

INTRODUCTION TO THE UAV GUIDELINES

Thank you for the interest you have expressed in our organization by your decision to join our ranks. We have provided these guidelines for new members who desire to portray a soldier. Although we make a great deal of effort to making our unit fun for our members, we must still insist on member's adherence to these guidelines. We want you to enjoy being with us, but we also want you to remember that we are not just camping out and picnicking. Members have many different reasons for joining this unit, or even wishing to be Civil War reenactors, but two basic reasons are a desire to honor those true veterans who came before us and to educate the modern public about that heritage.

The Union Army Veterans depict a typical Federal infantry unit that could have fought in any battle of the Civil War. Since we portray veterans of that war and because of the generic nature of the unit, it is most logical for us to follow uniform and accoutrement guidelines as established for Regular Army units. The intent is to present an armed and uniformed infantryman that would be easily recognizable to any casual observer of the civil war. Although many cases may have existed where an infantryman had deviated from this UAV model, those cases would have been a tiny minority to the overwhelming majority of soldiers. This document is not intended to be an attempt to take away an individual's right to choose his impression, rather it is intended to encourage an impression that he is a member of the same regiment.

People may come to you and ask why you reenact the civil war. Perhaps one of the best answers comes from the late Bruce Catton, author of many volumes on the Civil War:

"We are the people to whom the past is forever speaking. We listen to it because we cannot help ourselves, for the past speaks with many voices. Far out of that nowhere which is the time before we were born, men who were flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone, went through a fire and a storm to break a path for our future. We are a part of the future they died for; they are a part of the past which brought the future. What they did – the stories they told and the songs they sang and, finally, the deaths they died make up a path of our own experience. We cannot cut ourselves off from it. It is as real to us as something that happened last week. It is a basic part of our heritage as Americans."

This organization exists to preserve this segment of our "heritage as Americans". We do not take this responsibility lightly. So, if these guidelines seem very precise and narrow, remember why we wish to do it right. The memory of those men in blue, whom we humbly attempt to portray, demands it. To do anything else would be a disservice to their memory and to ourselves as living historians. In order for us to ensure that these guidelines continue to reflect what was customary for the average infantry soldier, members are encouraged to submit changes when appropriate. Cases will be considered where it can be demonstrated that more than 1% of the Federal Civil War infantrymen are represented.

The original authors of this document sincerely believe that this quest for authenticity will not only bring more truth to the public about this era, but will also allow us more enjoyment as participants. Again, thank you for your interest in our organization and, in joining us, demonstrating your desire to "do it right".

Originator: William "Bill" Hathcoat
Unit Founder: Clark A. Kirby
July 12, 2003

*They fought and died for their convictions,
performing their duty as they understood it"*

--Tennessee monument, Gettysburg, PA

Union Army Veterans AUTHENTICITY GUIDELINES

Revised August 4, 2003

BUILDING THE ENLISTED SOLDIER IMPRESSION Caveat Historicus (Historian Beware)

As the following pages will prove, building an impression of a Federal soldier is a costly procedure. But, all of this expense (and hard work) on your part can be easily made to look ridiculous if a thoughtless or careless UAV member openly displays a modern item at a reenactment event. The most common mistakes are, for example: wristwatches, eyeglasses, cell phones, and food & drink in modern containers. If, for safety, health, or enjoyment reasons you must have one or more modern items at a reenactment (where authenticity is most stringently policed), keep them concealed in your car, tent, haversack, or pockets at all times. However, at many of our events, such as festivals, etc. the authenticity rules are greatly relaxed. If in doubt, please ask a UAV leader.

It is not necessary to have a complete outfit in order to begin attending reenactments and other events. Many of our members have extra items they are willing to loan and this unit resource may be able to get you the minimum you need to get through a weekend battle reenactment. But, please do not rely on these loaner items too heavily, too often, or for too long, and do not abuse their loan. Remember that there are new recruits joining all the time who will need the same stuff. Anything you borrow, you are responsible for. If you lose it or ruin it, you are liable for replacing it or paying for it. You have an obligation to return it in the same condition that it was loaned. If you have soiled a wool uniform item, you should offer to pay to have it cleaned. But, do not clean it without first asking if it is all right to do this. Improper cleaning may destroy a garment.

Most of you veterans know more than one other veteran reenactor who never cleans his uniform and would be devastated if someone did so, since their chosen impression is one of "the hard campaign look". Everything this type of reenactor uses looks time worn to the point of decay. It is this writer's opinion that the practice of keeping something that looks like an original garment, showing the wear, fading, and the soil of many decades, is not authentic. Federal soldiers were regularly supplied, so there were rarely any "old" items in circulation. It will be the UAV position that every member should keep his uniform and equipment in good shape and clean. Only during "immersion" events, where a hard campaign march is recreated, will this decrepit look be considered authentic.

There is a wealth of documentation involving the civil war. There are, fortunately, thousands of period photos, letters, and official documents available to the average citizen, not to mention modern photos of original items. The historic photos are sometimes the best resource that a living historian can use. This writer encourages the reader to "study the photos". But, please keep in mind that a photo might have been taken due to something that was highly unusual, getting the "image artist's" attention. You will note that many photographs are referenced in this guide.

If you have questions about this set of authenticity standards, consult the unit leadership. In case interpretation is needed, they are the first authority on what is, or is not, acceptable as well as having the responsibility for enforcing these guidelines. Remember, ask before you make that trip to the sutler or place that phone or internet order. Please note that items specific to officers and specialized NCO items are not included here.

Key to the Letter Designations

The item requirements are listed separately and the variations are categorized as follows:

- A. Preferred:** Items that are totally acceptable and fit the impressions of the largest majority of Federal infantrymen. Also identifies items normally used by Regular Army members throughout the war.
- B. Acceptable:** Items identified either as used by most Federal infantrymen throughout the war or becoming available to all infantrymen later in the war. This category may include other items that are not completely accurate to the period, but are so close to accurate that they are acceptable in limited quantities, as allowed by UAV leadership.
- C. Discouraged:** Items historically used in limited numbers by other Federal soldiers, including militia, and are not representative of those used by 99% of the Union Army Infantry. Also includes some acceptable modern substitutes as well as items used by fewer than 25% of infantrymen. New members are strongly urged not to procure such items

(though they may be available for sale) and the experienced members are recommended to replace their item(s) with “Acceptable” or “Preferred” items as soon as practical.

D. Unacceptable: Items not correct and not allowed in a UAV member’s possession in the ranks at a battle reenactment. This also includes items used by less than 1% of infantrymen. Items marked with an asterisk (*) may be allowed in certain circumstances.

