

Uniform Guidelines

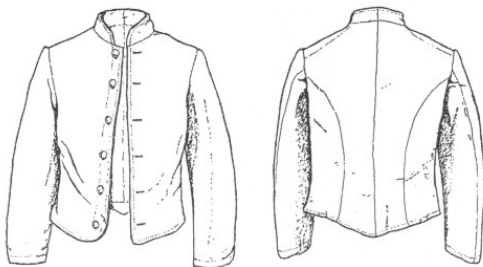
Company K, 7th Florida & 7th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments

Confederate Impression

Jackets

The 7th Florida spent a majority of the war as part of the Army of Tennessee. Several jacket types are appropriate for an Army of Tennessee impression. From 1862 through the end of the war, the AOT was primarily supplied by two depots: Columbus and Atlanta. They each had their own, yet similar, version of jackets: the Columbus Depot jacket (right) and the Atlanta Depot jacket (below).

Unfortunately, we do not know which depot supplied the 7th Florida, but it is likely one or both of these depots supplied jackets to the 7th at least once during the war. Thus, either of these two jackets are the most appropriate and considered accurate impressions. Frock Coats (see Federal Impression for an example) are also acceptable, though not as common as Columbus or Atlanta Depot jackets.



Jackets were usually made from Jean Wool (also called Jean Cloth), which was a mix of jean and wool materials. They were usually a shade of tan, brown, butternut, or gray. Buttons were sometimes wooden, but usually brass with no markings on them. Avoid buttons with state markings or CSA markings on them.

Occasionally, Company K will conduct a militia impression during battles, during which Battle Shirts or no jacket are acceptable. Every reenactor should have a jacket and can purchase a battle shirt in addition if they would like.

Pants

You will see many reenactors wearing Federal wool sky-blue pants with a Confederate impression. This is acceptable, especially for new reenactors, however it is not preferred. Pants used by the AOT would have been similar in material and color to the jackets used by the AOT. Jean Wool was most common

Uniform Guidelines

Company K, 7th Florida & 7th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments

and would have been the same colors as jackets (shades of tan, brown, butternut, or gray).

Civilian type pants made from linen or canvas were not usually issued but were worn and are also acceptable. Civilian pants should be a shade of tan or brown. Black or dark blue were not commonly worn by enlisted men.

For all pants, buttons should be bone or tin.

Hats

There are several types of hats that were commonly used by the AOT and are acceptable for reenacting.

Kepi - This is the most common hat worn by the Southern forces. Those worn by the AOT were made from the same materials and the same colors as the jackets and had leather brims. Gold braiding on Kepis were only worn by officers.

Civilian Style Hats - There are many different civilian style hats that were worn during the war. It was very common to see men in the AOT to wear civilian hats, especially ones with brims surrounding the entire hat, as they provided more protection for the neck and ears than kepis did. Most civilian styles are acceptable for an AOT impression.

Belt Buckle

There are many belt buckles to choose from, and many of the options are not accurate, so be careful when purchasing. The belt buckle we most recommend is a rectangular brass or tin buckle with CSA on it. These were issued to the AOT and it is likely regiments from Florida were also issued these. If you are using a civilian style belt, a frame style belt buckle will work. We do not recommend utilizing a US belt buckle for a southern impression.



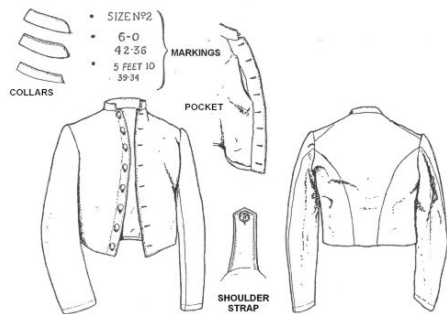
Uniform Guidelines

Company K, 7th Florida & 7th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments

Union Impression

Jackets

There are several types of jackets that were commonly issued to Union soldiers, and most are acceptable for reenacting as a Federal infantryman in Florida. The most common jacket type issued was a Sack Coat (right), which is simply a loose-fitting coat with no exterior pockets, and a coat length slightly longer than the sleeves.



