Yesterday’s soldiers entered the 20th century as the victors of the Spanish-American War and faced new challenges in the Philippines, China and other hot spots.

Today’s soldiers — with a modern force structure, computerized equipment and high-tech weaponry—owe a debt of gratitude to their unknown comrades in simple blue shirts and battered campaign hats. This representation of the 1900-era soldier includes individual equipment issued to soldiers during that period.

**Sky-Blue Kersey Overcoat**

The all-seasons overcoat was made of 22-ounce sky-blue kersey (twill weave) lined with dark-blue flannel. The pattern was calf length and double breasted, fastening with two rows of eight brass buttons. Attached underneath the rolling collar by means of metal hooks and eyes was a removable, finger-length cape, rolling collar by means of metal hooks and dark-blue flannel for the infantry, brass buttons. Attached underneath the collar were two grommets along the edges. In the center the lettering “U.S.” were either woven or stamped in indigo dye.

Weight: 7.0 pounds

**Woolen Blanket**

Included in the clothing allowance was a blanket of pure long-staple wool in a twilight weave. It measured 6 feet long by 5 1/2 feet wide. The color was a mixture of blue and white yarns, with a dark-blue stripe, 1/2 to 3 inches wide, across each end, about 6 inches from the edge. In the center the letters “U.S.” were either woven or stamped in indigo dye.

Weight: 5.0 pounds

**Haversack Bag and Henry Marching Order**

In 1878 the Watervliet Arsenal modified the individual equipment to include, besides a canteen and haversack for rations, a rectangular blanket bag made of drab cotton duck for the bedding and space clothing. It was worn on the back and was supported by detachable shoulder straps of black leather with double-size brass hooks. Within the blanket bag each soldier carried a shelter tent, poncho, overcoat, toilet articles.

Weight: 2.4 pounds (full)

**Blanket and Henry Marching Order**

In 1879 they remained part of the field uniform until the first combat service boot arrived in 1943.

**Rubber Poncho**

Every soldier also carried a poncho for rain protection. Authorized in 1861, the poncho was made of half-lined cambric sheeting coated with Para rubber and rubber buttons. The all-seasons overcoat was made of 22-ounce sky-blue kersey (twill weave) lined with dark-blue flannel. The pattern was calf length and double breasted, fastening with two rows of eight brass buttons. Attached underneath the rolling collar by means of metal hooks and eyes was a removable, finger-length cape, rolling collar by means of metal hooks and dark-blue flannel for the infantry, brass buttons. Attached underneath the collar were two grommets along the edges. In the center the lettering “U.S.” were either woven or stamped in indigo dye.

Weight: 5.0 pounds

**Sky-Blue Kersey Trouser**

Soldiers wore trousers of 22-ounce wool kersey (twill weave) in the traditional contrasting sky blue. The post-1885 shade was darker than the Civil War color. These trousers had a separate waist band, fly front and buckle fitted back strap in the rear. The trousers had a separate waist band, fly front and buckle fitted back strap in the rear.

Weight: 2.0 pounds

**Dark-Blue Flannel Shirt**

The soldier’s flannel shirt had been dark blue since 1881. It was made of 10-ounce wool flannel in a slip-on pattern with a 1/4-inch deep collar opening and a 3-inch deep rolling collar. The round cuffs and breast pockets, 7 inches deep by 6 inches wide, all fastened with black horn or rubber buttons.

Weight: 1.3 pounds

**Vested Cartridge Belt**

The soldier carried 100 rounds of .30-caliber rifle ammunition in his double-loop cartridge belt. Authorized in 1894, to match the dark blue uniform, the color returned to a natural gray after the war with Spain.

Weight: 1.6 pounds empty

**Haversack**

The soldier carried 100 rounds of .30-caliber rifle ammunition in his double-loop cartridge belt. Authorized in 1894, to match the dark blue uniform, the color returned to a natural gray after the war with Spain.

Weight: 0.5 pounds

**M-1892 Knife Bayonet**

As the first combat service boot arrived in 1943.

Weight: 2.0 pounds

**M-1896 Magazine Rifle**

In 1878 the Watervliet Arsenal modified the double-looped cartridge belt by means of the M-1899 double-wire hook, the blue-steel scabbard of the M-1892 knife bayonet replaced the socket bayonet with triangular blade.

Weight: 1.7 pounds

**Khaki Canvas Leggings**

Soldiers wore leggings of 15-ounce khaki cotton duck. Fastened with a branded round cord around brass hooks on the outside and a buckled leather strap beneath the instep, legging eliminated tucking the trousers into the socks. Adopted in 1889, they remained part of the field uniform until the first combat service boot arrived in 1943.

Weight: 0.5 pounds

**Goodyear Welt Boots**

The pattern used an ankle-high (quarter) upper with a welt heel strap, joined to a straight vamp (toe) with a horizontal seam.

