

MICHIGAN MILITIA CORPS WOLVERINES (MMCW)

LEVEL 1

A Citizen's Guide to Individual Basic Readiness

INDIVIDUAL READINESS: AN INTRODUCTION

This guide was developed after much discussion and field experimentation. Many, MANY, hours were spent arguing over what to consider "necessary", and to what degree of skill militia persons should aspire. This guide is for the completely uninitiated, though others will also find it useful. It is by no means all-inclusive. There will be many items left out that you may personally feel are absolutely necessary, and there may be skills left out that you may believe to be absolutely essential as well.

LEVEL 1 - BASIC READINESS:

We consider Level 1 the absolute minimum level of preparedness necessary to be an active member of the Michigan Militia Corps Wolverines as well as vote in militia activities. These, when met, will be sufficient to be considered "capable of bearing arms"; the militia being defined as "all citizens capable of bearing arms". Once you have started testing for Level One, you will have 60 days to complete it, though it can easily be achieved in a single training session. This will give everyone at least two sessions in which to try it. You can always start again if necessary.

Once you are qualified at any level, you will maintain that position as long as you remain on "Active" status.

Basic Equipment:

- 1) Rifle.
- 2) 100 rounds of ammunition for same rifle.
- 3) Water container, one quart minimum and canteen cup
- 4) Cleaning kit for above rifle.
- 5) Suitable carrying gear to transport personal equipment.
- 6) Individual first-aid kit.
- 7) Combat or hiking boots.
- 8) Bayonet/Combat knife.
- 9) Flashlight.
- 10) FRS Radio .
- 11) Camouflage Uniform
- 12) AO map.
- 13) Camo face paint/mask
- 14) Multi-tool/Swiss army knife
- 15) Camo poncho/poncho liner or blanket
- 16) 550 paracord (at least 50')

- 17) Compass
- 18) Water purification (tablets or filter)
- 19) Magnesium fire starter/firestick
- 20) Small hygiene kit including toilet paper.
- 21) Notepad and pencil.
- 22) Food
- 23) Shelter/tarp style or tent
- 24) Copy of the US Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

Basic Abilities:

- A) Complete a two -mile hike with all basic equipment within 40 minutes.
- B) Field strip weapon for cleaning.
- C) Place 8 out of 10 shots into a 9" target at 100 yards.
- D) Understand and explain Alert Levels.
- E) Camouflage self and equipment.
- F) You have 60 days from the time you start your qualification to complete it. Otherwise you must start over.

BASIC EQUIPMENT - A DETAILED LOOK

1) RIFLE: There are many choices available when choosing a primary weapon. Because military rifles have been subjected to extensive testing and have been designed to withstand tough battlefield conditions, we suggest that your rifle be of a type similar to that used by some military forces at some point within the last 100 years or so. Even a brief study of the history of military conflict, and a look at current events will reveal that this does not narrow your choice by any measurable degree. Any type of weapon can be used in a pinch.

For our purposes, we will rule out extremely rare and ancient weapons. Muskets, blunderbusses, and repeating crossbows are better than no weapon at all, but not very practical to discuss in this guide.

Theoretically, you could carry a pistol or shotgun as a weapon. Indeed, there are many specific situations where a pistol or shotgun will be the best thing you can have, but for general purposes, a rifle is what is required.

We will look at some of the options available to the novice militia person.

Military surplus bolt-action rifles. For the average citizen, the first consideration in acquiring that first weapon will be cost. (One should also factor in how much value they place on the survival of themselves, their families, and their Nation.) Military surplus

bolt-action rifles are among the most inexpensive weapons available. Just because a rifle is inexpensive, that doesn't mean that there is anything wrong with it. Many of these old bolt-action rifles have served admirably in conflicts around the world.

With just a bit of effort, some of these old war-horses can be turned into impressively accurate sniper-rifles, which would be perfect for guerrilla-type, shoot-and-run operations.

