WAR ARTIST

Ever wonder what an artist and journalist takes to wear? It starts with a few pencils...

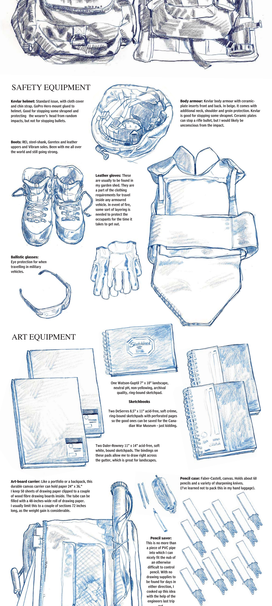
I have two rules when it comes to embedding with the military on a war zone. Rule 1 has to be entirely self-sufficient (I don't want to be a burden to your soldiers or slow you down or worse, a liability) and Rule 2 has to be able physically to keep up with the soldiers. Long distance soldiers have enough to worry about without some office jockey needing help to lift his bags.

The other day I sat in my basement surrounded by a mass of equipment, desperately trying to find ways to cut down the weight. I'm sure I'm not packing a lot of necessary stuff, then it struck me people would not believe how much stuff I am trying to squeeze in and carry.

This week, I head back to Afghanistan to spend time with International Security Assistance Force troops. I'll be spending a lot of time with Canadian troops, but also with the U.S. Army that took over from the Canadians when they left last year. I'll also be spending time with Dutch Canadian-Australian troops for security, training, Afghan personnel.

Here's what I'm taking:

ALL THE GEAR PACKED UP



SAFETY EQUIPMENT

ART EQUIPMENT

TECHNOLOGY

GEAR

CLOTHES

OTHER