UNIFORM

Braces (Suspenders) (Optional)

- A. Any mid-19th century style made of period natural materials (linen, cotton, or canvas) with or without leather tabs; May adjust with hand-sewn buttonholes or using tin/brass buckle fasteners; Braces may or may not button to all four front trouser suspender buttons; Braces may or may not cross in back; If suspenders cross in back, suspenders, where they cross, may not be sewn together; May be manufactured or homemade;
- B. The common two button (yoke-type) front end braces found at sutlers; may or may not have hand sewn buttonholes; Otherwise, adjusted as specified in “A.” above; May be homemade or manufactured using quality period (natural) materials; Braces may cross in back and may or may not be sewn together where they cross; OR, a belt made with period correct materials;
- C. Homemade, using homespun or mattress ticking material; Any type used historically by Confederates;
- D. Modern stretch (elastic) suspenders; Any suspenders made of obvious modern (man-made) materials; A rope in lieu of a belt or suspenders*;

COMMENTS: Although the government arsenals required that suspender buttons be sewn onto trousers, the army did not issue suspenders. Men did not always wear suspenders, going without them, if possible, or choosing a belt instead. Since trousers had no belt loops, the belt was just wrapped around the waistband and tightened sufficiently. The culture and etiquette of the 19th century caused a man, who was caught in public with his suspenders in view, shame and embarrassment. For the same reason, they would be shamed if seen in public without a coat or a vest, either, or when outdoors, without a hat. A length of rope will even suffice as a temporary belt but this, or the use of mattress ticking for suspenders, is generally thought of as being for a Confederate impression or to denote a very poor economic background for a Union soldier;

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$8-15

Drawers (Underwear) (Optional)

- A. U.S. Army issue or civilian procured undergarment in either heavy weight cotton flannel (winter) that come to “just above the ankle” or light weight cotton onasburg (summer) that come to “just below the knee”. Refer to the photo of an original found on page 127 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union as a model;
- B. Cotton, linen, or linen/cotton material in the same pattern as “A.”, above;
- C. The wearing of modern underwear of any type (but this statement should not be construed as: the UAV is for going “au naturel”);
- D. None listed;

COMMENTS: While period drawers are optional, they are recommended over modern undergarments because at hot events, it is nice to be able to strip down to your drawers and shirt to cool off quickly. You would not be welcome to do this if you were wearing modern garments. This “ensemble” also makes good sleepwear.

Footwear (Required)

- A. U.S. pattern Jefferson bootee (black leather brogans) with dark brown or black leather laces; May be rough-out (sometimes referred to as “waxed” leather) or smooth; May be stitched, pegged, double pegged, or a combination; Metal heel plates may or may not be installed;
- B. Government contracted, non-regulation bootee;
- C. Period correct civilian shoe; Period correct boots (But, trousers must cover the boot tops, this is not the cavalry); Shoes with straight lasts (since straight last shoes were typically a Confederate item);
- D. Barefoot (there are a few recorded instances where Union troops went without footwear, but it was exceedingly rare); Any modern shoes or non-period shoes of non-period materials; Exception: New members may wear plain dull (not spit shined) black leather lace-up shoes for a reasonable period of time until they can buy their brogans, but no sneakers, tennis shoes, or other athletic shoes in any color;

COMMENTS: Although often dug up in historic civil war campsites, no heel plates are found on brogans in museums and the photos in the book Echoes of Glory, which is so often mentioned, show no heel plate installation evidence. Current belief was that individual soldiers purchased these items from sutlers and put them on their heels to reduce the heel wear. It is more than one reenactor’s conviction that these devices cause potentially dangerous slips on modern surfaces. Some very good advice would be to never warm your feet by or in a campfire with your brogans on. By the time your feet would feel warm, the brogans would be toast. What happens is that all the oils (that keep the brogans water resistant and soft) would be “cooked” out of them. Once this is done, the soles dry-crack and must be replaced (\$50 to resole brogans);

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$80-125 (brogans); up to \$145 for civilian shoes; up to \$200 for boots;

Frock Coat (Optional)

- A. Regulation Issue as specified in the Revised U.S. Army Regulations of 1861 Section 1482; Of 18oz. (heavy) weight dark blue wool with 1/8” thick light blue (denoting the infantry branch of service) piping (trim) at the cuffs and at the high, stand-up collar; Breast is padded (sometimes referred to as “quilted”) inside and of polished cotton; Sleeve linings are of cotton muslin; Two functional small (5/8” diameter) brass “eagle” buttons at each cuff; Breast is closed with nine (9) evenly spaced large (3/4” diameter) brass “eagle” buttons; Two large (3/4” diameter) brass “eagle” buttons at the back waist just at the top of the pleated “tail” area; Since they were issued unhemmed, each soldier was to hem the coat midway between the top of the hip and the knee approx. mid-thigh), according to regulations; With hand sewn button holes; May or may not have pockets in the “tails”; May or may not have a hook & eye closure at the throat and/or tails; Refer to the photo of an original found on page 121 or page 161 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union as a model;
- B. Same as listed in “A.” above, but with machine sewn button holes; May or may not have a hook & eye closure at the throat and tails;
- C. None listed;
- D. Berdan’s Sharpshooter specific frock coat*; While these coats are striking, with their green color and rubber buttons, they are over represented in the reenacting hobby, generally, since less than 1% of Union troops belonged to the regiment that wore it and would only be correct in reenacting if everyone in a company wore one; Obvious poor quality frock coats; Any frock coat of an incorrect color or Confederate frock coats;

COMMENTS: Sutlers have pretty much got this uniform item correct, generally. The frock coat is commonly referred to as “the dress coat”. While it was certainly worn for dress parade and other ceremonial occasions, it was the uniform coat for infantry. Note: the sack coat was designed for work details, only, but there is ample evidence that most soldiers wore them in combat. The frock coat can be prohibitively expensive, however, and the price a new member would pay for a frock coat would buy a great deal of other gear. But, if you opt for one, you may wear it whenever you wish. It is the only one of the two issue coats on which you may wear service stripes. Since it is the authorized coat, it is never incorrect and for balls (period term for formal dances), parades, recruiting events, military ceremonies, or weddings, a sack coat is incorrect, though allowed. But, to be truly in full dress uniform, you would have to add the shoulder scales, the fully “trimmed” Hardee Hat, and white gloves.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$180- \$250 for coat; \$70-\$80 for the pair of shoulder scales, with attachments;

Greatcoats (Optional)

- A. Regulation issue as specified in the Revised U.S. Army Regulations of 1861 Section 1596; Of 18oz. (heavy) weight kersey weave (as are the trowsers) in sky blue wool; Single breasted with a roll pleated stand up collar, elbow-length cape, and a back belt; Sleeves have a turned-up cuff that may be turned down to act as a hand muff; Has five (5) large (3/4") brass "eagle" buttons down the front; The cape has six (6) small (5/8") brass "eagle" buttons down the front; Issued unhemmed;
- B. None listed;
- C. Federal mounted services greatcoat, same as "A.", above, but with a stand and fall collar and is of double breasted construction using twelve (two rows of six) large (3/4") brass "eagle" buttons and twelve (12) small (5/8") brass "eagle" buttons on the wrist-length cape;
- D. Modern coats, period civilian coats; Dark blue (officer) greatcoats; Trapper or "frontier" fur or skin coats; Otherwise period looking coats using zippers, snaps, Velcro, or other modern fasteners;

COMMENTS: Although somewhat costly, it is difficult to find a suitable substitute for a greatcoat at cold weather reenactments. It can even serve as a second blanket on those REALLY cold nights, a practice of which this writer can attest; Note: wear your accoutrements over the coat but under the cape when "under arms".

