

Equipment Review

Snugpak Sleeping Bags

Wherever we are and whatever we are doing staying alert, focused and ready for anything is critical in hostile environments or any region with challenging security problems. To that end looking after yourself is just as important as the job you are there to do, as if you're not physically and mentally at your best your response and performance will suffer. Sleep is a crucial component of this equation, as without adequate sleep your body quickly deteriorates from its best and for anyone having worked in difficult and demanding environments, sleep is not always easy. For us safety and comfort are the key essential to initiating good sleep whilst in hostile regions, safety normally in the form of security with someone on watch and a system of rapid response to any situation, and comfort greatly improved with a high quality sleeping bag and where possible a mat.

Sleeping bags form an essential part of our equipment and after trying various systems in many parts of the world, it's fair to say that our teams now almost exclusively use the Snugpak range. Snugpak, a British company that has been around sometime now has long dedicated itself to good research, testing, quality manufacturing and design. There are wide range of Snugpak bags for varying climates and purposes, and most of us have a couple depending upon where we are to be deployed. They are all very similar in their features and materials though, but I have based this on my general bag a Softie Elite 4. This is the bag I probably use most, although I have a lighter one that packs down smaller for warmer climates or when space is a real problem. However the elite 4 packs down to smaller than many similar bags and I get it down to about 24cm square.

The bags winning features are its durability and quality, with quality zips, a reinforced foot well for when you need to sleep in boots, a snug hood and its superior paratex material, (a closely constructed specialist rip stop type fabric that repels water, wicks moisture and is light and highly durable). The fill is a very light, soft and comfortable synthetic with a very impressive thermal quality even when wet, and again very durable and easy to dry out.

The bag has a special expansion system which helps control temperature so you can either maximise the thermal insulation and the way the bags traps air around the body for maximum warmth and a rating down to about -15 if really required and a very comfortable -10 or expand the panel of the bag for a more spacious cooler sleep in warmer conditions. This flexibility within one bag and its quality design and manufacture makes it ideal for our purposes. It weighs in at about 1900g and always ensures a great night's sleep.

The Snugpak insulated jackets are a favourite with most of us too. Made with the same attention to detail, materials and insulation there is one to suit any operation and climate. They pack down well, last forever, clean up with ease and provide maximum warmth and comfort and with it morale and awareness on even the most challenging jobs.

When it comes to personal kit and equipment for operations and hostile environments then I think it's fair to say the Snugpak military brand is somewhere amongst everyone's locker and deployment bags. If you are travelling to a hostile environment, remote region, or just need quality durable clothing and sleeping gear for adventure or training, check out Snugpak we highly recommend them!

www.snugpak.com/military