

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Section is based on Pub. L. 99-190, §101(b) [title VIII, §8012], Dec. 19, 1985, 99 Stat. 1185, 1204.

AMENDMENTS

2002—Pub. L. 107-296 substituted “of Homeland Security” for “of Transportation” wherever appearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

§ 2579. War booty: procedures for handling and retaining battlefield objects

(a) **POLICY.**—The United States recognizes that battlefield souvenirs have traditionally provided military personnel with a valued memento of service in a national cause. At the same time, it is the policy and tradition of the United States that the desire for souvenirs in a combat theater not blemish the conduct of combat operations or result in the mistreatment of enemy personnel, the dishonoring of the dead, distraction from the conduct of operations, or other unbecoming activities.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations for the handling of battlefield objects that are consistent with the policies expressed in subsection (a) and the requirements of this section.

(2) When forces of the United States are operating in a theater of operations, enemy material captured or found abandoned shall be turned over to appropriate United States or allied military personnel except as otherwise provided in such regulations. A member of the armed forces (or other person under the authority of the armed forces in a theater of operations) may not (except in accordance with such regulations) take from a theater of operations as a souvenir an object formerly in the possession of the enemy.

(3) Such regulations shall provide that a member of the armed forces who wishes to retain as a souvenir an object covered by paragraph (2) may so request at the time the object is turned over pursuant to paragraph (2).

(4) Such regulations shall provide for an officer to be designated to review requests under paragraph (3). If the officer determines that the object may be appropriately retained as a war souvenir, the object shall be turned over to the member who requested the right to retain it.

(5) Such regulations shall provide for captured weaponry to be retained as souvenirs, as follows:

(A) The only weapons that may be retained are those in categories to be agreed upon jointly by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Treasury.

(B) Before a weapon is turned over to a member, the weapon shall be rendered unserviceable.

(C) A charge may be assessed in connection with each weapon in an amount sufficient to cover the full cost of rendering the weapon unserviceable.

(Added Pub. L. 103-160, div. A, title XI, §1171(a)(1), Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1765.)

REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 103-160, div. A, title XI, §1171(b), Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1766, provided that: “The initial regulations required by section 2579 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be prescribed not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 30, 1993]. Such regulations shall specifically address the following, consistent with section 2579 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a):

“(1) The general procedures for collection and disposition of weapons and other enemy material.

“(2) The criteria and procedures for evaluation and disposition of enemy material for intelligence, testing, or other military purposes.

“(3) The criteria and procedures for determining when retention of enemy material by an individual or a unit in the theater of operations may be appropriate.

“(4) The criteria and procedures for disposition of enemy material to a unit or other Department of Defense entity as a souvenir.

“(5) The criteria and procedures for disposition of enemy material to an individual as an individual souvenir.

“(6) The criteria and procedures for determining when demilitarization or the rendering unserviceable of firearms is appropriate.

“(7) The criteria and procedures necessary to ensure that servicemembers who have obtained battlefield souvenirs in a manner consistent with military customs, traditions, and regulations have a reasonable opportunity to obtain possession of such souvenirs, consistent with the needs of the service.”

§ 2580. Donation of excess chapel property

(a) **AUTHORITY TO DONATE.**—The Secretary of a military department may donate personal property specified in subsection (b) to an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is a religious organization in order to assist the organization in restoring or replacing property of the organization that has been damaged or destroyed as a result of an act of arson or terrorism, as determined pursuant to procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

(b) **PROPERTY COVERED.**—(1) The property authorized to be donated under subsection (a) is furniture and other personal property that—

(A) is in, or was formerly in, a chapel under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of a military department and closed or being closed; and

(B) is determined by the Secretary to be excess to the requirements of the armed forces.

(2) No real property may be donated under this section.

(c) **DONEES NOT TO BE CHARGED.**—No charge may be imposed by the Secretary of a military department on a donee of property under this section in connection with the donation. However, the donee shall agree to defray any expense for shipping or other transportation of property donated under this section from the location of the property when donated to any other location.