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$150-250

Headgear (Required)

- A. U.S. Model 1858 Forage Cap in dark blue with flat horizontal black leather brim; Commonly referred to as a "Bummer" or "Type 1" with no brass insignia; **OR**, for DRESS occasions, the U.S. Model 1858 "Hardee" U.S. Army Hat (but NOT with a sack coat); One may see photos of originals on page 120 and pages 182 & 183 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union;
- B. U.S. Model 1858 Forage Cap with the brass company letter affixed to the front (not the top) of the cap, according to regulations, even though many museum originals have it affixed to the top; **OR**, a black slouch hat (Burnside style or equivalent);
- C. U.S. Model 1858 "Hardee" Hat worn with a sack coat; civilian slouch hats in colors other than black; Note: properly styled civilian hats will have sweatbands made of leather or blackened cotton duck or twill, and have a bound grosgrain ribbon on the brim and a full lining. The brim on slouch hats should be curled up (not down, in the Cowboy fashion). The commonly seen Type II (or McDowell pattern) forage cap, also called the Model 1861 forage cap, with a downward-sloping curved black leather brim, with or without brass trim either on the top or front, the type that was commonly issued to the Army of the Potomac;
- D. Unshaped "hillbilly" blanks (not true hats) commonly found priced cheaply at unscrupulous sutlers; Any hat or cap that would not be representative of the civil war period such as Derbies, Cowboy, or U.S. Model 1839 (Mexican War) "wheel" hats*; Otherwise period correct Stovepipe hats or straw hats; Shakos or the use of havelocks since they were very early war specific; fez's (a Moroccan/Algerian cap) unless everyone is uniformed as a Zouave*; Tam o'shanters (Scottish cap) or any other "folk cap"; Whipples, due to their rare use; Kepis, since they are common to officers, militia troops, and Indian War (post Civil War) troops;

COMMENTS: Prewar Federal regulations for the shakos specified that a brass regimental number and company letter would be on the front. When the stiffener was removed, allowing the cap's top to fall, the shakos became forage caps. The regulation was never changed, so the brass remained on the front. It was never intended for a soldier to poke holes in the top of the cap but it is true, however, that many militia units and some state volunteer troops adorned the tops of their caps with brass insignia and if in the Army of the Potomac, cloth corps badges. Since we are following Regular Army guidelines, the brass should only be worn on the front of the cap, if worn at all. Since we portray an undesignated Federal unit, and could fall in with any other Federal troops at an event, we should leave the brass off our caps entirely. Since our impression is a typical Western Theater, Army of the Tennessee infantry unit, an authentic slouch hat is perfectly acceptable instead of the issue hats/caps due to the extra protection they afford the wearer from the sun and rain. Note: Other than being a mandatory issue item, men in this period always wore a hat when they were outside. Although they may wear them inside (a must when "under arms"), they would be removed when speaking to a lady or an elder (as a sign of respect) or when sitting in the presence of ladies. It was considered poor manners to just "tip" one's hat to a lady of the period. The hat should come completely off the head.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: Forage caps: \$30-100; Hardee Hats: \$50-150; Civilian slouch hats - \$50-\$100;

Sack Coat (Required)

- A. To meet the Revised U.S. Army Regulations of 1861, Section 1485: *“for fatigue purposes – a sack coat of dark blue flannel extending half-way down the thigh and made loose, without sleeve or body lining, falling collar, inside pocket on the left side, four coat buttons down the front”*; Composed of 10 oz. (light weight) flannel with a twill weave; May or may not be lined since research shows that lined sack coats were produced; Hand sewn button holes; One may see a photo of original sack coats on page 125 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union, though details are not evident;
- B. As specified in “A.” above, except made with 11 oz.-17 oz. wool flannel; May or may not have hand sewn button holes;
- C. Sack coats, otherwise correct, but of heavy (18 oz. or heavier) wool;
- D. Any Shell jacket, due to rarity of use; 5 button (post civil war) sack coat; Period civilian coats; Period “battle shirts”; Modern light jackets;

COMMENTS: As with the trousers, these were also issued in only four sizes (#1 corresponding to modern 36 chest size, #2 corresponding to modern size 38, #3 corresponding to modern size 40, and #4 corresponding to modern size 42), so it makes sense that an entire modern reenacting unit, with perfectly tailored coats are over represented in the hobby; According to regulations, recruits were issued a lined coat, but, subsequent issues of the fatigue coat were of the unlined variety. Most coats available at sutlers are made from very thick (18 oz.) wool. Not only can these be uncomfortably warm (though no warmer than a frock coat), there is a growing movement to produce the correct weight of material, which was considerably lighter. Although this writer does not usually recommend C & D Jarnagin Co. for woolen uniform items, this long-time sutler sells a 10 oz. sack coat for a reasonable price and actually charges more for the incorrect 18 oz. ones. Buttons were always the large Federal eagle type, with no letter designation on them. Remember the culture of the period: men simply did not go out in public without a coat. So, if you are in “shirtsleeves” in camp (provided there are no ladies present), you should put on a coat (and button the top button) whenever you leave camp.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$60-125

Shirt (Required)

- A. Federal issue, one size fits all, domet flannel shirt characterized by a pullover style with full body, off shoulder sleeves, gussets under the arms, and a full collar with pointed ends; May be a pre-civil war shirt of light (10 oz.) gray wool or a war time off-white color; Shirt should be hand sewn in it’s entirety; One may see a photo of original shirts on page 126 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union;
- B. Other military-issued wool flannel or off-white muslin (cotton) shirts; mid-19th century civilian style shirt made of natural materials such as cotton, wool, and wool-flannel. Patterns should be solid, checks, stripes, or broad plaids. Checks, stripes, and plaids should be woven, not printed. Shirts may be machine sewn but with hand sewn button holes;
- C. Linen or cotton-linen blend (wealthy person’s attire); Bib-front type (fireman) shirts; Shirts with wooden buttons (do we wish to portray slaves or whites suffering from very poor economic conditions?); Shirts with obvious machine stitching (as in contrasting color thread usage);
- D. An otherwise period correct shirt, but of modern styling and/or construction; Sweaters; Shirts of man-made materials (polyesters, nylon, etc.); Shirts with any printed fabrics; non-period buttons; Otherwise period looking shirts with modern fasteners;

COMMENTS: Buttons were available in many materials: glass, bone, agate, stamped tin, and japanned tin. Wooden buttons were found, usually, only on lower quality shirts at this time. They became more common towards the end of the war. Buttons were typically 1/2-5/8” diameter, and all buttonholes were hand-sewn.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$25-125 dependent upon the amount of handwork;

Stockings (Socks) (Required)

- A. Military issue stockings, machine knitted cotton or wool in the proper plain pattern and finish, in natural colors;
- B. Civilian stockings in natural colors or with the use of muted dyes; Hand knitted cotton or wool stockings;
- C. Obviously modern cotton or wool skiing or hiking socks in white; Blousing trousers into stockings;
- D. Socks of obviously modern non-natural materials such as athletic socks; bright colors; striped, or otherwise patterned or “logo’ed”, socks;

COMMENTS: Many reenactors “blouse” their trousers inside their stockings when “in the field” but not everyone is convinced that this was a common practice. However, if “blousing” your trousers into your stockings will prevent you from getting bit by a tick, perhaps carrying Lyme Disease, then it is a valid health safety reason. If you do not “blouse” your trousers, you wear your trousers long, and your stockings remain hidden, there will be no authenticity issue.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$7-20;

Trousers (Trousers) (Required)