One consideration when looking at military surplus bolt-action rifles is ammunition availability. They can come in some pretty obscure calibers, so ask around before buying one. Some fairly common, affordable rifles come in 7.62X54, .308, and various 8mm cartridges. The 6.5mm Swedish Mauser has been increasing in popularity recently, and it is still fairly affordable. Of course, any rifle is better than none, as long as you have ammunition for it. The M44 Carbine chambered in 7.62X54, and the Turkish 8MM Mauser are very affordable options, and would serve well as militia weapons.

Check at the next gun show, talk to your local dealer, or spend some time reading "The Shotgun News" (available at any good bookstore or newsstand), to get some ideas on what you can afford.

Another relatively inexpensive option would be to purchase an SKS. These are 10-shot semi-automatic carbines, with either a 16- or 20-inch barrel. Made in China, Russia and a few other countries, these are chambered in 7.62X39, the same round as the AK47. You may still be able to find some with a built-in bayonet. This may, one day, be a useful feature.

The fixed 10-round magazine may be seen by some to be an overly limiting feature, but beware of after-market conversion kits intended to allow a detachable-magazine. Most people who have tried these conversion kits have found them heavy and difficult to operate, and they have quickly returned to the stock, 10-round fixed magazine. Loading a fixed magazine with stripper clips is a completely acceptable method of operating this weapon, anyway. There are some SKS rifles that will accept the AK47 magazine. These are hard to find, and are certainly more expensive than a 10-round SKS, but they are dependable weapons.

Also accepting the AK47 magazines are the many civilian versions of the AK47. The most commonly available version of these is the MAK90. They cost more than the SKS, and are just as reliable. The big improvement is their ability to accept larger capacity magazines. Since there are such large -capacity magazines available, you may wish to consider a heavy-barrel version of this rifle. Most of them will be designated as such. A heavy-barrel will allow a greater rate of fire, because the heavier barrel will be less likely to overheat. A drawback to a heavy-barrel is the additional weight. This is a personal decision, with no clear right or wrong way to go.

The AK47 is considered one of the most successful military rifles in the world and also the most popular weapon in the world. Its use by armies and others worldwide will attest to its worthiness as a militia weapon. The most accurate AK variants are the newer rifles, and some of the older ones with longer, heavier barrels. There are more and more accessories for these rifles every day.

The .30 Cal. M1 Carbine is another rifle to consider. These were originally designed to replace the .45 pistol. They are relatively lightweight, and fairly accurate. Chambered for the .30 cal. round, they do not possess overwhelming penetration power. Several million of these were produced, so there are plenty out there. The .30 Carbine round is no longer used by any armed forces, so in the long run, it may become difficult to acquire more ammunition in the field.

Ruger manufactures both the Mini14, chambered in .223, and the Mini30, chambered in 7.62X39. These are both reliable and accurate, and not incredibly heavy. Either one would serve well as a militia weapon. They come in many variants, and many accessories are also available. They may be, however, a bit more difficult to break down, clean, and reassemble in a field environment.

The Korean-made Daewoo DR200 is a favorite among some of our militia friends. It uses the same ammunition as the AR15/M16, .223 cal., the round used by our military forces, and it also accepts the same magazine. It is accurate and dependable, and it costs much less than an AR15. They have that terrible "thumbhole" stock, but if you don't mind that ugly bit of political correctness, these would make a fine choice.

The L1A1, the civilian version of the FN/FAL, would be a good option. These weapons are chambered in the popular .308 (7.62X51), these weapons offer possibly more range than the .223 selections. They are a bit heavier than many rifles, but they are made very well, and are dependable rifles.

The .308 CETME, a predecessor to the German G3 and similar rifles is one of the recent favorites among militia members. They are relatively inexpensive at around \$500 or so. Field testing of the rifles at militia training has proven them to be excellent rifles. 20round magazines for these rifles are fairly inexpensive, and ammo and accessories seem to be reasonably priced.

The M1 Garand, chambered for .30-06, a very hard-hitting round, has been called the greatest infantry rifle ever made, in one publication. These rifles have a unique 8-round clip that pops out when empty. For a powerful rifle with long range capabilities, the y would be excellent. For a spray-and-pray enthusiast (someone with less emphasis on accuracy, and more emphasis on large volumes of rounds), this would not be a good pick. The .30-06 round is widely available, as it is used by many hunters.