Shell Jackets (left) were also issued in mass, though not as much as Sack coats. Shell Jackets were used more frequently by artillery and cavalry soldiers, however, many were worn by infantry regiments on all fronts. They are very short in the torso, with long sleeves. Shell Jackets are the least recommended jacket for a Union

impression. Sack Coats and Frock Coats are both more accurate to infantry and specifically the 7th New Hampshire.

Frock Coats (right) are longer jackets that end just above the knee. Enlisted men wore single breasted frocks (one row of buttons) and had branch of service piping on the sleeves (sky blue for infantry). We do the 7th New Hampshire, along with many other New Hampshire regiments, were issued Frock Coats at some point during the war, as we have several photographs depicting such.



Buttons worn on Federal coats were almost always made from brass and had an eagle or a corps, regiment, or company insignia. We recommend eagle buttons as these were the standard and most common button type used. Eagle buttons are also more versatile and can be used for multiple impressions.

Uniform Guidelines

Company K, 7th Florida & 7th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments

Pants

The standard pants issued to Federal infantry soldiers were wool sky-blue pants with tin buttons. Suspenders would have been used with them. For the 7th New Hampshire, there would not be a stripe down the leg.

Hats

Union soldiers were commonly issued one of two types of hats. For a Federal impression, we only recommend these hats.

Kepi - Made from dark blue or navy blue wool, matching Federal jackets.

Forage Cap - Made from dark blue or navy blue wool, matching Federal jackets. These look like Kepis when they are worn, but they have less structure and are deeper than a Kepi. They are called Forage Caps because soldiers could use them as a bucket to hold their forage. These were the most common type of hat worn by Federal forces.

Others - These are the two most commonly issued hats worn by Union soldiers, however, they do not account for all hats. Some regiments were documented to be wearing other styles of hats, however, we recommend a Kepi or Forage Cap.

Hat Brass - New Hampshire regiments commonly wore brass on the tops of their Kepi's. The most common configuration was a bugle, signifying for infantry, with their regimental number inside the loop, their company letter below it, and the letters "NHV," standing for New Hampshire Volunteers, above the bugle.

Hardee Hat - This is the parade hat issued to the 7th New Hampshire. It is a black felt hat with the brim pinned up on the left side and a black ostrich feather plume. On the front it has a brass bugle with a 7 in the loop, indicating the 7th Regiment, and the company letter above. On the left it has a brass harp. You can see an enlisted member of the 7th New Hampshire displaying his Hardee Hat in the tintype to the right.



Uniform Guidelines

Company K, 7th Florida & 7th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments

Belt Buckle

We recommend using a brass oval "US" belt buckle. This was the most common belt buckle issued to Federal forces, and men from many New Hampshire regiments (including the 7th) were photographed wearing this buckle.

You might find brass breast plates or cartridge box plates with "US" or an eagle. These are acceptable for a Federal impression.

Uniform Guidelines

Company K, 7th Florida & 7th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments

Universal Equipment (Applicable for both North and South)

Shirts

Cotton shirts were most common. It is recommended you get a white or checkered shirt, as these made up most of the shirts issued to soldiers on both sides. Buttons should be made of bone or tin.

Shoes

The shoes issued would have been Brogans. Avoid modern materials, such as rubber or faux leather. Ensure your brogans (including laces) are made from leather. It is highly recommended you have heel plates and/or hob nails installed on your Brogans for additional traction. Enlisted men in the infantry of the AOT usually would not have had boots that went higher than their ankles, such as cavalry or riding boots, so avoid these.

Socks

Socks were made from either wool or cotton. Avoid modern socks, as they are very obviously not period correct due to production techniques.

Haversack

Haversacks are shoulder bags that store personal items and rations. For a Federal impression, a white canvas or tarred canvas haversack are most appropriate. For a Confederate impression, both of the previously listed designs work, as well as other cloth patterns and civilian style haversacks.