- A. Sky blue, kersey weave, foot pattern wool trousers, as issued from Federal depots; One may see photos of originals on page 127 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union;
- B. Dark blue wool trousers (only for early war impressions); One may see a photo of an original pair on page 121 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union;
- C. Federal mounted pattern, sky-blue kersey wool trousers;
- D. Period civilian trousers; modern pants/jeans; trousers with rear pockets; zippers; Creases of any kind in trousers; An exception would be when a new member is asked to wear a pair of faded blue jeans as a temporary substitute for the proper trousers due to a shortage of “loaners”;

COMMENTS: At the start of the war, enlisted trousers were dark blue. General Order 108, issued December 18, 1861, authorized sky blue trousers for National troops. The arsenals still required the trousers to be hand-sewn, and trousers were issued in only four sizes (1,2,3, and 4). Trousers were issued to a given company in bales of 100 pairs, with the number of each size being determined statistically. Because of this sizing and distribution method, the trousers would NOT be likely to fit an individual soldier. Soldiers traded trousers, rolled-up or cut off trouser legs, and, if necessary, sewed other men’s cut-off fabric to the bottom of their own trousers. An entire modern reenacting unit with perfectly tailored trousers is over represented in the hobby; Trousers are properly worn when the top of the waistband is positioned at or slightly above the natural waist (over the navel). NCO’s wear a blue stripe on the outside of the trouser legs, covering the seam, with the width being: corporals, _“ and sergeants, 1_”. Note: when you have your trousers dry cleaned, be sure to tell the counter person: “NO Creases” and when you later pick the item up, check to insure that your instructions were followed. The cleaners are responsible for doing it right. Few items draw as much ridicule from knowledgeable reenactors than obvious modern pressed creases in trousers!

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$75-150

EQUIPMENT

Canteen (Water Bottle) (Required – see Comments section, below)

- A. US Model 1857 “Smoothside” -OR- Model 1862 “Bullseye” tin canteen with gray or brown jean wool cover; hemp cord securing the stopper to the canteen (rather than a chain) in conformance to what is known as the “Cincinnati Arsenal” pattern; With either a brown leather strap (pre-war or early war issue) or a fabric one (wartime issue); One may see photos of originals on pages 206-207 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union;
- B. Either canteen listed in “A.” but with no cover and with either a hemp cord or a chain stopper retainer;
- C. Either canteen listed in “A.” or “B.” but with a dark blue or sky blue cover; Any stainless steel canteen covered with any color cover;

D. The various northern manufactured water-filtering canteens; “Captured” CS canteens; Post-CW canteen (with embossed “US” on the side; Boy Scout canteen; NO canteen; Stainless steel canteens with no cover at all;

COMMENTS: Most of these come with a very long strap that should be adjusted by the individual, for comfort by sewing the strap, not simply knotting it. The canteen should be adjusted to ride comfortably, usually at or above the waistline, on the left side, resting on the flap of the haversack. It should always be the last thing you put on. There has been some discussion on just how much the canteen was actually used since some period diary excerpts stated that the tin cup served the soldier well and was lighter to carry. In our unit, for safety reasons, this will NOT be an option. All military reenactors must carry a canteen into battle and are encouraged to take it with them everywhere at an event. Failure to bring a canteen (containing water) to the pre-battle inspection formation will keep you from the battlefield. Canteens can be used with or without a wool cover and if you keep the wool cover wet, the water inside the canteen will stay cooler. The most common Federal covers, during the civil war, were of cheap jean cloth, since that was the utility cloth of the period. If you choose one of the stainless steel reproductions, you must have a cover on it because of the obvious modern sheen. Canteen straps are usually canvas duck or cotton web but during the early war years, adjustable leather straps with a roller buckle were issued and lasted a long time in the field. Canteen hints: To rustproof your tin canteen, pour melted beeswax inside it and cover all inside surfaces. Don’t keep anything other than water in the canteen for two reasons: (1) health safety – nothing else you carry will better hydrate you; Drinks with sugar in them will dehydrate you, and (2) nearly anything else will eventually harm the canteen. Soda, fruit drinks, etc. have acids in them that may degrade the solder between the two halves and the sugar in them will attract insects.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$30-70, depending on style and material

Eye-glasses (Required – ONLY if you cannot move safely without corrective lenses)

- A. Civil War period frames of oval, rectangular, hexagonal, or octagonal shape. Temple pieces may have sliding adjustments; Frame should be quite thin and made of metal with straight temple pieces (that do not hook over the ear); OR, Contact lenses that do not have any tinting (i.e. invisible at a glance);
- B. Pre-Civil War frames of the same material and shape as listed in (A), but frames are thicker. Frames may have a two-piece sliding temple piece;
- C. Post-Civil War (1866-1900) frames that are thin and with somewhat larger oval lenses than in “A” or “B”; Temple pieces may be the conforming type cable that goes behind the ear;
- D. Any spectacles that do not conform to those listed in “A”, “B”, or “C”, above, such as modern eyeglasses or any type of sunglasses; Otherwise period looking spectacles made with non-period material;

COMMENTS: Wearing modern eyeglasses at a Civil War reenactment or other living history event is a serious breach of authenticity akin to using a modern rifle in the ranks. In Victorian times it was considered unmanly (bookish) to wear spectacles and opened a man to ridicule. Study the nearsighted gunslinger portrayal in the Clint Eastwood western “The Unforgiven” and you will better understand the culture of the times (though this writer is somewhat reluctant to start using popular movies to teach authenticity standards). Only in the last thirty years have eyeglasses reached “fashion status”. The wearing of spectacles can seriously detract from the authentic image the UAV is trying to portray. It is important to remember that spectacles were rarely worn by Civil War soldiers and were simply magnifying lenses to aid in reading. If you can safely function without eyeglasses (going “blind”) during an event, your impression will be much more accurate, since spectacle use is over-represented in the hobby. If simply “going blind” is not an option for you, consider being fitted for contact lenses before choosing to procure one of the allowable frames, listed above. We can often loan uniforms or equipment to new members, but we can never provide prescription eyewear, so appropriate corrective lenses, then, should be your first purchase.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$35-50 for frames, \$50-125 for lenses;

Gum Rubber Blanket/Poncho (Optional)

- A. The U.S. government issue item, of Goodyear's patented vulcanization process, of sealing gum rubber to canvas cloth, producing a waterproof "blanket" measuring 46" x 71"; With small (9/16") brass grommet holes around the outside edge; OR, the gum blanket derivative, the poncho; Refer to the photo of originals found on page 215 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union as a model;
- B. Those gum blankets or ponchos with larger grommets or with incorrect grommet material;
- C. None listed;
- D. Any waterproof sheet that does not conform to the description of "A." above;

COMMENTS: For historical reference, as of November 1861, the infantry were issued rubber blankets; mounted services were issued ponchos. There actually is a way to take a rope and a rubber blanket and form it around you to keep out as much rain as the poncho can. The added advantage of a rubber blanket is that you can lie on it, in some water, and the water doesn't come up through the neck hole. For our purposes, we do not restrict the usage of a poncho and you are encouraged to carry both, if you like. The reader is warned to be careful about this item for many sutlers sell those that are not authentic.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$35 - \$50

Haversack (Required)