Many people consider the M1A to be the ultimate rifleman's weapon ever developed. Chambered in .308, rugged, durable, and incredibly accurate, these will make excellent choices for militia riflemen. If you can afford these somewhat expensive masterpieces, then you should strongly consider it. For more on becoming a dedicated rifleman, and more about the M1A/M14, please visit <http://www.fredsm14stocks.com/>, or read "Fred's Column" in "The Shotgun News".

The AR15 is the civilian version of the rifle used by the US armed forces, the M16. As it is possible that militia units will find it necessary to fight alongside US units in defending our country, this would be an appropriate choice. These rifles come in so many barrel lengths, and with so many options and variants, that it would be very difficult to not find one that suits you. The AR is a precision made, close tolerance machine. This provides more accuracy than nearly any other standard military semi-auto rifle, but it requires fastidious cleaning to ensure reliability. Some loose tolerance rifle types, like the AK

series, are famous for being subjected to mud and rust by illiterate rural peasants anywhere in the world, and still come up shooting every time. The AR is more suitable for Americans, who use machinery every day (cars, phones, computers, doorknobs, flushing toilets), and are much more likely to be capable of maintaining it. Most of the US military surplus gear that is currently available is geared toward this weapon. It is a favorite of many militia types.

Keep in mind that the most commonly available rounds are .223, 7.62X39, and .308 (7.62X51). Availability of ammo is an important consideration, and we know of some people who have purchased a weapon merely because they came across a good deal on some ammo for that weapon.

There are many other options to think about. A lever-action 30-30 will work, if that's what you have. It would be a good idea to attend any militia range function, and see what they are carrying.

Given that the right to keep and bear any arms is continually coming under attack, one should give serious thought to acquiring that first weapon as soon as possible; buy a rifle while you still can.

2) AMMUNITION: Your ammunition must be for your rifle. It is by far better to buy your ammo in bulk than to buy it a box or two at a time. Perhaps you can go in together with someone that uses the same rounds as you do. It would be great if you (or your fellow team-mates) could get into reloading, so you could save even more money. We suggest that you keep at least 1000 rounds of ammo at home, as it can become a high-value commodity overnight. Ammo can be ordered from wholesalers, and delivered directly to you,

100 rounds is an absolute minimum carried load. This ammo should be carried "hands-free" in ammo pouches or a bandoleer. Carrying a bucket of ammo will not work. If your weapon is magazine-fed, you must carry at least enough magazines to carry 100 rounds in. If you do not have a magazine-fed rifle, then keep your rounds on stripper clips. Loading single rounds one at a time can put you at a dire tactical disadvantage plus you don't want to be running around with a bunch of bullet clanking together as you move. You should make every effort to ensure that your ammo is easily accessible for quick and efficient reloading.

Armor piercing rounds, tracers, and such: These special purpose rounds are much more expensive than regular ball ammunition. If you can afford some, armor piercing rounds would be a bonus in the event that you are confronted by armor wearing foes (like the bank robbers in Los Angeles). If you are a small unit leader, you may wish to consider tracer rounds to help direct your unit's fire.

Hollow point ammunition is not allowed in armed conflict under the Geneva Convention. It is, however, acceptable for training or hunting. Please be aware that recent policy statements made by The US Department of Defense seem to express the position that in certain instances, hollow point type ammo is acceptable. The Hague protocols seem to apply to armed conflict between regular uniformed armed forces of a nation, and not to anti-terrorist operations.

3) WATER CONTAINER/CANTEEN CUP: This must be a sealable, non-glass container to carry water

in. It must be able to carry at least one quart of water, "hands-free", so some kind of carrying strap, belt, suspenders, or other means of transporting is necessary. A military surplus or other type of outdoor type of canteen will be fine. A regular one-quart water bottle will work, if you have some way to carry it. In the winter, it is much riskier to try to thaw frozen water in a plastic canteen than in a metal one. If you can find a metal canteen to use, especially in the winter, get one. A canteen cup will fit right on the bottom of your canteen, it can be used for cooking, heating water, emergency shovel or just making a hot cup of coffee.

