



# THE PROFESSIONALS

REAL-LIFE EVERYDAY CARRY

STORY BY DAVE MERRILL

Given what we've seen people purport to actually carry on the Internet, huge clown shoe JNCO jeans coming back to the market starts to make a little bit of sense.

But just as with dating sites and gun forums, sometimes you have to take personal declarations with a grain of salt. No, Chad, you shouldn't list your body type as

"athletic" in your profile if you're 100 pounds overweight.

A soldier's load in Afghanistan is different from a suburban soccer mom; where you live, work, and what you do can and will affect what you carry. Someone who works from home can get away with a helluva lot more than someone in a professional nonpermissive office environment.

Unless you have unlimited space, you have to prioritize what you carry and when. Though it would be nice to have 16 specialized items in your pockets at all times covering all the bases from firearms to fire building, that simply isn't practical. But if you can get away with it, consider some practical items that go beyond just the gun. **C**



## ERIK "TREK" UTRECHT

### ORGANIZATION:

MDFI (Michigan Defensive Firearms Institute)

### POSITION:

Owner / Lead Instructor

### URL:

TrainMDFI.com

### MILITARY/LE EXPERIENCE:

USAF

### HIGHEST MILITARY/LEO RANK:

Staff Sergeant

### SURVIVAL/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BACKGROUND:

Not just someone who loves the outdoors and the recipient of some great training courtesy of Uncle Sugar, I've had the privilege of training under the crew at Dark Angel Medical and the honor of being a Assistant Instructor with Greenside Training that teaches tracking all over the country.

### EDC ITEMS:

- › Glock 19 "ATEI Gun #2" old-school prototype slide and DIY frame
- › Streamlight ProTac 2L
- › Benchmade Model 530
- › ASP Key Defender OC spray
- › Dark Angel Medical DARK Lite

### PHILOSOPHY ON EDC ITEMS:

**Pistol:** My Glock 19 is a workhorse. This is my teaching gun, competition gun, and carry gun. Doug at ATEI made this slide back when he was starting the top "serration" trend, and the prototype side serrations on the RTF slide mean I get traction everywhere. While not an expert at it, my DIY stippling works great. It travels with me in whatever holster meets the needs of the day.

**Light:** I found a great EDC light in the ProTac 2L. Aside from the ridiculous strobe feature, I have a max output at first tap and a great low utility output at the third. This light goes with me everywhere and gives me the light I need for normal day-to-day use, and it works very well with my handgun if needed. A Cannibalized RCS Light Ring adds assistance in deployment and retention.

**Knife:** Like most folks, I need a knife that I can carry for all times, not just when ninjas are attacking. The Benchmade 530 is light, sharp, and very thin. This is another great EDC tool that, if maintained, will prove a long-time friend.

**OC:** The majority of any use of force encounters we might have will most likely not include the lawful use of a gun. I make it a point to carry a Less Lethal OC (pepper spray) artificial reach tool with me all the time like the ASP Key Defender. My JPX Projector (see previous edition of RECOIL Concealment) is cool, but belt real estate is finite when just going grocery shopping.

**Medical:** If you carry a tool to make holes in bad guys, have the tools and training to fix holes in good folks. The Dark Angel Medical DARK Lite is the perfect size with just enough for personal carry to augment the kits I have in every vehicle and around the homestead.

I'm just a dude. I'm no longer in the service and no longer have a badge on my chest. Just because that is the case doesn't mean I hold myself to any less of a standard.

Every day those of us who carry a gun must strive to be a boon to society and not a liability to our fellow man as a responsibly armed citizen. By being prepared for a fight — but not looking for one — we can get back to what life is all about: enjoying it.