- A. US Model 1851 haversack of painted canvas measuring approximately 11" wide and 12-1/2" deep; With the removable cotton inner bag; Refer to the photo of originals found on pages 210-211 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union as a model;
- B. Late war (larger) haversacks measuring approximately 13" wide and 12-1/4" deep; Commercially available haversacks conforming to the pattern of black, rectangular, and "tarred";
- C. None listed;
- D. Any modern haversack; CS patterns in white duck or tarred;

COMMENTS: A necessity, since it is used for carrying rations, plates, and utensils. Strap is always worn over the right shoulder, the haversack, itself, resting on the left hip. The top of the haversack should be at the level of your elbow at rest. Haversacks usually come with a too-long strap (for tall boys) that should be adjusted by the individual, for comfort by sewing the strap, not simply knotting it. Periodic maintenance of the haversack only requires the liberal application of boiled linseed oil to the black painted portions and a good quality leather preservative for the leather straps.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$30-\$50

Knapsack (Backpack) (Optional)

- A. US Model 1853/55 double bag, early war version of leather and black painted canvas; No unit designation on the back since we are not portraying any particular unit; Refer to the photos of originals found on pages 212-213 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union as a model;
- B. US Model 1864 (late war) double bag; With or without a unit designation painted on the back;
- C. Blanket roll; Other period contracted or commercially available knapsacks;
- D. Otherwise period looking knapsacks but with modern fasteners such as snaps or zippers; modern style backpacks or book bags; post-CW knapsacks;

COMMENTS: You don't have to have one, but it is sure a handy place to keep your stuff. Load it with as little as possible to keep the straps from cutting into you. How you use those "dangly" straps in the front is your choice but this writer prefers to hook them to the waist belt, pulling the load forward. Periodic maintenance of the knapsack only requires the liberal application of boiled linseed oil to the black painted portions and a good quality leather preservative for the leather straps.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$95-\$230;

WEAPONS, ACCOUTREMENTS, & AMMUNITION

Bayonets (Required)

- A. U.S. Model 1855 “triangular spike” bayonet; Must fit snugly on your weapon’s muzzle and the locking ring must be operable; The “flat”, near the top of the socket marked “U S”, (not “India”);
- B. The British Enfield bayonet for those UAV members who opt for a ’53 Enfield Rifle-Musket;
- C. As specified in “A.” or “B” above, but having “India” stamped on the blade’s “flat” instead of “U S”;
- D. Any other type or style bayonet, either an original or reproduction;

COMMENTS: UAV members are encouraged to keep their bayonet in it’s original “armory bright” condition with the liberal use of modern rust removing materials such as steel wool, extra fine sandpaper, etc. Keeping a thin coating of mineral oil (gun oil) on all surfaces of the bayonet will keep it rust free. For those who own a cheap reproduction bayonet, you are encouraged to have the “India” ground off.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$30-\$135

Cap Pouch (Required)

- A. Any Civil War period US model shield front (flap) cap pouch; Refer to the photos of originals found on page 31 and page 202 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union as a model;
- B. None listed;
- C. Maynard primer cap pouch that has a brass eagle on the front; (and ONLY if you use a US Model 1855 Springfield);
- D. An Enfield cap pouch or any other CS Cap pouch; No cap pouch;

COMMENTS: They should come with the wool inside (to better keep your caps inside when you leave the flap open and you run into battle). Some will come with a thin wire nipple (cone) pick used in cleaning your weapon. The cap pouch, when properly positioned on the waist belt, will be on your right side, just to the right of your “US” belt buckle. Periodic maintenance is to use a quality leather preservative on the leather portions. Use of black shoe polish and the application of a hand buffing brush will make it look new for decades.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$30-\$60

Cartridges

- A. Authentic blank cartridges: .58 caliber cartridge tubes must be made from “trapezoids” of light weight, off-white (tan or beige) or light brown paper of the proscribed size, tied with cotton or linen thread in the proscribed way, rolled to form a tube that is 1/2”– 9/16” diameter and 3-1/2”-3-5/8” in length; The tied-end of the tube to be packed with sufficient wadding (paper or cotton) to fill approximately 1” of the tube (replacing the “Minie ball” in blanks); Then another tube of the same kind (the “powder tube”) inserted above the wadding; Into this second tube is poured a measured 65 grains of FFFg (3Fg) black powder and the top (open) end flattened over to one side and folded in the proscribed way, to leave a “biting tail” 1-3/4”-2” long; Ten blank cartridges packed in two layers of five each, along with a trapezoid containing twelve (12) percussion caps at the bottom end, inside an outer wrapper labeled 1861,1862, or 1863 St. Louis Arsenal and tied with light-weight off-white or brown string; When completed, must fit into the bottom tin of a Model 1855 cartridge box; The model is shown on page 40 of the Time-Life Book, Echoes of Glory – The Arms and Equipment of the Union.
- B. All other provisions listed in “A.” above, but using twisted-end tubes (rather than tied ends, on the tube bottoms) for economy and speed of manufacture and omitting the percussion caps; Blank cartridges containing between 60 and 70 grains of FFg (2Fg), FFFg (3Fg), or FFFFg (4Fg) black powder;
- C. Any, otherwise, authentic blank cartridges, in size, color, or shape, containing less than 60 grains or more than 70 grains of FFg (2Fg) or FFFg (3Fg) black powder; Any blank cartridges that have a twisted or otherwise

incorrectly folded “biting tail”; Any blank cartridges that are not of the proscribed size or do not have any wadding in them; Any cartridges made with white (modern bleached) paper; Any arsenal pack outer wrappers (commonly found on “battlefields” afterwards) of white or any other color of paper other than that proscribed, in “A.”, above, or lacking an arsenal label. Having arsenal packs “from” arsenals other than St. Louis or with late war (1864 and later) dates; The use of white kite string to tie up arsenal packs. The failure to use outer wrappers for cartridges that are NOT in the top of the cartridge box “tins”; Any otherwise properly made .69 caliber cartridges BUT may only be used if the member is using a .69 caliber weapon;

- D. Any CS labeled arsenal packs; The use of cartridges other than .58 or .69 caliber; The use of more than 130 grains of FFg (2Fg) or FFFg (3Fg) black powder (a “double charge”) in a single discharge. The use of cartridges that have staples, glue, or tape or any other inauthentic item on or in, them. Loose powder of any kind including the use of powder horns or flasks; The use of any material besides thin paper for cartridges; Any other color of cartridge paper than in “A.” or “C.” above. An empty cartridge box at the beginning of a “battle” - it is your responsibility to resupply “from the wagons” before a battle. Historically, the Army fined a soldier who sold, or otherwise expended his issued cartridges in unauthorized ways and did not have a full cartridge box when duty called.

COMMENTS: It has never failed to amaze this writer that many of the most hardcore reenactors, the ones who criticize the smallest of reenactor errors, use the most “farby” (inaccurate) blank cartridges. This just does not make any sense. The one thing that all reenactors use the most often, should also be accurate. Since the majority of western theater Union troops were issued the Model 1861 Springfield Rifle-Musket and were issued ammunition from the St. Louis Arsenal, it is this weapon, cartridge, and supplying arsenal that the UAV has chosen after which to model. If your weapon is a reproduction British ’53 Enfield, this ammunition would still be used.

The UAV holds periodic “cartridge rolling parties” where ammunition is made (both blank and live) and new members are taught how to properly produce authentic cartridges. There can be no excuse for using unacceptable cartridges since they may be purchased at low cost (\$2 per pack of ten) from the UAV. Note: white paper and cotton string may be dyed the correct color by soaking the paper in strong coffee and then carefully dried. The addition of liquid dishwashing detergent, while rendering an unpalatable beverage, helps makes the paper or string soak up the “dye”.