4) WEAPON CLEANING KIT: This will vary, depending on the type of rifle that you carry, but should include a cloth of some sort, a cleaning rod or pull through cord, a bore brush, cleaning patches, a rag or two, and some kind of lubricant. The cans of spray lubricant that are available can serve as a quick fix in certain situations. You may also wish to include a tooth brush type of brush, pipe cleaners, and Q-tips, and whatever specific items required to maintain your weapon. It would make sense to buy a cleaning kit at the same time that you buy your rifle. Cleaning equipment is very inexpensive, and there can be NO EXCUSE for failing to have a basic cleaning kit.

As for types of lubricants, we will suggest Break Free CLP (cleaner, lubricant, protectant). It is what the military uses, it is commonly available, and relatively inexpensive. A small bottle will fit nicely in your cleaning kit. We realize that there are other, better (and more expensive), cleaning products available, but Break Free is a functional, general purpose item that will do the job. Regular military issue "Cleaning Compound, Rifle Bore" is available at gun shows, and cheap. You can buy it by the quart for \$8-9. It is just as good as the commercially sold bore cleaners in stores. Pour some into a small portable squirt bottle for field use, and you will never be tempted to contaminate your supply by dipping a dirty patch in it. As you learn more, you will develop your own favorite cleaning routine, with your own favorite products. But for now, start with the basics.

5) CARRYING GEAR: Web gear, TA-50, vest, kit, LBE (load bearing equipment), rig, set-up, whatever you call it, some kind of carrying gear is necessary. The standard US military (and, consequently, many third-world allies) carrying gear consists of a web belt, suspenders, (we recommend "H"-type suspenders instead of the "Y"-type, as the "Y" suspenders may pinch and bind some of us in the neck and shoulder region. If you can find the older "H" suspenders, they will be inexpensive. The new manufactured "H" suspenders that are available through several mail order companies are somewhat more expensive. "Y" suspenders are fairly common place.), ammo pouches (2), canteens (1 or 2), and a butt-pack. The butt pack can hold your cleaning kit and first-aid kit, or you can have a separate attachment for them.

If you want ideas or suggestions on how to carry your stuff, please attend any militia training session and ask the people there for assistance. They will be more than willing to offer advice.

It is also important, especially with older gear, to make sure that there are no shiny metal surfaces visible. You can tape or paint over them. Also make sure that any straps are not excessively worn, and that all necessary clips are present and functional.

6) INDIVIDUAL BASIC FIRST-AID KIT: This should be considered as an absolute,

bare-bones minimum first-aid kit. You are free to add whatever personal medication or other items that you feel is necessary. The required items are:

- a) BATTLE DRESSING. This is, typically, a military-style compress dressing, with attached cloth "tie-downs" used to tie the dressing around a wound. The location of the item, usually on your non-firing shoulder, or in your upper left pocket, must be known to all of your team-mates. In a pinch, a feminine sanitary napkin or even an infant diaper may be used, along with a gauze roll.

- b) 32" TRIANGULAR BANDAGE. This is the type of bandage that can be tied around a wound, even a large, serious one. These may also be used as a sling. Any 32" triangular bandage will be fine. In a pinch, you can even cut your own triangular bandage from a clean sheet. Keep the bandage in its package, or if you cut your own, in a baggie by itself.

- c) TRIPLE ANTIBIOTIC. This is a good, general purpose ointment for minor cuts and scrapes. In a field environment, nobody can afford an infection. This ointment is available either with Lidocaine, a topical pain reliever, or without. This is available in small packets, and you need to carry one ounce or more in your first aid kit. If you want, you may also buy a large tube to carry with you. This is an item that is very useful to have even if you have no militia inclinations whatsoever, so go pick up a tube or box the next time that you are out.

- d) 5 BAND-AIDS, minimum. These should be the regular size adhesive strips. You may wish to have more, and of different sizes, but you must have at least 5 regular band-aids. You may want to consider the waterproof/ sweat proof kind. Please avoid brightly-colored children's band-aids. You might want to add a handful of butterfly bandages as well, to help close more serious cuts.

- e) 1 ROLL OF GAUZE. These are available by the box at any drug store. You must have at least one in your first-aid kit, and you should keep a box or two at home. These can also be used to wrap and/or tie around a wound.

