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## military survival gear survival gear: civilian or military?

Posted by LJPreacher - 2008/09/14 07:21

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I have a question and would like to get some opinions. Which is better for survival situations civilian camping gear or military gear? For example a red civilian rucksack or a olive drab military A.L.I.C.E. pack, or a flannel shirt and denim pants or woodland camo fatigues? What are the advantages and disadvantages of civilian and military gear? (I am asking this because I was thinking you would kind of stand out in the crowd wearing camo fatigues and carrying a military pack full of gear, but you would look normal wearing a flannel shirt and denim pants and carrying a backpack, but that could also be a big disadvantage when on patrol in the woods, maybe the civilian stuff for bug-out and the military stuff when you get to that retreat in the middle of nowhere?) Any suggestions or comments?

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Posted by Tom E. - 2008/09/14 07:21

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Posted by Sgt D - 2008/09/14 07:21

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Posted by Nick P. Norwood - 2008/09/14 07:21

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I think to some extent you answer your own question regarding clothing, it depends on your situation. I almost never wear cammies because of the situation where I live, you're quite likely to get popped at, if seen in military duds. I like BDU trousers though, in black. They are light, durable and dry quickly. Many civilian items are of higher quality than their issue cousins and if they can be found in neutral shades are preferable. Two caveats however, civilian camping gear of good quality is massively expensive when compared to surplus military and the cheap far-eastern copies are useless. The second problem is actually finding civvy gear in a neutral colour, it seems to me that pink, purple and red are the most popular colours for rucksacks and all weather gear, there are some exceptions though Buffalo produce most of their range in black/charcoal grey and Snug-Pak have a range of clothing and sleeping bags in black called

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Black to Black both of these companies also have military ranges which are of high standard but have the same tactical problems as that associated with their issue counterparts. Outside of clothing there is really no civilian alternative to issue L.B.E but once you start wearing it you'll look like a para-military even if it's coloured bright yellow anyway. Civilian cooking equipment and food is unparalleled in the military but comes at a correspondingly higher price. Civ. maps and compasses are generally better for use by non military types, unless you are familiar with the use of mils and the Georef system. So all in all I feel you pay your money and take your choice, it boils down to ascertaining the tactical situation you feel you are most likely to be in and purchasing accordingly, some level of compromise may have to be decided upon - but that is the essence of preparedness....

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Posted by Geoffrey L. Hardin - 2008/09/14 07:21

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maybe the civilian stuff for bug-out and the military stuff when you get to that retreat in the middle of nowhere?) Any suggestions or comments? This is one option. I sort of go a similar route. My clothing is typically the khaki or OD fatigues. However, I have two small duffel bags that sit next to each Bug-out bag. One contains the neutral clothing, the other contains military BDU's. As a rule, my webgear goes in my bag. . .unless it's a total warzone out there, and then I'll wear it (along with the BDU's). All I have to do is grab the appropriate bag with the clothing for the situation and go. Hope this helps. Please send a copy of any comments or replies to my email address as well as posting them to the group. Geoffrey L. Hardin, geo...@abcs.com

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Posted by Oiled Lamp - 2008/09/14 07:21

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(I am asking this because I was thinking you would kind of stand out in the crowd wearing camo fatigues and carrying a military pack full of gear, but you would look normal wearing a flannel shirt and denim pants and carrying a backpack, but that could also be a big disadvantage when on patrol in the woods, maybe the civilian stuff for bug-out and the military stuff when you get to that retreat in the middle of nowhere?) Any suggestions or comments? Being a seventeen year old young woman of small stature, I doubt I will be wearing any BDU's for a while, if ever, simply because it would make me stand out more than any man wearing them would. The last thing I want in such a situation is attention. Also, the likelihood of me trekking through the woods in need of clandestine at this point is small to nil. However, I have looked around and found some clothes that are civy enough no one will think it strange to see me in them (I sometimes go grunge, anyway, although with the advent of such films as Clueless that style has long since gone into the annals of fashion blasphemy...but I digress). They will give me good protection and not wear out easily. These I keep in my bug out bag where they will be used if need be to give me cover in a wilderness situation where it is better to use the wilderness camo style to camouflage yourself than the urban camo of normal clothing. I sincerely hope I never have to use them, and doubt that I will. But then again, my plans seem pretty different than most others on this ng.

Life's tough, pray hard, Amber Satterwhite a.k.a. Oiled Lamp

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Posted by H. McDaniel - 2008/09/14 07:21

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Posted by LJPreacher - 2008/09/14 07:21

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I have one problem with olive drab fatigues, they make you look like Castro (especially if you have a beard and like smoking cigars)

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Posted by Gr8Baroo - 2008/09/14 07:21

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Around where I live (WA state) it is not unusual to see people in military wear on a day -to-day basis (not the full uniform, usually a field jacket, or just camo pants, or BDU shirt) I wear military clothing on the weekends when I am working out in the yard, on the car and such. I go out to stores etc. with no strange looks. In a bugout situation though, one may have to go where this look is more unusual. I buy military equipment because it is cheap (such as my \$15 combat boots and \$10 for a set of E.German BDUs). I also worked at REI for a few years and was lucky enough to pick up a lot of good civilian equipment at a discount. I keep two sets of bugout bags. One with mostly military equip for my car, mainly to be used in case I get stranded, or when I am camping. The other is an REI pack with civilian camping equipment for get up and go amongst the general population.

