

What's in Your Pocket?

By Kevin Reeve, onPoint Tactical

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I am frequently asked what my every day carry (EDC) consists of. To answer that, you have to first understand how I look at the world. My worldview is that we live in precarious times. The veneer of society is sometimes thin, and a precipitating event can trigger a cascade of dangerous situations. My EDC is reflective of this perception.

I break my EDC into tiers. Tier one is what I carry on my person, in my pockets. I standardize what I carry and where I carry it. For example I always carry my wallet and phone in my front left pocket. My wallet has the usual cards and cash, but there is also a hidden compartment with lock picks, an auto jiggler (universal car key), and a handcuff key.

My right pocket contains a folding knife (The Benchmade Grey Man), a lighter, a Chapstick, a folding lock pick set and a flashlight. (Fenix)

My right rear pocket holds a Moleskine notebook (graph paper). Pen, and a second folder (ESEE Avispa). I usually wear a neck knife (Sparta Enyo) and sometimes an ankle knife. I always have a Leatherman wave on my belt. My watch has an altimeter and compass. My iPhone has a compass and a cool app for navigation call TacNav.



I have a concealed carry permit and while I am in state, I carry every time I leave the house. My preferred carry is a Glock 19.

My Tier Two gear is in a backpack/computer bag. It has two level IIIA panels inside. Besides my computer and associated cables, etc, I carry a trauma kit. This is designed for treating GSWs and contains a tourniquet and hemostatic sponges. I also have some travel medicines like Pepto, Imodium, Advil, and Band-aids. Since I fly with this bag, I avoid putting knives in this kit since I tend to forget and end up getting a cavity search from TSA. I have a compass (Silva Ranger) ad 50' of 550 cord. I have an SF friend who says if you give a Green Beret a knife and paracord, he can take over a small country.

I have a second Tier Two bag that is smaller and I carry it when I do not need a computer. It holds a trauma kit, a couple of knives (James Williams'), a flashlight, and five Glock 19 magazines. Plus a compass and paracord.

My Tier Three kit is what I need for longer term survival. It is usually carried in the back of my jeep or SUV. This would be useful if I was away from home when an event occurs. It includes shelter, water, fire making gear, and food. Specifically, an Eno doublenest hammock with fly and net. A down underquilt for the hammock, a lightweight sleeping bag, a cook stove (Solo brand- no petroleum fuel required) 16 oz titanium cook pot, and freeze dried food. For water purification, I carry a Katadyn Pocket filter.

In addition, I have a trauma kit, a first-aid kit, a survival pouch, compass, paracord, a couple of knives (TOPS onPoint knife, James Williams Hissatsu), a Wilderness Innovation poncho. With this gear I have the ability to live without resupply for several days in both a wilderness or urban environment. By adding food, I can go indefinitely.

Our company motto is "*Training Trumps Gear.*" So while having this gear makes it easy to get by, it is not essential. If I lost all of my tier two and three gear, I could still do just fine with my tier one because I have practiced doing without. If I lost everything, I could still make it work, it would just be harder, more challenging. My mentor repeatedly required us

to survive without any tools, just the clothes on our backs. What this taught us was that having a knife was awesome.

Why do I carry this much gear? As I get older, my tolerance for discomfort diminishes. I can get by with nothing, but that really sucks. So what I carry is designed to make me comfortable. Getting older sucks, too.

©2018 Kevin B Reeve - onPoint Tactical Kevin Reeve is the authority on Urban Survival and Urban Escape & Evasion, and has trained SERE instructors, as well as special forces, regular military, law enforcement, government and NGO aid workers, as well as average citizens.

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Kevin has been featured on 20/20, A&E, History Channel, and The Tim Ferris Experiment

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[Escape from Las Vegas: My Weekend of being Fake-Kidnapped in Sin City](#)

[Best. Training. Ever.](#) NetworkWorld

[In Hard Times, Survival Classes Provide Some Comfort](#) Washington Post

[Handcuffed and Stuffed in a Car Trunk](#) Survival Blog

[The Art of Survival: Essential Skills for the Post Apocalyptic World](#)

UK The Independent

[Survival School](#) CNBC

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