- f) 2 4"X4" GAUZE PAD. You may actually wish to obtain several of these, as they are not usually available in single packages. They must be secured to a wound in some fashion, such as tying with a bandage, or securing with surgical tape.

- g) 2 PAIR OF LATEX GLOVES. These will be needed if you ever have to work on someone who is bleeding. It is important to avoid contact with anyone else's blood or other bodily fluids. These gloves take up almost no space, weigh next to nothing, and are usually available by the box at any drug store.

- h) 1 ROLL MEDICAL TAPE. This is used for making a finger splint, securing 4x4 bandages, etc.

- i) 5 ALCOHOL PADS. You must clean a wound before you place a band-aid or other bandage on it.

- j) 20 PAIN RELIEVER PILLS. Choice of pills is up to you. Most of us carry aspirin

because of its many uses and lack of allergic reactions.

k) 1 TOUNIQUET. This can be a life saving item in the right situation. Do not use the latex tourniquets that they use at doctors offices and hospitals for drawing your blood. Your tourniquet should be at least 2" wide. There are many styles out there. This is one of those things that you don't want to be skimpy on. Your life may depend on this item.

All of your first-aid gear should fit in a baggie. You can carry this in your butt-pack, or it will fit in an AR15 ammo pouch nicely. There are also some military first-aid attachments for your web gear, available at a local surplus store, or through one of the several mail order companies.

It is important that your fellow militia members know where your first-aid kit is, so inform them verbally, and use black electrical tape to mark the location of your kit with a cross. You may wish to trail a small, dark red ribbon from your kit, to further help your team-mates in finding your gear, should you become incapacitated.

Your first-aid gear is for YOUR use. It should be maintained and updated on a regular basis. Do not allow your personal medication to expire, and check any sterile packaging periodically to make sure that it hasn't ruptured.

7) COMBAT OR HIKING BOOTS:

Any boot issued regularly by the US military would be a good choice. The Army spends millions of your tax dollars testing and refining footgear for our troops. They will not issue boots that will harm its soldier's feet.

Some other boots that are good are the Danner Ft. Lewis Gore-Tex boot. One individual owned a pair for over 10 years. They are expensive at around \$200, but well worth it. Herman Survivors are also good boots, and they cost a bit less.

Jungle boots are very inexpensive, and they are excellent summer boots. When the weather turns cold, however, they are fairly useless. You should have a pair on hand, for the warm months.

Even with a good, all-purpose boots, you will still want to acquire additional winter boots. You can get winter boots with removable inserts, most of these seem to work well. The US issued Mickey Mouse boots are excellent if you expect to spend extended time in a static position in extremely cold weather.

Plan to buy your boots at the end of the day, after your feet have swollen just a bit from the day's activities.

Avoid steel toe boots, especially in winter. They can become quite uncomfortable and increase your chances of getting frost bite.

For a closer look at what many militia people consider to be good boots, just attend any training session, and ask around.

8) BAYONET/COMBAT KNIFE. Knife or bayonet with at least a four inch blade. Many militia members carry a small work knife, and a separate combat knife. Knives are tools first, and weapons second. Make sure you have a knife that you are willing to use. Knife fighting is an entirely separate issue, but it is something you should consider looking into. If you have a bayonet that actually fits on your weapon, good. Again, this is something that you should at least get some minimal training with.

9) FLASHLIGHT with red or blue lens cover. Cellophane works as such a lens cover. The smaller and lighter the flashlight, the better. Blue or red lens covers are harder to spot from a distance, and they don't compromise your night-vision. You may also wish to carry a small penlight as a back-up. Always check your flashlight's batteries BEFORE going out to the field, and keep extra batteries in your gear.

10) FRS RADIO. Make sure it has a minimum 10-mile range (more is better). Check/replace your batteries before coming to the field and have extra batteries in your gear.

