

STAND-BY FOR DELIVERY (MAYBE)

QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** Department of Defense
- **FUMBLE:** \$48 million in military supplies for Yemen that never made it out of a Virginia warehouse
- **RECOVERY:** Ensure supplies can be delivered and utilized as intended before purchase

Expired medical supplies, corroded batteries, and low-grade explosives for airplane ejection seats are only a small portion of the \$48 million worth of American taxpayer-financed supplies intended for Yemen that never reached their intended destination.⁷¹ Instead these items sit in a warehouse in Virginia.

Since 2007 DOD in conjunction with State has strived “to build Yemen’s capacity to counter terrorist threats, expand governance throughout its territory, and secure its infrastructure and population.”⁷² Home to AQAP, Yemen is a frequent target of U.S. interests at home and abroad.⁷³ Americans’ safety and security depends on the ability to neutralize threats in Yemen before they take shape. To that end the U.S. allocated \$108 million in Foreign Military Financing funding to Yemen, \$48 million of which was actually spent.⁷⁴ According to GAO, of the equipment purchased with the \$48 million from American taxpayers, various articles remain stored, unused, and unshipped due to a dispute

between the Government of Yemen and its freight shipper.⁷⁵ Between 2007 and 2012, a variety of mishaps, including contract disputes and late payments, resulted in commercial shippers not moving the items from Virginia to Yemen.⁷⁶ In 2012 Yemen ultimately started to pay the U.S. military to directly ship items still deemed useable but left many others behind.⁷⁷

RECOVERY

Any foreign aid should accomplish a goal of increased American security. Americans do not want our money wasted. Going forward, Congress should work with DOD to ensure that when supplies are purchased to aid another country, there is a vetted plan to deliver them in a timely manner and that delivery actually occurs. This plan should include what to do with the supplies, if they become undeliverable. American families, many of whom struggle to afford their own basic needs, should not have to foot the bill for unused supplies intended for other countries.

For more information, please visit:

[GAO: Security Assistance: Taxpayer Funds Spent on Equipment that was Never Shipped to Yemen](#)

[The Washington Post: More than \\$600,000 dollars in Yemeni military aid found in a Virginia warehouse](#)