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Posted by Geoffrey L. Hardin - 2008/09/14 07:21

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I have one problem with olive drab fatigues, they make you look like Castro (especially if you have a beard and like smoking cigars) Well, the good thing is, unless you're in Southern Florida. . .who cares? But then, I somewhat resemble this remark, if Fidel had blonde hair. Geoffrey L. Hardin, geo...@abcs.com

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Posted by Mike S. Medintz - 2008/09/14 07:21

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## military survival gear survival gear: civilian or military?

Posted by DRESSEL179 - 2008/09/14 07:21

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Military gear is by far superior to that of civilian gear, and it is time tested ....over and over and over, where civi gear is made to apeal to the yuppie camper, and the truth is, if it lasts the first trip into the wilderness, it will probably never be used again. To stay a little more covert, you can pack a set of civi clothing in your ALICE, or CFP 90 and wear that in town, along with that nifty banrney the dinosaur purple waterproof backpack cover that you will be sportin on your ruck. When you hit the woodline back to tactical mode

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Posted by Geoffrey L. Hardin - 2008/09/14 07:21

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To stay a little more covert, you can pack a set of civi clothing in your ALICE, or CFP 90 and wear that in town, along with that nifty banrney the dinosaur purple waterproof backpack cover that you will be sportin on your ruck. When you hit the woodline back to tactical mode I agree with you here. . .on all but the Barney-The-Anti-Christ-Dinosaur cover. But a neutrally colored pack cover (say grey, tan, brown or OD) does take a bit of the edge off the military camo pack. Ditto your clothing. Grey, OD and khaki are colors that tend to blend into foliage almost as well as camo (unless up real close). And they don't scream Shoot Me! in an urban environment. Please send a copy of any replies to my email address as well as posting them to the newsgroup. Geoffrey L. Hardin, geo...@abcs.com

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Posted by jeff smith - 2008/09/14 07:21

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The best one is the one you have when you need it! If you put off purchasing something until it's too late, it's too late!  
My advice: get something ~ ANYTHING ~ then upgrade it as time goes on. Jeff

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Posted by Carl A. (Bart) Stiles - 2008/09/14 07:21

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something ~ ANYTHING ~ then upgrade it as time goes on. Jeff I agree wholeheartedly!!! Once the momentum gets going, it quickly becomes a lifestyle or at least a practical way of thinking in everyday situations. ( a bean can becomes a portable stove ) My neighbors tree that he cut down last week ( OAK ) would have been curb trash to anyone else. ( except members of this group ) I saw almost 2 cords of firewood. I dont even have a fireplace now, ( Army Woodstove/heater though) and its warm outside. I will still invest the \$25.00 for the hydraulic splitter this weekend for storage purposes. One foot in front of the other brother . Life's essentials.....get 'em while you can. Best regards, Carl A. Stiles

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Posted by ScoutW - 2008/09/14 07:21

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What I have done, is kinda figure out how much I want to be wearing gear wise, and what situation I would be wearing it in. I have a full milspec setup, which I keep at my retreat. What I have that goes with me is kinda a fanny pack, puoch system, complete with water botles. It looks more hikey, not quite as military as anything else, and can be thrown on from the trunk. I use it camping, hunting. I like the company EAGLE CREEK, because they make quality stuff, decently priced, and all their pouches, fanny packs, are real versatile, and can go together. Check them out! sco...@aol.com

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Posted by Arne Carlsten - 2008/09/14 07:21

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: Military gear is by far superior to that of civilian gear , and it is time : tested ....over and over and over , where civi gear is made to apeal to the : yuppie camper , and the truth is , if it lasts the first trip into the : wilderness , it will probably never be used again. : To stay a little more covert , you can pack a set of civi clothing in your : ALICE , or CFP 90 and wear that in town , along with that nifty banney the : dinosour purple waterproof backpack cover that you will be sportin on your : ruck. When you hit the woodline back to tactical mode Unless it's the brand new LC-2 large pack I was issued that the stitches immediately started unraveling from. Or the ALICE pack frames that routinely break rivets and bend in normal use. Or the PASGT helmet that got called back in 'cause it had been assembled with second-rate materials and scrap kevlar to save money. Or the BDU trousers with the zig-zag seams. Or the GM-Hydromatic M16A1s with the butter-soft receivers that wore out faster than I could keep them fixed. Or the Cooper Industries M16 magazines that would tear the crap out of the magazine well on any rifle, not only failing to function, but actually taking the rifle out of service as well... GI gear is made to one-size-fits-all specifications by the lowest bidder (or the bidder who's in the right congressman's district, or is of the right gender or ethnicity). If you can find GI gear that meets your needs, of quality that meets your expectations, then go with it. But for a lot of purposes it's the second, third or even worse choice. I'd rate some of the foreign military gear much better. German gear in particular, and Austrian, Swiss and Scandinavian gear... It seems both that they're more willing to pay for quality, and they're \_expecting\_ quality equipment. Soviet and eastern-bloc gear, on the other hand, is quite likely to be crap. And the cheap Asian knock-offs of US gear are unspeakably bad.