11) CAMOUFLAGE. Woodland or Multicam B.D.U. to include shirt, pants, and boonie hat. Face paint/face mask and gloves. Most militia persons tend to wear US Army style BDUs (battle dress uniforms) in multicam or woodland camouflage pattern. For Michigan, the woodland pattern is fine, and it works most of the time being that Michigan is primarily covered by trees. MultiCam camouflage allows you to move from environment to environment and maintain your camouflage. From fields, deserts, wooded lots to an urban environment, MultiCam will conceal you from your prey.

NOTE: 10 USC 771 and AR 670-1 (look them up) prohibit civilians from impersonating federal military persons, while international law (Hague Protocols and the Law of Land Warfare) requires persons in militias or other volunteer corps to be identified as such. So we need to be clearly identified as "militia", while not running afoul of Federal law and military regulations.

We have developed an SOP (standard operating procedure) or MMCW standards of patch placement as follows. "Last name" above wearer's right breast pocket, "M.M.C.W." above wearer's left breast pocket, "Michigan State flag" on wearer's right shoulder. Division and Brigade patches on wearer's left shoulder.

For headgear the military type soft cap or the "boonie" hat. They offer shade and protection from the weather.

If you need to pick up some type of headgear to complete your uniform, get one in a pattern that matches the rest of your uniform.

A ghillie suit may be used in addition to the BDU/ACU, but does not replace it.

12) AO MAP. This includes both a state and county road map. We will give you one, if we have any on hand. You may wish to insure that your maps are current, by picking one up in a store or at a gas station. You can also get a Michigan state road map for free from www.michigan.gov (go to the state website for a link under the 'resources' tab). Roads

are always being worked on and maps always change. No reason to not have a road map.

13) CAMOUFLAGE FACE PAINT/MASK Face paint is good, but messy (in actual combat, we don't care about how messy it is, we will CAKE that stuff on properly). There are many face coverings available especially in the hunting department of any store. Make sure that your paint is appropriate for the area you will be operating in (light and dark green should just about work everywhere), and appropriate for the season. Make sure that you can see through your facial covering. Always wear gloves or paint your hands. Faces and hands are among the most visible and easily spotted features of any person. In winter, any white cloth is good camo, but be sure to not put any white camo paint on your face or hands; you will not be able to spot frostbitten areas.

14) MULTI-TOOL/SWISS ARMY KNIFE. These have many uses including repairs to gear and firearms, building shelter, etc.

15) PONCHO WITH LINER OR OTHER BLANKET-LIKE ITEM. Your poncho must be waterproof. Many military surplus ponchos are available, and they are not expensive. In a pinch, you could even use a commercially available civilian poncho, which costs even less. Many militia members carry a second poncho, to use as either ground cover, or an overhead shelter. Military surplus poncho liners are available for you to use. They fasten to the grommets on US military surplus ponchos for use as a field expedient sleeping bag. This works well, and has been field tested by this author down to twenty-eight degrees Fahrenheit. You may also obtain a military surplus wool blanket. Wool is an excellent insulator, and will even keep you warm if it is wet. Any type of blanket will work in a bind. You may also carry a sleeping bag instead of a blanket. Lightweight sleeping bags will work in all but the coldest of environments. You may wish to look for a sleeping bag with a waterproof-lined bottom. A sleeping pad is also a good idea. You should still always have something, like a poncho or a small tarp, to use for overhead cover.

16) 50 FEET OF 550 CORD (PARACORD). 550 cord or paracord is one the greatest multi-function items to carry in the field. This can be used to fashion a shelter from your poncho, secure loose gear, secure prisoners, fashion booby-traps (theoretically speaking, that is), and anything else you can think of. The 50 feet is a minimum. Many militia members carry two fifty-foot long sections. You can carry heavier rope, and indeed, someone in your team or squad should have a 120' rope with them.

17) COMPASS, non-electric, with degree markings. The cost on these will vary widely.

18) WATER PURIFICATION TABLETS/FILTER. Whether you get a filter or chemical treatment, such as iodine, water purification is an important component of long term field operations. Check your iodine tablets, if they are reddish orange (sort of a rust color), then they are no longer good. We have been told that "Polar Pure" crystal purification system works well, as do some of the other portable filter systems. One of the best filter systems is a "KATADYN" water filter. Ceramic filters may work very well, but may also break. In a pinch, you can simply bring your water to a rolling boil for no less than FIVE minutes, preferably longer.

