



Tactical Gear Pre-Deployment Checklist

This checklist isn't theory. It's shaped by real-world experience to help you prevent avoidable issues and stay focused on the mission. Use it, adapt it, and pass it on.

1. Personal Load Carrying Equipment

- ☐ Plate carrier fitted correctly – no pinch points or shifting
- ☐ Ballistic plates seated and rated – confirm threat level compatibility
- ☐ MOLLE gear tightly attached – test with shake/movement
- ☐ Sling clear of pouches and armour – check for snags
- ☐ Pouches accessible and indexed – test reloads with gloves
- ☐ Admin pouch stocked – ID, map, pen, chem lights

2. Battle Belt

- ☐ Holster mounted securely – test draw from standing and prone
- ☐ Magazines retained under movement – perform shake test
- ☐ Dump pouch accessible – check for draw interference
- ☐ Tourniquet reachable with either hand – mount externally
- ☐ Knife or multitool secured – no rattle or obstruction

3. Boots and Clothing

- ☐ Boots worn-in and clean – no cracks, dry and stable
- ☐ Socks packed (non-cotton) – merino or synthetic preferred
- ☐ Layers suitable for climate – base, mid and shell ready
- ☐ Camouflage appropriate for terrain – check IR signature if needed

4. Weapon System and Optics

- ☐ Weapon zeroed and dry tested – confirm function and safety
- ☐ Optics mounted securely – zero confirmed; backup sights present
- ☐ Light/laser systems functional – check battery and switch
- ☐ Sling properly adjusted – no interference during reloads
- ☐ Cleaning kit packed – field version sufficient

5. Communications and Electronics

- ☐ Radio tested and mounted – team net check complete
- ☐ Mic/earpiece integrated with helmet – no cable snags
- ☐ Frequencies preset and labelled – backups programmed
- ☐ GPS device loaded – offline maps and backup compass ready
- ☐ NVG/thermal powered and mounted – helmet fit and alignment checked

6. Navigation and Signalling

- ☐ Map waterproofed and marked – include key locations and grids
- ☐ Compass packed and calibrated – don't rely on GPS alone
- ☐ IR strobes or chemlights packed – check for night SOP compliance
- ☐ Identification visible – callsign, blood type, unit
- ☐ Torch tested (red/white modes) – check for accidental white light

7. Medical and Survival Equipment

- ☐ IFAK complete and mounted – tourniquet, gauze, seals, NPA
- ☐ IFAK location known to team – non-dominant side preferred
- ☐ Survival gear packed – bivvy, firestarter, water tabs
- ☐ Rations and water for 24h – minimum 2–3L water
- ☐ Medical ID on body – dog tag or wrist ID

8. Environmental Readiness

- ☐ Weather forecast reviewed – adapt kit to climate
- ☐ Waterproofs packed – test coverage and seams
- ☐ Thermal layer in dry bag – cold weather contingency
- ☐ Insect repellent and hygiene kit – prevent distraction and illness
- ☐ Foot powder and spare socks packed – avoid maceration

9. Final Step-Off Checks

- ☐ All kit strapped and silenced – tape or secure loose gear
- ☐ Comms check completed – all team radios confirmed
- ☐ Documents packed – orders, route cards, laminated if possible
- ☐ Mobility test done – sprint, prone, reloads

10. Mental Readiness and Mindset

- ☐ Mission brief understood – including contingencies
- ☐ Threats and reactions rehearsed – mentally walk through actions
- ☐ Weapon handling drilled – safe handling under stress
- ☐ Hydration, food, rest checked – don't deploy compromised
- ☐ Team cohesion confirmed – no unresolved conflict