Cartridges with minie balls (bullets), commonly referred to as “live rounds” in the hobby, should never be on your person when firing blanks. To do so would violate the safety rules at nearly all reenactment events and subject, not only you, but the entire unit, to expulsion from the event. The only times you are authorized to carry one or more “live rounds” at a UAV event are: (1) for an approved living history demonstration of blank firing, using the live round(s) as a presentation piece, only -OR- (2) when the unit is at a safe rifle range in order to practice live firing. All new members are encouraged to attend the next unit “live fire” in order to more appreciate the destructive potential of these reproduction firearms. When you feel the full “kick”, hear the sharper report, and see the large hole that your “ball” puts into the man-sized target, you will truly know that it was this weapon that saved the Union.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$2 - \$5 PER BLANK ARSENAL PACK (OF TEN CARTRIDGES);

Cartridge Box and Sling (Required)

- A. US Models 1855, 1857, or 1861 (.58 caliber) black leather cartridge box with large, lead-backed brass “US” box plate & black leather rough (waxed leather) or smooth (bridle leather) cartridge box sling (strap) with lead-backed brass “eagle” breast plate affixed in the proscribed way, box complete with “tins”; Should NOT have inspector’s marks (as used on the later cartridge boxes); Refer to the photos of originals found on pages 202-203 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union as a model;
- B. US Model 1864 (March, 1864) .58 caliber black leather cartridge box with large lead-backed brass “US” box plate & black leather rough-out or smooth-out cartridge box sling (strap) with lead-backed brass “eagle” breast plate affixed in the proscribed way, box complete with “tins”; US .69 caliber cartridge box (if appropriate for your weapon);
- C. None listed;
- D. Any cartridge box without the tins, for safety reasons; The “late” Model 1864 (July 1864) with embossed “US”; carbine cartridge box; British Enfield cartridge box; Any russet-colored cartridge box; No cartridge box; Modern cartridge box; “buckskinners” possibles bag; powder flasks;

COMMENTS: Basically, the cartridge box must generally match the rifle/musket style. Until July, 1864 boxes were issued with brass "US" plates on them. All cartridge boxes will have the appropriate tin inserts for safety, if not authenticity reasons. Although cartridge boxes often had belt loops, the sling, with the brass eagle ("shoot-me") medallion, is required. (Trivia note: There were occurrences where Federal soldiers were fined by their Captains if found wearing the cartridge box on their belt or if the breast eagle medallion had been removed from the sling). The sling should be adjusted so that the top of the cartridge box is just below the properly positioned waist belt. Periodic maintenance is to use a good quality leather preservative on the leather portions. Use of black shoe polish and the application of a hand buffing brush will make it look new for decades.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$40-125

Rifle-Musket (Required)

- A. Model 1861 (three-band .58 caliber) Springfield rifle-musket with Federal issue sling comprised of russet brown oil-finish leather with hook, standing loop, and a sliding loop;
- B. Model 1863 (three-band .58 caliber) Springfield rifle-musket with Federal issue sling; OR, Pattern 1853 (three-band .577 caliber) Enfield rifle-musket with "armory bright" barrel (with Federal issue sling); OR, any Model 1861 Special (Colt, etc) three band .58 caliber rifle- musket (with Federal issue sling);
- C. Model 1842 (.69 caliber) Springfield musket; Model 1855 (Maynard Primer) .58 caliber rifle-musket; any of those listed in "A.", "B.", or "C." above, without sling or with incorrect sling; The 1853 Enfield with the "browned" metal finish (period term for blueing the barrel); Any ORIGINAL weapon listed in "A.", "B.", or "C." for safety reasons;
- D. Any longarm (rifle, rifle-musket, or musket) not listed in "A.", "B.", or "C." above; Any two-band longarm; flintlocks; shotguns; pre-war sporting rifles; post-war rifles, such as a Springfield "Trapdoor" rifle; Any carbines (we're NOT cavalry); Musketoons; Repeating rifles such as Henrys* and Spencers* (due to their rarity); Breech-loading rifles such as Sharps* (due to their rarity);

COMMENTS: All muskets must pass a safety inspection before any firing may be done; The unit commander, or his assigned NCO will inspect all UAV firearms. The safety inspection will include the following checks: (1) clean, unobstructed barrel; (2) half-cock (safety) fully operational; (3) no loose screws or barrel; nothing missing; (4) Full cock trigger operation; (5) rust free metal surfaces (a neglected firearm indicates a careless shooter); (6) cartridge box inspected to insure that there are no live rounds, that the box is full, that the "tins" are present, and that the cartridges pass the authenticity guidelines; (7) that there are sufficient percussion caps in the cap pouch; (8) anything else that the inspector, the reenactor umbrella organization, or the event host requires; (8) a full canteen of water;

Of the two brands that a majority of sutlers sell, this writer considers the EuroArms brand to be more authentic due to the ArmiSport brand having a prominently positioned (top of barrel) obviously modern stamping and due to the generally better quality and color of the stock of the EuroArms weapon; New members are encouraged to obtain advice from a veteran member in the best ways to "defarb" a reproduction weapon.

It is this writer's opinion (and is based on a decade of practical experience) that the reputation of the '61 Springfield misfire rate is unfair and misleading. It is acknowledged, however, that one must keep the bolster area of a '61 Springfield scrupulously clean and clear. If this is done, the misfire rate is no worse than an Enfield. UAV members will be reminded after every battle to clean their weapon immediately. Cleaning the weapon properly is of the utmost importance and it is based upon U.S. Army records that a civil war soldier spent a great deal of time tending to his weapon. It is also this writer's opinion that "browned" Enfields prevent the unit from having a "uniform" appearance. Please refer to the mass of shiny "armory bright" weapons on page 201, Volume Three ("The Decisive Battles") of The Photographic History of the Civil War (in Ten Volumes) edited by Francis T. Miller, published in 1911 by the Review of Reviews Co., (commonly referred to as "Miller's") for "Eastern" troops and page 173, Volume Two ("Two Years of Grim War") of the same work, for a photograph of "western troops". While extreme detail, such as the manufacturer of the weapons, is not clear, it is clear that they are all shiny.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$375-\$500+, depending upon the reproduction model and brand (manufacturer);

Scabbards, (for Bayonet) and Frogs (Required)

- A. U.S. black leather “Gaylord pattern” scabbard with attached black leather “frog” with the brass tip guard intact on the scabbard, in order to carry a bayonet, for safety reasons. Nearly all Federal infantrymen carried a scabbard/frog of the Gaylord pattern, regardless of the bayonet carried. The Gaylord pattern is a black leather one-piece scabbard, attached to the frog (the part the waist belt passes through) either with stitching and rivets (early war) or all rivet construction (mid-war), with the scabbard pointing to rearward, at an angle. The frog may be smooth or rough (waxed) leather. Refer to the photo of originals found on page 31 and page 202 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union as an example;
- B. None listed;
- C. The British Enfield type scabbard and separate frog (usually seen on Confederate troops); Refer to the photo of originals found on page 39 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union as a model of the wrong British type;
- D. Any other type or style scabbard or frog;