19) MAGNESIUM FIRESTARTER/FIRE STICK. These will last A LOT longer than your matches will and will still work when they are wet.

20) SMALL HYGIENE KIT. Suggested items include: Toothbrush/toothpaste, foot powder, razor, unscented soap/body wipes, unscented deodorant, nail file, nail clippers, personal medications, etc. Do not bring perfumes, colognes, or any other "smell good" stuff. Remember you are trying to blend into your surroundings.

Also recommended are bug repellent, sunscreen, and don't forget TOILET PAPER. You never know for sure where a training may take place and you don't want to be guessing which plant leaves to use. Most of us carry between $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ of a roll, flatten it and put it into a zip lock bag so that it stays dry. Keep this in your cargo pants pocket so that it is readily available when you need it.

21) NOTEPAD AND PENCIL. You always find that you wish you had this to write something down. A pencil is preferred over a pen because it is more reliable. Pens dry up, freeze in cold weather, and can burst and make a big mess. Pencils on the other hand work in any temperature, can always be sharpened with a knife, and if it breaks then you now have two pencils.

22) FOOD. One full day worth of food. The average American consumes around 2000-3000 calories a day. At level one you should be able to last in the field about 12-24 hours.

23) SHELTER – TARP STYLE OR TENT – You will not be required to carry this with you, but trainings and locations vary in sleeping arrangements so it is always a good idea to have some type of shelter available. We usually have a camp set up where you can pitch a tent for the night, other times

we may have an exercise that requires building your own shelter in the field, which is where a tarp or your poncho and liner will come in handy.

20) COPY OF THE US CONSTITUTION AND DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: Neither of these grant us any rights. It is far beyond the scope of a written document to bestow (or remove) a naturally occurring right. Instead, they seek to clarify and preserve our natural, fundamental human rights, none of which are dependent upon any mere document.

IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO CARRY THESE DOCUMENTS INTO THE FIELD, BUT MERELY TO HAVE THEM AVAILABLE TO YOU.

A thorough understanding of how the Constitution was designed only to limit the government will lead you to better grasp the nature of some of the threats that loom over our country today. We suggest that you become quite familiar with your Constitutions. There are many who would deny its validity: they are your enemy.

If, for some reason, you do not have a copy of these important documents available, please contact your nearest militia unit and they can furnish you with one. You can also contact your Congressman or Senator and request a copy.

This concludes the basic equipment list. We feel that these items will be relatively easy to acquire, and the total cost of "gearing up" will not be overwhelming. If you still have difficulty in finding some items, or if you need help selecting something, feel free to contact your local militia unit for assistance.

Please remember that this guide is only intended to serve as a starting point, and that there will always be some other items that you will discover to be necessary later on. We will publish guidelines for additional levels as we develop them. Your input on these further publications will be very much welcomed.

BASIC ABILITIES – A DETAILED LOOK

Having looked at the basic equipment, we will examine three simple abilities. We feel that, after demonstrating these abilities, you can be considered "able-bodied and capable of bearing arms".

A) COMPLETE A TWO -MILE HIKE WITH ALL BASIC EQUIPMENT WITHIN 40 MINUTES. You will also be required to carry any shooting aid that you intend to use in your rifle qualification.

It is important to be able to get around on foot. It is possible that, under any number of circumstances, travel by other means will be difficult or impossible. A short, two -mile hike at a slow to moderate pace is a good measure of your mobility.

Please do not be alarmed by the distance. Two miles is actually a very short walk. Most of us cover many more miles in our daily lives.

You will be given as many attempts as you need to complete this walk. If, for some reason, you do not succeed the first time, additional attempts will be allowed after a brief rest period of not less than 15 minutes. It is very possible that persons who do not make it the first time could easily make it if they merely pick up the pace a bit.

As there are few roads along which a militia hike would fail to attract unwanted attention, the hike will take place on a private road or trail.

The hike may occur in any weather or road condition.

Please do not attempt this hike if it may jeopardize your health.