Canteen

It is important to get a good canteen, and several styles are usable for both sides. Standard issued canteens are round with either gray or blue wool covering and a canvas sling. If purchasing one of these, we recommend a blue covering so it can be used for both sides. We do not recommend stainless steel canteens, as these are obviously not period accurate. Look for tin canteens instead. Wooden canteens are also acceptable for southern impressions.

Uniform Guidelines

Company K, 7th Florida & 7th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments

Rifle and Leathers

Rifle

We recommend one of two types of rifles for general use in reenacting. Both of these recommended rifles were used en-masse by both sides during the war, and are acceptable for either impression. With either rifle, ensure you have the proper bayonet and ensure it fits correctly.

.69 Cal Model 1861 Springfield Rifle (right) - This was the single most common long arm used during the war, with over one million produced in the north. A large number of southern units used this rifle, as well. This rifle would be the most applicable rifle to use in reenacting as an infantry company portraying both sides.



.577 Cal Model 1853 British Enfield Rifle (right) - This was the most common long arm issued to the southern forces during the war, and second most common issued in the north. Between the two sides, around 900,000 were imported to the US during the war. This is also applicable for an infantry company portraying both sides.



While you might see many other rifles used by reenactors, these are the only two we recommend. The manual of arms was written with these particular rifles in mind, and some maneuvers and positions might not be feasible with other rifles or firearms. Repeating arms and breechloading arms were used (the 7th NH was issued the sharps rifle for a brief period), but there will be incredibly few opportunities to utilize these in our usual battles, so we do not recommend purchasing these. While older smoothbore flintlock muskets were often used during the war, we do not allow these in our company because of the vast difference in operation, manual of arms, and safety concerns. Enlisted men are not allowed to carry revolvers/pistols, as they were not usually allowed to during the war. These were usually reserved for officers.

Uniform Guidelines

Company K, 7th Florida & 7th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments

Leathers

Waist Belt - Belts can be either black or brown leather. We recommend black, as it would be applicable for both sides. Brown is only applicable for a confederate impression. Belts go over your gear and jacket, so be sure to measure your waist over everything you will be wearing under a belt before purchasing.

Cap Pouch - Your Cap Pouch mounts on your belt and will hold the percussion caps for your rifle. Make sure to get one what has wool inside to help keep caps in.

Cartridge Box - A cartridge box will hold your ammunition. It can be either belt mounted or slung across your shoulder and worn under the belt. Either way, most cartridge boxes will come with both a shoulder strap and belt loops, so you can choose which you prefer. Your cartridge box must contain tins, which are used to hold and separate your ammunition. Some events require tins in order for you to take the field, so ensure you have them.

Bayonet Scabbard & Frog - We recommend the US 2-Rivet style Scabbard & Frog (right). They are one piece and sit angled down and behind you. This makes them easier to use and far more comfortable to march in. They are also very accurate and one of the most common scabbards used during the war.



Uniform Guidelines

Company K, 7th Florida & 7th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiments

Camping Equipment

Tent

A Frame Tent – the A Frame tent was used in winter quarters, garrisons, and longer encampments and generally housed several enlisted men at a time. In reenacting, it is common for an A Frame to house one to two individuals comfortably. We use A Frame tents at almost every event, even though most events are depicting battles that would not have had troops sleeping in A Frame tents. These tents will protect you and gear from weather and provide you some privacy.



“Pup / Dog” Tent – A “Pup” Tent, also called a “Dog” Tent, is a small shelter made from two halves buttoned together, each carried by one man. These were used on campaign more commonly than A Frame tents. They provide little protection from the elements, but are generally more accurate for battle reenactments.



Seating

During the war, most enlisted soldiers spent the campaign with no formal seating. They would not have carried stools or chairs, nor would they have used valuable space in wagons for seating. That being said, in our camps at events, we tend to portray a winter camp or a garrison style camp, during which enlisted men might have had more access to seating. The two accurate types of seating are wood chairs and canvas camp stools. There are many different versions and styles of chairs, ensure no modern hardware is visible when purchasing one.