

2ND US CAVALRY UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

In order to maintain a reasonably historically accurate impression of the Civil War Cavalry Trooper that we portray, these minimum standards are expected to be met by all “enlisted” troopers of the 2nd US. This is also a guide for new members so that they may get off to a good start, and not end up wasting money on inaccurate or incorrect items.

The following items will eventually be required unless an exception is noted. A more detailed authenticity and buyers guide to aid in purchasing correct and quality goods can be found at http://www.shadowlandstudios.com/2nd_US_Cav/guidelines.html. We understand that this is an expensive hobby and no one is expected to purchase all of these items immediately. We will do our best to get you on the field with loaner gear if and when available, but your participation and fun may be limited without ultimately buying these items yourself. Please note that there is a lot of garbage being sold out there so ask and/or do your homework before purchasing gear. We will also guide you in finding quality used items when possible.

HEADGEAR

- **Forage Cap** – U.S. Issue. Type 1 (preferred), or type 2.

Note: Avoid the “Kepi” unless you are a NCO or Officer, or the authenticity standards of an event you are attending call for one. The purchase of a Kepi would not replace the need for a quality forage cap as your primary uniform hat.

- **Optional: Civilian “Slouch” Hat** of period construction and style (e.g., Medium Beehive, Bowler, Stevenson, etc) are acceptable but the wearing of them depends on the standards of the specific event. A union dress hat (Hardee hat) turned into a slouch hat is also a good choice. Note: The purchase of a slouch hat would not replace the need for a quality forage cap as your primary uniform hat.

JACKET

- **Sack Coat** or **Mounted Services Jacket** (Cavalry Shell Jacket). U.S. Issue.

Note. A fairly authentic sack coat will cost about the same as an inauthentic Cavalry Jacket and may be your best option to start.

PANTS

- **Mounted Pattern Trousers**. U.S. Issue. Sky Blue.

SHIRTS

- **Civilian Pattern or US Issue**. Of period construction, material and pattern.

SUSPENDERS

- **Not an issue item**. Civilian pattern of period materials and hardware.

FOOTWARE

- **U.S. issue Brogans, or U.S. Issue Mounted Boots (Artillery Boots)**

Note: “private purchase” black military-style boots of proper construction and style are acceptable.

- **Socks** – If visible, of period color, style and materials.

OVERCOAT (Optional)

- **Mounted pattern:** U.S. Issue. Sky blue. Foot pattern is accepted.

ACCOUTERMENTS - U.S. Issue

Note: Early war patterns recommended for greatest flexibility of events, but not required.

- **M1851 sword belt** with 2 piece enlisted eagle buckle with applied silver wreath.
- **Cap pouch**
- **Pistol Cartridge Box** (Optional)
- **Holster** - Black leather, right side butt forward, end plug
- **Carbine Cartridge box**
- **Carbine Sling** - with snap hook.
- **Haversack** - US issue tarred,
- **Canteen** - M1858 smoothside with cotton strap or undyed leather strap with iron roller buckle and leather safe. Pewter spout, covered in jean cloth (preferred) or dark or light blue wool.
- **US Issue Blanket** – Gray/brown with black stripes woven in.
- **Shelter Half**
- **Gum Blanket and/or Poncho**

WEAPONRY

- **Sharp's Carbine:** 1859 or 1863. With or without patch box.

Note: Spencer repeating carbines and other U.S. issue carbines acceptable per approval of the commanding NCO or Officer, and event standards.

- **Pistol - Colt model 1860 "Army" Revolver, .44 caliber, Steel Frame.**

Note: The Colt 1860 was the only revolver issued to the original 2nd US cavalry per ordnance reports, however the Remington model 1858 .44 caliber "Army" or .36 caliber "Navy" revolvers are allowed depending on the authenticity standards of the specific event we are attending or approval of the commanding NCO or Officer in Charge.

-- Non issue "Private purchase" side arms must be approved.