(Added Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title X, §1063(a), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1892.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, referred to in subsec. (a), is classified to section 501(c)(3) of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

§ 2581. Excess UH-1 Huey and AH-1 Cobra helicopters: requirements for transfer to foreign countries

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—(1) Before an excess UH-1 Huey helicopter or AH-1 Cobra helicopter is transferred on a grant or sales basis to a foreign country for the purpose of flight operations by that country, the Secretary of Defense shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the helicopter receives, to the extent necessary, maintenance and repair equivalent to the depot-level maintenance and repair (as defined in section 2460 of this title) that the helicopter would need were the helicopter to remain in operational use with the armed forces. Any such maintenance and repair work shall be performed at no cost to the Department of Defense.

(2) The Secretary shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that maintenance and repair work described in paragraph (1) is performed in the United States.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply with respect to salvage helicopters provided to the foreign country solely as a source for spare parts.

(Added Pub. L. 105-261, div. A, title XII, § 1234(a), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2156.)

[§ 2582. Repealed. Pub. L. 112-81, div. A, title X, § 1061(19)(A), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1584]

Section, added Pub. L. 106-398, § 1 [[div. A], title III, § 381(a)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-84, related to annual report of public sales of military equipment identified on United States munitions list.

CODIFICATION

Another section 2582 was renumbered section 2583 of this title.

§ 2583. Military animals: transfer and adoption

(a) AVAILABILITY FOR TRANSFER OR ADOPTION.—The Secretary of the military department concerned shall make a military animal of such military department available for transfer or adoption by a person or entity referred to in subsection (c), unless the animal has been determined to be unsuitable for transfer or adoption under subsection (b), under circumstances as follows:

(1) At the end of the animal's useful life.

(2) Before the end of the animal's useful life, if such Secretary, in such Secretary's discretion, determines that unusual or extraordinary circumstances, including circumstances under which the handler of a military working dog is killed in action, dies of wounds received in action, or is medically retired as a result of injuries received in action, justify making the animal available for transfer or adoption before that time.

(3) When the animal is otherwise excess to the needs of such military department.

(b) SUITABILITY FOR TRANSFER OR ADOPTION.—The decision whether a particular military animal is suitable or unsuitable for transfer or adoption under this section shall be made by the commander of the last unit to which the animal is assigned before being declared excess. The unit commander shall consider the recommenda-

tions of the unit's veterinarian in making the decision regarding the transferability or adoptability of the animal.

(c) AUTHORIZED RECIPIENTS.—(1) A military animal shall be made available for transfer or adoption under this section, in order of recommended priority, by—

(A) adoption by former handlers of the animal;

(B) adoption by other persons or organizations capable of humanely caring for the animal; and

(C) transfer to law enforcement agencies.

(2) If the Secretary of the military department concerned determines that an adoption is justified under subsection (a)(2) under circumstances under which the handler of a military working dog is wounded in action, the dog shall be made available for adoption only by the handler. If the Secretary of the military department concerned determines that such an adoption is justified under circumstances under which the handler of a military working dog is killed in action or dies of wounds received in action, the military working dog shall be made available for adoption only by a parent, child, spouse, or sibling of the deceased handler.

(d) CONSIDERATION.—The transfer of a military animal under this section may be without charge to the recipient.

(e) LIMITATIONS ON LIABILITY FOR TRANSFERRED OR ADOPTED ANIMALS.—(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the United States shall not be subject to any suit, claim, demand or action, liability, judgment, cost, or other fee arising out of any claim for personal injury or property damage (including death, illness, or loss of or damage to property or other economic loss) that results from, or is in any manner predicated upon, the act or omission of a former military animal transferred or adopted under this section, including any training provided to the animal while a military animal.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the United States shall not be liable for any veterinary expense associated with a military animal transferred or adopted under this section for a condition of the military animal before transfer or adoption under this section, whether or not such condition is known at the time of transfer or adoption under this section.

(f) VETERINARY SCREENING AND CARE FOR MILITARY WORKING DOGS TO BE RETIRED.—(1)(A) If the Secretary of the military department concerned determines that a military working dog should be retired, such Secretary shall transport the dog to the Veterinary Treatment Facility at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

(B) In the case of a contract working dog to be retired, transportation required by subparagraph (A) is satisfied by the transfer of the dog to the 341st Training Squadron at the end of the dog's service life as required by section 2410r of this title and assignment of the dog to the Veterinary Treatment Facility referred to in that subparagraph.

(2)(A) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that each dog transported as described in paragraph (1) to the Veterinary Treatment Facility referred to in that paragraph is provided with a full veterinary screening, and necessary veteri-