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| ***A suggested gear list for our members*** |
| http://www.texaspatriotmilitia.org/imagelib/sitebuilder/layout/spacer.gif |
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|      **The following list is a suggested starting point for the prospective militiaman to work toward the development of his gear.  This IS NOT a requirement to join the militia.  The economy today requires that most of us be on a budget.  This will also vary based on a member's individual needs.  It is not an inclusive list and is only meant to be a guideline.** **BDU's - We would suggest 2 or 3 sets of camouflage.  There is no mandated pattern but we suggest the customary woodland pattern as it works well in most environments, is relatively inexpensive compared to the modern ACU and MultiCam types, and is effective in both day and night.****Boots - If you were going to scrimp anywhere, DON'T DO IT HERE!  A substantial part of our training is walking/hiking/marching with all or at least most of your gear.  Make sure to buy a set of boots that will take care of your feet.  Also have at least 2 to 3 sets of extra laces.****Socks - At least 4 to 6 pair****T-Shirts - At least 4 to 6 shirts in a dark color such as brown, OD, or black.****Underwear - At least 6 pair****SSS Kit - The Navy term for toiletry kit, it should contain everything needed for field hygiene such as razor, toothbrush and paste, soap, and anything else you might need to maintain proper field hygiene.  If unsure, consult mom or the wife.****Mess Kit - A small utensil kit for food preparation and eating.****Poncho w/ liner - The importance of a good poncho can't be overstated.  A poncho-liner will add warmth and can also be used as an improvised sleeping bag.  Ponchos are available in dark and even camouflage schemes at most retailers.****Knee/Elbow pads - Many of our troops in the field will tell you these are worth their weight in gold.  There are several high-quality brands that can be had at a reasonable price.  Colors that work with your chosen camouflage pattern are widely available.****Sleeping Bag - Specific type will depend on the average temperature.****Small tent or tarp - Remember, this has to fit on or in your pack.****550 cord - This stuff is outstanding and can be used for virtually anything.  Even God would say you can't have enough, but we would suggest making room in your pack for 100 feet.****Foot powder - This goes a long way to keeping your feet healthy.****Compass - We would suggest the excellent lensatic compass made by Cammenga as it is easy to use and is also the compass used by the U.S. military.  The Silva line of compasses, such as the Ranger, are outstanding and affordable.****Sewing/Clothing Repair kit****First Aid kit - We are currently working on a suggested list of medical gear for a general purpose kit.  In addition, your first aid kit should also contain any type of medication, vitamins or other special items you might need.****Water Purification kit - Sometimes you might need to forage for water in the field.  Besides boiling it to make it safe to drink, water purification in the form of tablets and filters can accomplish this task when a fire would be unsafe or impractical.****MRE's - You can also use dried food such as beef jerky, or several other types of long-life food.  We would suggest at least 3-5 days worth.  Keep in mind that you will require approximately 1800 calories a day.****Boonie Hat or Patrol cap - A good quality hat that matches your camouflage pattern.****Gloves - To provide warmth and help camouflage your hands.  Make sure the gloves you choose will allow you to operate your weapon and perform basic tasks without difficulty.  A few extra bucks can make the difference.****Pack/Rucksack - The good old fashioned U.S. Army Alice pack (large) is an outstanding piece of gear.  It's practically been around since biblical times, and can be had in good condition at a very inexpensive price.  Newer, and more expensive, models such as Blackhawk are available, but the Alice pack is a great choice.****Camouflage netting - This can be used to cover your tent or shelter as well as other purposes.****Rifle magazines- If a semi-automatic, we would suggest at least 6 magazines.****Pistol magazines- Depending on your pistol's capacity and caliber, we would suggest at least 3 magazines.****Combat Knife - The mighty USMC Ka-Bar knife is one of the finest pieces of equipment ever developed.  Its history is the stuff of legend.  It can be had new for less than $60 in some cases.  Cold Steel's Recon Tanto and SRK are also excellent.  We would also suggest a smaller utility-type knife for camp purposes in addition to your combat knife.****Rifle/Pistol parts kit - This kit will contain all the parts necessary to keep your weapons operating.  Make sure to KNOW YOUR WEAPON.  Know what parts break and have those parts on hand.****Rifle/Pistol cleaning kit - This kit will contain all necessary gear to properly clean and maintain your weapon in the field.****Binoculars/Spotting Scope - A necessity for fieldwork and observation, buy the best piece of gear that will fit in your budget.  It is strongly suggested your optics be fogproof with scratch-resistant lenses.****Face Paint or Balaclava - Excellent face camouflage.****Hand Crank Radio - These can be a little expensive.  A great idea is to have more than one member chip in since everybody will get the use out of it.  A real luxury as it's a source of information in the field which requires no batteries (less weight to carry).****E-tool - Basically a small shovel, an excellent choice is the Special Forces Shovel made by Cold Steel.****Fire-Starting Gear - Flint and steel, waterproof matches, etc.****Flashlight w/ replacement bulbs, batteries, and red/blue lenses - The original GI-issue flashlight with red and/or blue lens covers to save your eyes at night works great.****Maps of the operating area**  **A Note on Camouflage Material: Not all camouflage is made of the same material.  Right now, the military uses a blend of 50%nylon/cotton.  This renders a material that is highly resistant to wear and adverse conditions.  One of the primary advantages is that this fabric is NIR compliant (a term used for its ability to help mask the infrared signature of the wearer).  Another feature is how well it holds up to UV exposure from the sun and how it withstands the torture chamber known as your washing machine.  If you machine wash your camouflage, a good idea is letting it hang dry.  This will extend its life.  Stay away from camouflage that is 100%cotton as it is the fastest wearing and experiences a high degree of color fade.  A good source of high-quality camouflage is**[**www.bdu.com**](http://www.bdu.com/)**.**  |

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