Weight: 2.3 pounds

**Sky-Blue Kersey Overcoat**

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Weight: 5.0 pounds

**Henry Marching Order**

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Weight: 2.4 pounds (full)

**Blanket and Henry Marching Order**

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The pattern used an ankle-high (quarter) upper with a welt heel strap, joined to a straight vamp (toe) with a horizontal seam.

Weight: 2.3 pounds
Today’s soldiers are arguably the smartest, deadliest and best trained in the history of our nation. In fact, the U.S. Army is commonly accepted as being the best in the world. Some of the credit for that world-renowned reputation must be given to technological advances over the last 100 years. Soldiers now have individual equipment that provides almost every possible combat advantage. This representation of the soldier of today includes individual equipment currently being issued to soldiers around the world.

**Improved Rainsuit**
The BES parka and trousers are made of a pliable, moisture vapor semipermeable polyurethane backside coated nylon material with a durable water-repellent finish. The parka will accept the standard button-in field jacket liner for additional insulation. The trousers also have underarm ventilation slide fasteners, front inseam tab and adjustable toggle closures at the hems and bottom hem. The trousers have slide-fastener, adjustable-closure, bottom leg hems for easier donning and doffing without removal of boots. Weight: 2.9 pounds

**Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology Ensemble**
The JSLE is a lightweight, flexible clothing system that provides protection against chemical and biological agents. The JSLET components include an overgarment worn over the Battle Dress Uniform, and the Multifunction Rain/Snow/CB Overboots worn over standard combat boots. These items, when combined with standard CB protective bag and masks for respiratory protection, allow for complete mission-oriented protective posture flexibility. Weight: 9.6 pounds

**Knee and Elbow Pads**
Knee and elbow pads provide protection to dismounted soldiers engaged in tasks that subject these areas to possible injury caused by impacts, pressure, puncturing objects and debris. The pads come in three sizes and are constructed of a molded polyethylene shell fastened to a camouflage fabric outer cover with elastic banding and strapping for a form-fitting, secure inner lining. Inside the covering is sewn a three-inch impact-cushioning polyethylene foam. Weight: 1.7 pounds

**Meal, Ready-to-Eat, Individual**
The standard MRE, intended for the individual soldier, which was fielded in the early 1980s. Each MRE contains approximately 1,300 calories. The MRE remains usable for six months at 100 degrees. Since 1993, 70 new items have been approved for the MRE, 14 of the latest popular items were replaced, menus increased from 12 to 24, and four vegetarian meals are now included. Weight: 3.1 pounds (XS-Small) 4.2 pounds (X-Large)

**M-4 Carbine**
The M-4 is a more compact, four-pound stockless version of the M-16A2 rifle. Weight: 4.5 pounds

**M-9 Multipurpose Bayonet System**
The M-9 multipurpose bayonet system is used as a bayonet on the M-16-series rifle and the M-4-series carbine. It is a general purpose side arm weapon, as a field weapon, as a general-purpose side arm weapon, as a field weapon, as a general-purpose side arm weapon. Weight: 3.1 pounds

**Battle Dress Uniform, Temperate Zone**
This four-color woodland-camouflage pattern uniform is intended for use in temperate-zone combat, field and garrison environments. The coat is a "bush-type" design with breast and lower pockets. The trousers have four standard pockets, two with flaps, and two leg-armor pockets with flaps. The cloth is 50 percent cotton, 49 percent nylon and one percent static dissipative fiber. Weight: 3.1 pounds

**Combat Boot, Mildew- and Water-Resistant**
Combat boots are worn in combat, field and garrison environments that don’t require specialized footwear. The upper of the boot is made of cowhide leather treated for mildew and water resistance. The boot has a lace-and-loop closure system, padded collar and direct-molded sole with deep-lug tread design and a replaceable heel. Weight: 4.1 pounds per pair (Size 9)

This helmet-mounted image-intensification system is used for such nighttime operations as driving, walking, map reading and performing maintenance. The system is designed for use in conjunction with rifled-mounted night optics.

**Night Vision Goggles, AN/PVS7D**
Weight: 1.5 pounds

**Soldier Intercom**
The Soldier Intercom allows soldiers to talk to each other from up to 700 meters without giving away their positions. Squad leaders can talk to the entire squad simultaneously on a discreet channel heard only by them. Each unit includes a receiver/transmitter, rechargeable battery pack and head set with boom microphone. Weight: 1.4 pounds

**MOLLE System**
- **On-the-Move Hydration System**
  - M-4 Carbine
  - M-9 Multipurpose Bayonet System
  - Battle Dress Uniform, Temperate Zone
  - Combat Boot, Mildew- and Water-Resistant
  - Night Vision Goggles, AN/PVS7D
  - Soldier Intercom
  - M-40 Protective Mask
  - M-9 Multipurpose Bayonet System
  - Battle Dress Uniform, Temperate Zone
  - Combat Boot, Mildew- and Water-Resistant
  - Night Vision Goggles, AN/PVS7D
  - Soldier Intercom
  - M-40 Protective Mask