A special note on Sidearms: The Federal Civil War trooper was issued a carbine and one pistol. They did not carry spare cylinders and modern spare cylinder pouches did not exist. However, because of the “show” that our mounted troopers perform at events, often requiring multiple pistol charges, the carrying of

additional pistols is generally allowable for them (per approval of the commanding NCO or Officer, and event standards). Generally this means one pistol on the body and two in pommel holsters.

We also allow a *special exception* for dismounted troopers who do not yet have a carbine (this too is pending the approval of the commanding NCO or Officer, as well as event standards). Generally this allows for one sidearm and two spare cylinders. We hope however that you will do your best to get a carbine as soon as possible as this is the dismounted cavalryman's primary weapon.

- **Saber** (optional for dismounted troopers) U.S. Model 1860 "light cavalry" is preferred. U.S. Model 1840 "Wristbreaker" acceptable.

Note: repo sabers are generally junk - do not acquire a saber without assistance. The 2nd US was armed almost exclusively with model 1860's.

- **Saber knot** (optional).

CAMP ITEMS

Note: Our group's philosophy is that whatever goes inside your tent is your own business. However we ask that any items seen by the public or other re-enacting groups be of period construction and materials unless approved by commanding NCO or Officer, or the event standards.

- **Tent (May be optional or postponed)**

Note: Any US Issue tent of appropriate material and construction. Shelter Half/Dog Tent, A-Frame or Wall Tent. Any non-issue tentage should be approved by commanding officer. It is recommended that you not purchase a tent without assistance.

- **Cup**; Issue tin cup, boiler, civilian cup or mucket - no speckleware. Stainless is acceptable if it passes for tin, but may not be depending on some specific event standards.
- **Plate**; Period plate, small sheet metal skillet, canteen half used as plate
- **Flatware**; Period knife, fork and spoon, or combo tool.
- **Skillet**; Small sheet metal skillet (can also be used in place of a plate)

OTHER / PERSONAL ITEMS

The following are optional period items that you may wish to add to your historical impression.

Soldiers stored these in blanket roll, saddlebags, haversack, pockets, etc.

- Folding pocket knife
- Personal hygiene items.

- Tooth brush.
- Small looking glass (mirror).
- Comb.
- Beeswax Candle
- Shaving equipment.
- Cotton or Linen ration & poke bags.
- Small bottles or tin containers.
- Pipe & tobacco pouch.
- Housewife (needles, thread, thimbles, buttons, patch cloth)
- Pencil and paper.
- Hard candy like lemon drops.
- Lucifers (matches).
- Period eyewear.
- Handkerchief.
- Gambling paraphernalia/Games.
- Wallet.
- Pocket watch

HORSE EQUIPMENT (If going mounted)

- **Saddle** - Model 1859 McClellan, U.S. Issue
- **Coatstraps** - U.S. Issue
- **Wool web girth and surcingle** - U.S. Issue
- **Crupper** was an issued item often thrown away - use at your discretion.
- **Breast straps** (martingales), were not an issued item though troopers would go out of their way to get one. Any breast strap should preferably be of civilian pattern or field produced (three leather straps joined by an iron ring). Brass heart “sutler row” breast straps are allowed if you already own one or are an officer.
- **Hooded wooden stirrups** - U.S. Issue
- **SaddleBags** – U.S. Issue
- **Carbine Socket** - U.S. issue
- **Halter** - U.S. issue
- **Bridle** - 3 or 6 buckle. U.S. Issue
- **Bit** - U.S. issued sweet iron bit (if acceptable to horse and rider)
- **Link Strap** - U.S. Issue, with iron wire snap hook.
- **Enlisted Reins** - U.S. Issue
- **Nosebag** - U.S. Issue (Optional)
- **Picket Pin and Lariat** (Optional), U.S. Issue 4-strand, left-laid hemp
- **Saddle Blanket** - U.S. issue blue wool with orange stripe woven in. "U.S." hand stitched in center preferred but not required.
- **Pommel Holsters** – Never issued or used by Federal enlisted men but we make an exception for our mounted troopers. Please note that they may not be allowed at some events however.

CONFEDERATE GUIDELINES

Occasionally, Our group may be asked to portray Confederate cavalry. While we do not portray a specific confederate regiment our suggested standards are that of the Army of

Northern Virginia as this places both our Northern and Southern impressions in the Eastern Theater of the war.

