



**NEWS RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Scott Pepperman, Executive Director**  
**Mobile: 717.389.5100**  
[ExecutiveDirector@nasasp.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@nasasp.org)  
[www.nasasp.org](http://www.nasasp.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*November 22, 2010*

***The United States Army is returning millions of dollars of excess property from Iraq to United States taxpayers through the Federal Surplus Donation Program!***

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010, the State of Alabama received a Perkins generator delivery in Montgomery, Alabama. The significance of this arrival marked the first shipment from inside Iraq of Federal excess property to return to our local communities through the Federal Surplus Personal Property Donation Program. A formal presentation is being planned for a later date.

Currently a live event is planned in Illinois to receive their first shipment of excess military equipment from Iraq at the Illinois Department of Central Management Services' (CMS) Federal Surplus warehouse in Springfield, Illinois. On Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:00 am. (CST) at 1924 South 10 1/2 Street, Springfield, IL 62703 more than \$300,000 worth of federal equipment received from the U.S. Army's (USA) operations in Iraq and donated to Illinois through the U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) Federal Surplus Property Donation Program will be on display.

The National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property, Inc (NASASP) acting in partnership with GSA are the State Agencies for Surplus Property (SASPs) representing all 50 states, US territories, and the District of Columbia. We represent over 67,000 donee organizations.

NASASP has worked together over the past two years with the United States Department of Defense (DoD), USA and GSA on a goal to insure that the property paid for by the US taxpayers would find its way back to our States and local communities for continued use in the public sector.

To accomplish our goal NASASP is working with DoD, GSA and USA to inspect selected returning Iraq equipment that NASASP did not get an opportunity to screen in theater prior to retrograde. On September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 NASASP physically screened over 130 items earmarked for disposal and identified 104 items for state and local reuse. The original Federal acquisition value for this property is approximately \$3.9 million. To the United States taxpayers this represents a significant cost savings. If the donee organization budgeted to buy this property as new items the savings would be approximately \$3.5 million. Even if the donee organization choose to purchase like used property the cost savings would still represent nearly \$1 million in savings.

Another cost savings for the US taxpayer involves the agreement that NASASP, GSA and DOD have worked out to move equipment out of Iraq to the respective states via the Defense Transportation System (DTS) at DoD rates. The significance of this agreement for the receiving states is two-fold. First, the states get the items at the DoD rate which means less cost to the states. Second, DTS is a door-to-door move straight from the Forward Operating Base in Iraq to the receiving state's doorstep. This procedure helps to avoid potential Customs issues or long delays in coordination of movement making it a very timely procedure.

Since the 1970's NASASP has been actively involved in bringing back excess Federal government property to our local communities from overseas installations. This property has been used for the remainder of its useful life by organizations such as villages, towns and townships, counties governments, 8(a) small businesses, public educational institutions, public health agencies, public safety (police and fire), libraries, not-for-profit organizations including private schools, veteran's homes, senior centers, homeless shelters, food banks, and other eligible recipients as determined by Federal law.

The Overseas Program administered by NASASP has been able to assist these organizations in times of disaster relief as well in the rebuilding of our infrastructure, police and fire emergencies, parks and recreation maintenance, economic recovery and public health concerns. All of these issues are as vital to the United States today as they were 40 years ago. Through the years we have transported thousands of loads to the United States of items such as heavy equipment, vehicles, maintenance equipment such as tools and sandbags, pumps, generators and many other items needed to prepare before an emergency strikes, during an emergency and after an emergency when it's time for clean up. All of this was done without a cost to the Federal government as the states assumed the costs. Today we see an opportunity for NASASP to continue to assist our local communities as excess property becomes available from Iraq and the Middle East. Here is a summary of our actions over the last three years:

- Our Overseas Program contractor, Mr. Randy Main first requested information on returning property from Camp Arifjan, located in Kuwait in May 2007
- Mr. Main then met with DOD officials in Battle Creek, Michigan in October 2007 to further discuss the possibility and logistics of moving property from the Middle East.
- Mr. Main and the NASASP President, Mr. Curtis Howard traveled to Kuwait in May 2008 to meet with DOD personnel and tour the facility at Camp Arifjan. While there Mr. Main and Mr. Howard also met with Kuwaiti custom officials to discuss the movement of excess equipment to the United States.
- In 2009 Mr. Main worked with DOD contractors to track available property and ascertain the costs of bringing this property back to our local communities.
- In 2010 the first shipments from Iraq arrived in the United States and to our local communities.

## **SUMMARY**

NASASP knows that the potential for bringing back this excess property from Iraq and the Middle East is a tremendous opportunity for our states and local communities during these times of economic distress, devastating natural disasters, pandemic health issues, home land security concerns and failing infrastructure in the United States. We know with over 63 years of experience that there is value to the excess property in the Middle East.

We also know through our experience about many times when American taxpayer property has been left in country and called “foreign assistance” or of even greater concern sold to private entities and then resold to their foreign country clients.

Recent statistics show that in the years 2002 through the end of 2009 the NASASP Overseas Program returned a total of 863 shipments to our local communities through the Federal Surplus Donation Program. This includes 344 containers of property such as generators, machine tools, forklifts, clothing, and medical supplies. It also includes 394 shipments of heavy equipment such as dump trucks, loaders and graders. Finally it also includes 125 shipments of special heavy equipment such as cranes and fire trucks.

On behalf of the over 67,000 donee organizations that NASASP represents we urge GSA, DOD and USA to continue their assistance in bringing back this much needed excess property to our local communities so that we can continue to:

- **Stretch local budget dollars;**
- **Recycle our Federal tax dollars;**
- **Guarantee through the Federal Surplus Donation Program 100% return on investment for our Federal taxpayers giving life to this property to the American public until the property is no longer useful**

*“Pro Bono Publico”*  
*“For the Good of the Public”*  
*NASASP Motto*