COMMENTS: The bayonet scabbard/frog, when properly positioned, will be on the wearer’s left side with the scabbard pointing rearward.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$30-\$60;

Waist Belt and Buckle (Required)

- A. U.S. Black leather waist belt with large lead filled brass oval “US” buckle, with or without brass “belt keeper”; Refer to the photos of originals found on pages 202-203 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union as a model;
- B. None listed;
- C. None listed;
- D. Sword belts; Confederate belts; period canvas belts; modern belt;

COMMENTS: Waist belts, when properly positioned, will allow the brass belt buckle equidistant between the lower two sack coat buttons (navel area) and centered. It should be fitted snugly enough so that it does not move when you re-position your cartridge box for loading.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$25-\$50

UNAUTHORIZED ITEMS

1. Belt knives of any period; The only exceptions are knives used by the cook or his assistant(s) in the preparation and serving of food and drink;
2. Bandannas of any kind (but, modern cooling devices discretely placed around one’s neck, hidden from view, in order to keep the wearer cooler at hot events may be used - a health safety issue);
3. Leggings*, commonly called “gaiters”;
4. Pets, unless period correct (i.e.: “foraged” live chickens meant for a later stew pot, are not “pets”, per se);
5. Any illegal substance or any item restricted by the event rules;
6. Cigarettes of any kind, for authenticity reasons (pipes for enlisted and cigars only for officers is most authentic)
7. Jewelry (does not include authentic reproduction I.D. medallions worn around the neck on a grosgrain ribbon);
8. Modern firearms and/or ammunition, of any kind;

Excepting NCO’s and officers, the following items are not authorized at events within the UAV:

1. Swords* (NCO’s above the rank of corporal)
2. Pistols* (officers only)
3. Sashes (officers and NCO’s above the rank of sergeant, only)

CAMPING GEAR

This is an area that causes more complaints than any other, at battle reenactments. The presence of a sea of wall tents filled with families of “campers” (usually reenactors of the mounted services, but not always) in plain sight of the relatively spartan infantry camps comprised of rows of tiny shelter half tents, drives some “authentic” to the edge of madness. These controversies can lead to unpleasantness and friction between the camps. To be an authentic infantryman, your camp must reflect the fact that you carried your gear in with you. This would logically eliminate the circles of chairs and footstools around the campfire. But, this writer wishes to be reasonable in his expectations of other reenactors and to take a position of balance within the hobby. So, with that written, let’s try to keep the camp impedimenta to a minimum. If that period correct camp chair will allow you to better enjoy the camaraderie in camp, then, by all means, bring it. You must decide for yourself what you must bring to an event, using the guidance of other members, as well as the UAV leadership. They can help you reach a decision on which level is fair for you and the impression we seek.

Bed

- A. U.S. Issue Woolen Blanket (as denoted below, in this guide) and/or Gum Rubber Blanket (as denoted above, in this guide);
- B. Hay or Straw; Tree boughs, leaves, and/or other natural materials, with or without the use of that listed above in “A.”; “Rail” beds;
- C. Canvas, painted canvas, oilcloth, modern blankets made of natural materials that will pass for period; Modern sleeping bags or other gear that are hidden under a period covering; Bed frames of period construction and materials; “Rope beds” unless in a hospital tent or when portraying a “garrison” (long term) encampment;
- D. Any modern material such as plastic; WWII era army cots or any other type of non period cot;

Camp Furniture

- A. Nothing;
- B. Log or stump; Hardtack box; Ammunition box; Barrel; Any other type of period correct box;
- C. Small stools; Small folding chairs;
- D. Tables of any kind except for the unit cook; Anything that would look obviously modern;

COMMENTS: Some reenactors would have no boxes or chairs of any kind in camp, using the logic that the individual soldiers would not have been able to march in with one. In order to have a balanced view on this issue, let us all assume that unless the UAV is portraying a campaign camp or is attending a campaign reenactment event, chairs or boxes will be allowed in moderation, having been brought up, along with the officer tents and cooking gear, to the camp by the “regimental wagons”. There are a great many period photos of camp life showing chairs used by officers and boxes and barrels being used as chairs by the enlisted men in camp. Please refer to the photo on page 69, Volume Eight (“Soldier Life”) of The Photographic History of the Civil War (in Ten Volumes) edited by Francis T. Miller published in 1911 by the Review of Reviews Co., (commonly referred to as “Miller’s”) for just one example.

Eating Utensils

- A. U.S. issue tin plate (approx. 9-1/2” diameter) and a Model 1851 issue tin cup; “Found” knife, fork, and/or spoon in period patterns; A bayonet or ramrod used as a skewer;
- B. A tin cup modified with a bail handle to serve as a boiler; Any period correct cup with or without a “field modification”; Small lightweight skillets or a canteen half used as a substitute;
- C. A Mucket (a large cup); A “Billie” Cup or other covered boiler; Coffee Pots; Large, or otherwise heavy, skillets;
- D. Extensive mess gear: pots, pans, stoves, etc. UNLESS you are the unit cook who had the gear “brought in by wagon”; Any obviously modern cooking gear such as stainless steel pots and pans; Anything non-period correct;

COMMENTS : Traditionally, every soldier had his own set of mess gear and it was usually kept in his haversack. Tin cups should be carried inside your haversack unless it is so stuffed with rations that it would not fit, as was the practice. Period correct forks should have only two or three tines, not the usual (modern) four tines.

Illumination (Lighting)

- A. Candles, either set upon a board or box, or in the socket of your bayonet, the point of the bayonet stuck into the soil;
- B. Candles inside period correct lanterns (but not allowed at campaign events due to their bulk);
- C. Oil lanterns or anything similar that would be heavy or bulky enough to prevent them from being carried by an individual soldier on the march;
- D. Coleman lanterns; “Glow” sticks; Flashlights (unless they are hidden from the public and not used around other reenactors who may be offended by it – a safety issue); Any other non-period device of illumination;

COMMENTS : It is this writer’s opinion that having any open flame (candle) inside a tent is an extreme fire hazard. Therefore, small flashlights (i.e. “mini-maglights”, etc.) may be used inside tents as long as the user is discrete in the use of such modern illuminants.

Shelter (Tentage)

- A. The Type II (three piece half) U.S. issue Shelter Half Tent with hand sewn button holes, hand sewn grommets and either bone or paper-backed tin buttons, erected with the use of wooden tent pegs, hemp tent peg loops, hemp “guy” ropes, and either “cut poles” of saplings or the two piece socketed “issue poles” occupied by two soldiers; OR, the practice of using either one or two gum blankets and/or shelter halves to erect what is commonly referred to as a “shebang”;
- B. The Type I (early war) or either of the variants of the Type III (two piece half) with hand sewn button holes and grommets, erected with the use of wooden tent pegs, hemp ropes and either “cut poles” or the two piece socketed “issue poles” and without the tent end pieces; OR, the use of that listed in “A.” above, for only one soldier. OR, a Wedge (A-Frame) tent when the event or the UAV is NOT attempting to portray a “campaign” theme and then only when occupied by four (4) soldiers; OR, the use of a “brush arbor”;
- C. Those tents specified in “A.” or “B.” above, with other methods of erection, such as the use of metal tent stakes, modern manila rope, etc. OR, the use of the shelter half tent listed in “A.” above, with the use of one or both end pieces; OR, an inauthentic shelter half tent (usually all those manufactured before 1999) made of modern waterproof canvas with large brass grommets on the lower (ground) edges for stakes; OR, No tent at all, this practice commonly referred to as “going hardcore”; OR, an “A” tent occupied by less than four soldiers;
- D. Wall tents*; Sibley tents* except when portraying a “garrison” encampment, or an early war battle encampment AND with the historically correct number of twenty (20) occupants; Flys* (Awnings) except for the mess or recruiting area; An “A” tent occupied by only one soldier; Any modern tent; Any non-period shelter;