B) FIELD STRIP YOUR WEAPON FOR CLEANING. Since there are many types of weapons available, this guide cannot possibly cover even a fraction of them.

There are several ways to learn how to break down your rifle. You can learn from the manual that will come with any new rifle. You can learn from instructions published in some other sources, such as certain issues of "Guns & Ammo", and the like. You can also ask someone who is already familiar with that type of firearm. Any gathering of friendly militia people is bound to be brimming over with firearms knowledge, and they will be more than willing to help you. Do not be embarrassed to ask someone for help- the only dumb question is the one that you don't ask.

You will need to break your weapon down so that the bore, bolt, and gas system (if it has one) may be properly cleaned. There will be additional items that it is possible to break down (buffer springs, extrac tor pins, hand guards, etc.), but for now, this simple field stripping

will suffice.

YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO PUT YOUR FIREARM BACK TOGETHER.

In many instances, there will be a special tool or device required to break down a certain piece or aspect of a particular firearm. If you are aware of this, it is very important that you obtain this special tool, preferably when you buy the firearm. Sometimes, however, the requirement of a special tool is a warning that you should not remove that certain part at all, so any time a tool is required, exercise extreme caution. Consult your manual, or someone who is thoroughly knowledgeable about your weapon before using any "special tools".

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: NEVER ATTEMPT TO DO ANYTHING WITH A WEAPON UNLESS YOU UNLOAD AND CLEAR IT FIRST! NEVER, EVER POINT YOUR WEAPON AT ANYONE! ALWAYS BE SAFETY CONSCIOUS!

C) PLACE 8 OUT OF 10 SHOTS INTO A 9" TARGET AT 100 YARDS. From a field expedient position, using any item that you carried on your two -mile hike, place 8 out of 10 shots into a 9" target at 100 yards. No bench rests will be allowed, and there will be no coaching while you are firing your 10 round string. You will be required to complete this within 5 minutes. You may use a bipod, sleeping pad, rucksack, or whatever, as long as it was carried on your hike. You are not required to use anything. If time permits, you will be allowed to sight in prior to actual qualifying.

A total of three attempts will be allowed per training session. Following your first attempt, you are free to request a critique of your shooting. In fact, such critiques are often provided without any request at all.

Hitting a 9" target at 100 yards should be relatively easy. (At higher levels, the target will get smaller.) Almost any militia person will help you accomplish this. If you just show up at any range training, we'll be glad to help. (Some training sessions do not require firearms, so please check first.) The final word on shooting, and you will hear this repeated often, is "practice, practice, practice."

D) UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN ALERT LEVELS. The alert levels are so that everyone knows what preparedness level that they should be at for themselves and their family. Various economic, worldly, and local conditions can have an effect on the level. You must show that you understand what it is that you need to do at each level and state the level that the MMCW is currently at.

E) CAMOUFLAGE SELF AND EQUIPMENT. Considering your environment, use whatever camouflage material you have on hand, and also using local foliage, with the property owner's permission, you must camouflage yourself and equipment. You must attempt to break up the natural outlines of the human shape, and hide your face and hands, while blending in with your environment. Pay attention to any shiny or brightly colored gear that you may be wearing. Hide or cover this gear. Shiny metal surfaces should be painted or taped over. Your fellow militia persons will judge this. In combat, if you are visible, then your whole unit should be considered to be visible as well. Take this skill seriously.

CONCLUSION

This completes what you need for Level 1. Upon fulfilling these, providing contact information of some sort, one may be considered an active line member of the Michigan Militia Corps Wolverines. That is, we will count you as "able -bodied and capable of bearing arms", and you are now able to vote in MMCW activities.

If you do not complete this, for whatever reason, but are still interested in helping out and participating as much as you can, we will still welcome you as reserve or support members. Some of our most dedicated participants have been unable, due to illness or injury, to fully complete Level One. They do as much as they can when they are out there, and more than most in other areas.

There is no time requirement to begin Level 1, other than those dictated by outside events. It makes sense of course, to get it done as quickly as possible.

Persons achieving Level 1 are eligible to join a team, can vote in MMCW brigade and Division scheduled meetings, and be placed on the phone tree.

We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding these simple requirements.