Please note that purchasing Confederate items should come after completing your basic US Federal Trooper kit.

Since much of the equipment and even clothing of the Southern Troopers mimicked that of their Northern counterparts, only those items that differ are mentioned below. Otherwise your federal gear will be fine.

- **Confederate Headgear**

Any period **civilian slouch hat** of proper construction and style will be acceptable. If you've already purchased a period civilian slouch hat as part of your Federal impression it will do just fine. Another option would be a **kepi or Forage Cap** of jean cloth or wool in a shade of gray, gray/brown mix, brown, or blue/gray. Avoid caps with yellow bands or crowns unless you already own one. Omit hat brass and applied decorations. No limp "hillbilly" hats.

- **Confederate Shell Jacket**

Any confederate shell jacket in jean cloth (preferred), kersey, satinette or wool, in a shade of gray, gray/brown mix, brown, or blue/gray. With or without belt loops and/or epaulets (shoulder straps). With or without yellow trim, cuffs, and/or collar. Note: Most Confederate shell jackets were made of Jean Cloth.

If you do not already own a confederate shell jacket, consider buying a standard 9-button Type II Richmond Depot shell jacket of jean cloth, in a shade of gray or gray-brown mix. Cotton osnaburg lining. Untrimmed. With or without belt loops and/or epaulets (shoulder straps). Buttons should be block "C", Federal Eagle, or Wood. Avoid State Seal and CSA buttons. A Type I Richmond Depot jacket would also be fine.

- **Confederate Pants**

Your U.S. Issue sky blue mounted trousers will be fine. Otherwise any Richmond Depot or "other issue" army pants (Jean cloth or wool in a shade of gray, gray/brown mix, brown, or blue/gray), or period civilian pants are fine.

- **Confederate Haversack**

Use either the Confederate model of plain cotton duck, a civilian model, or the US model in tarred black.

- **Confederate Canteen**

Confederate model drum pattern of tin or wood, or your U.S. Issue Smoothside.

- **Confederate Leather Accouterments**

Your Federal US Issue saber belt, cartridge boxes, cap pouch, holster, and carbine sling is fine. You may wish to swap out the male belt plate on your saber belt with a Confederate plate, however the federal eagle plate is fine. Oiled russet leather or brown in place of federal for some or all of your leather gear is appropriate.

WHAT IS NOT ALLOWED (This is not a complete list):

- **Any visible modern objects in camp or on person.**
- **Any modern or non-period clothing or hats in place of period items** – E.g., no modern “Cabela’s” slouch hats, blue jeans, sweat pants, modern suit coats, pants and/or vests, etc.)
- **Modern Footwear** – unless medically necessary and/or approved by commanding NCO or Officer
- **Visible wristwatches.** (Go with a period pocket watch)
- **Modern Glasses.** (Not many things destroy an otherwise good impression faster than modern glasses. If you cannot wear contact lenses, afford period frames right away, or have lost or broken your period glasses, we will make a temporary exception. Just understand that period frames (or at a minimum, period-looking frames) will be expected.)
- **Sunglasses**
- **Tinted/Photochromic Transition Lenses** (unless medically necessary - must be approved by commanding NCO or Officer)
- **Jewelry (other than a wedding band)**
- **Ear rings and/or visible body piercings**
- **Visible tattoos**
- **Obvious non-period hairstyles or unnatural hair coloring.**
- **Cigarettes** – a period pipe is preferred, cigars and chewing tobacco are acceptable. If you must smoke a cigarette, please do it out of view of spectators and/or other re-enactors.
- **Animal parts, feathers, or other objects not authorized to be attached to hat or uniform.**

Note; The standards listed above are a work in progress. Things may change based on new historical data being discovered, or changes within the group or hobby. Not all items allowed or disallowed may be listed and some issues may be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the commanding NCO or Officer, or due to specific event standards or situations. We base these standards on historical evidence and respect, common sense, safety, reasonableness, availability of reproduction uniforms and equipment, and fairness to all members. And believe these standards to be a good balance of all.