COMMENTS: The authenticity of shelter half tents took a dramatic leap forward with the publication of the reference book, The Federal Civil War Shelter Tent by Frederick Gaede in 2001. Please refer to this book for guidance. There is no reason for a new member to buy an inauthentic shelter half tent today. They are easily found and are reasonably priced; It is generally agreed that “The Haversack Depot” offers the most authentic shelter halves for the most reasonable price than any other sutler at this time. A good second choice would be C & D Jarnagin’s “Maynard” shelter half. A new member may wish to buy two halves in order to insure a complete tent until he can find a “pard” with which to share. The shelter-half end pieces are nice to have during inclement weather but there is very little documentation for their actual use in the field during the civil war. The Gaede book also references the practice of 3 soldiers taking their halves to erect a tent using the third piece as an END, giving a longer, more weatherproof tent;

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$30-\$65 for one shelter half, dependent upon the level of handwork you choose;

Woolen Blanket

- A. Federal issue gray wool blanket, with black end stripes, “U S” stitched in black yarn letters 4” high, in the center; Refer to the photo of originals found on page 214 of the Time-Life Book Echoes of Glory - Arms and Equipment of the Union as an example;
- B. Emergency issue tan with brown stripes;
- C. Other contract or civilian blanket;
- D. Quilts; non-period materials; (quilts would generally be used by Confederate reenactors due to the blockade, you know);

COMMENTS: Blankets are optional, but are a necessity if you plan on spending the night at events. The specifications for the Federal blanket states that it be 5-1/2’ x 7’ and weigh 5 pounds. If you want a really warm blanket for the home, an exact reproduction of that blanket is available at select sutlers but be prepared for the high price. Choose your blanket carefully for early during your first cold morning, you will appreciate having done so. For an example of the U.S. issue blanket, please refer to the photograph on page 13, Volume Eight (“Soldier Life”) of The Photographic History of the Civil War (in Ten Volumes) edited by Francis T. Miller, published in 1911 by the Review of Reviews Co., commonly referred to as “Miller’s”.

ESTIMATED COST FOR NEW: \$70-\$165

MISCELLANEOUS (“Yankee Notions”)

Once you get all of the above gear and get settled into camp, you will start looking at the things that your fellow reenactors have in camp. This will make you think you are missing something. You will then make a trip to “sutler row” and these characters will show you all of the things you “really need”. Most of these items, called “haversack stuffers”, are much like the items the original sutlers sold to the troops: nearly worthless and relatively expensive. Here, however, is a list of these “Yankee Notions”. But, remember, do your research or ask a trusted, knowledgeable UAV member what is correct for the period.

Comb	Wallet	Toothbrush	Razor
Shaving Brush	Pocketknife	Harmonica	I.D. Discs
Housewife (sewing kit)	Food bags	Pen or quill	Ink & Inkwell
Pencil	Candles	Cold weather clothing	Underwear
Handkerchief	Soap	Muzzle Plug (Tompion)	Pocket Watch
Weapon cleaning kit	Tobacco & Pipe	Towel	Snacks

SUGGESTED BOOKS

There are, seemingly, an infinite supply of books on the Civil War as well as a constantly increasing number of web pages and newsgroups devoted to every conceivable aspect of the war. Here is a selection of the most influential works related to the impression we choose:

Antietam: The Soldier’s Battle by John M. Priest, published by the White Mane Publishing Company 1989;

Corporal Si Klegg And His Pard by Wilbur Hinman originally published in 1889 by N.G. Hamilton & Co. of Cleveland, Ohio. Reprinted in 1993 by York Publishing Company Galway, New York;

Hardtack and Coffee – The Unwritten Story of Army Life by John D. Billings originally published 1887; Recent publication by the University of Nebraska Press 1993;

Infantry Tactics for the Instruction, Exercise, and Maneuvers of the Soldier. A Company. Line of Skirmishers. Battalion. Brigade. of Corps D’Armee’ Vol. I by Brig. Gen. Silas Casey, U.S. Army (whew!) better known simply, as “Casey’s” originally published in 1862 and more recently published by various houses. Note: although “Hardee’s” may be easier to find at sutlers (Confederate units usually use this manual) and gives good information on individual drill, “Casey’s” is generally more accepted by Federal infantry reenacting units;

Soldiering – The Civil War Diary of Rice C. Bull, 123rd New York Volunteer Infantry edited by K. Jack Bauer, published by Presidio Press, 1977;

Ten Years in the Ranks U.S. Army by Augustus Meyers originally published 1914 by Stirling Press New York. Recently republished in 2002 by Ayer Company Publishers North Stratford, NH;

The Life of Billy Yank – The Common Soldier of the Union by Bell Wiley originally published 1952. Most recently republished by the Louisiana State University Press in 1978 and 1994;

HOBBYIST PUBLICATIONS

“The Camp Chase Gazette” (monthly magazine) P. O. Box 707 Marietta, Ohio 45750 (740) 373-1865

“The Civil War News” (monthly newspaper) 234 Monarch Hill Rd. Tunbridge, Vermont 05077
Call (800) 222-1861 for a free sample issue;

“Blue & Gray Magazine” (bi-monthly magazine) 522 Norton Road Columbus, Ohio 43228
www.bluegraymagazine.com

CONCLUSION

This is by no means an exhaustive list. Many will think of more things to add and more details. All the items on the lists will cost you a great deal of money. Please consider it an investment. But, before you acquire anything for your “collection” please take the time to ask someone, whom you trust, to tell you the truth about style and usage of the item. Misconceptions are common. You may save up to half the price of new items by buying used clothing and equipment. Just make sure it meets the authenticity requirements and will pass any safety aspects. Be careful of buying items just because they are cheap. Experienced reenactors will tell you a number of stories about items they bought and didn’t use or bought and had to replace because of quality and authenticity issues, discovered later. Caveat Emptor (Buyer beware). Learn from our mistakes, not yours, if you can.

Many new recruits want to know whether it is feasible to make their own uniform. Generally not, unless you, or someone you know who can help you for free, has special knowledge of the techniques used in manufacturing 19th century uniforms and other clothing items. 100% wool, of the correct color and weave, is quite expensive and can be difficult to obtain. Sooner or later, you will notice what we call “costume grade” uniforms that someone else is wearing and you will be able to easily tell the difference. Please, for this reason, never call your uniform a “costume”.

However you approach acquiring your things, remember this: when you equip yourself as an authentic reenactor you are not shopping for fashion. The civil war soldier, in the field, did not look like the dashing figures portrayed in some popular media. When you “do it right” you won’t stand out; you will blend into your unit and the rest of the “army”, giving the correct public impression of a United States soldier.

Yours for the War (even if it drags out until Sunday afternoon),
1st Sgt. Clark A. Kirby, UAV Commander