenir? Military installations have established AE Amnesty Programs that allow AE, such as souvenir munitions, to be turned in anonymously - no questions asked.

The AE Amnesty Program provides an opportunity to anonymously return AE without fear of prosecution. People who turn in AE under the AE Amnesty Program are not required to complete turn-in documentation and are exempt from advance turn-in notifications required by most Ammunition Supply Points (ASP). AE Amnesty Program turn-ins will not be the basis for initiation of an investigation or disciplinary action.

AE, including small arms ammunition (i.e., ammunition that is .50 caliber or smaller) can be placed into an AE amnesty box or turned in at designated amnesty areas. However, AE larger than .50 caliber are considered hazardous and should not be moved by untrained personnel. Should you possess AE removed from an operational range or collected from a battlefield, it is best to advise local law enforcement that you want to make a turn-in under the AE Amnesty Program. Law enforcement will arrange for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel to recover it under the AE Amnesty Program. To locate an installation's AE amnesty turn-in point or to request a pickup under the AE Amnesty Program, call the nearest military installation's 24-hour hotline. The hotline will provide military personnel and civilians the location of the nearest AE amnesty turn-in point along with directions and procedures for making a turn-in under the AE Amnesty Program. Many installations also have annual AE Amnesty Days. Remember, if law enforcement encounters AE on your person, or in a home or a car, it is too late.



Amnesty days are one way to anonymously turn in AE.

AE encountered outside the normal military munitions logistics supply system should be considered dangerous and should be immediately reported to law enforcement. Help protect your battle buddies, family, friends, and neighbors, by following the 3Rs of explosive safety: Recognize – when you may have encountered a munition (AE), and that munitions are dangerous; Retreat – do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, and leave the area; Report – notify your chain-of-command or law enforcement of what you saw and where you saw it. Do not handle war souvenirs or allow others to do so no matter how many times you have done so in the past, either turn it in or request an EOD pickup under the AE Amnesty Program.

Frequently Asked Questions

I got home from training and found a magazine in a BDU pocket, can I safely put it in an amnesty box?

Yes. To find the location of an installation's AE amnesty turn-in point (for drop off of .50 caliber or smaller items), call the 24-hour hotline of the nearest installation.

My battle buddy picked up an enemy munition as a war souvenir and wants to turn it in. How does he do that under the AE Amnesty Program so he will not get in trouble?

To request a pickup of munitions larger than .50 caliber under the AE Amnesty Program, call the 24-hour hotline of the nearest installation and request an Amnesty Program turn in. Remember, DA-PAM 700-16 states the intent of the AE amnesty program "does not intimidate the individual or prevent the individual from freely turning in ammunition."

Is it possible to bring home war souvenirs legally?

Individual war souvenirs must be specifically authorized by higher headquarters. Absent such authorization, weapons, munitions (AE) or military articles of equipment obtained or acquired by means other than official issue may not be kept for personal use or shipped out of the area of operations for personal reasons. Service Members who violate this policy risk criminal prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Service Members must fill out Defense Department Form 603-1 and get approval from their chain of command before taking home a war trophy. However, because of the danger posed no one should expect approval will be provided to keep AE as a war souvenir.



Small arms turned in at an amnesty box.



EOD may respond to pick up larger AE.

DON'T FORGET

Munitions (AE) are dangerous. The AE Amnesty Program's goal is to keep you, your family and community safe from the explosive hazards associated with munitions, and to recover AE encountered outside the military munitions logistical supply system. The AE Amnesty Program does this by allowing the AE to be returned anonymously and without fear of prosecution.

