

Event Circular 3: FEDERAL GUIDELINES - The Assault on Fort Blakeley

Most of the Federal troops were re-fitted to full regulation in New Orleans Dec 64 – March 65 before starting the campaign. While in New Orleans it became a fad to wear captured Confederate belt plates – enough that general orders were issued to desist.

Uniform and Equipments, in order of preference if numbered

Headwear

1. Civilian Slouch Hat
2. Army Hat
3. Forage Cap

Coat

1. Federal Issue Fatigue Blouse
2. Private Purchase Fatigue Blouse

Trousers

Enlisted “Sky Blue”

Shirts

1. Issue Shirt
2. Contract Shirt
3. Civilian Shirt

Drawers

1. Federal Issue
2. Christian Commission
3. Civilian

Socks

- Woolen Issue or Civilian

Footwear

1. Federal Issue
2. Civilian Shoes or Boots

Greatcoat (watch weather)

Foot Pattern Overcoat, Sky Blue Kersey

Accouterments

US Issue, Mid- to late-war, complete with newly-issued box and breast plates.

- Belt, U.S. buckle
- Bayonet scabbard
- Cartridge box and sling, U.S. box and breast plate

Haversack

- Painted Issue

Canteen

- Issue, Smooth Side or Bullseye; Gray or brown cover.

Rifle/Bayonet

- M1863 or '64 Springfield.
- Cos. A & K were issued Colt Revolving Rifles.
- Acceptable: Model 1855 or 1861 Springfield; P53 Enfield. Repeating rifle other than Colt.

Knapsacks

Most all had knapsacks so that is what is preferred

1. Late War Double Bag
2. Acceptable: Horse Collar Blanket Roll, Blanket Sling

Blankets

- Tan “Emergency Issue”
- Grey Army Issue

Ground Cloth

- Vulcanized Rubber or Painted

Tents

- Shelter Halves and small flies in trenches and rifle pits.
- Flies and other tents in rear camp in woods.

Note on Subdued Officer Insignia: Photographic images of Union Officers indicate that a number removed the shoulder straps and sewed their rank emblem directly to coat shoulders as per WD Gen Orders in Nov 1864. One of the best examples is that of Col Victor Vifquain, 97th Illinois, that attached the north flank of Redoubt 4.

Tools

- Wheelbarrows, axes, shovels, spades.
- A few tools will be available for sign-out at brigade headquarters.