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A tactical backpack can assist an experienced user with convenience for an easy quest. With the extensive range of tactical backpacks available on the market today, **Kroko Tactical's** M-1045 backpack really stands out, being well divided yet not too overburdened by pockets and features.

The M-1045 has great features, being assembled with vigour, genuine Cordura 500D in the ripstop weave, coated and treated with DWR finish, making it dustproof and water-repellent. YKK zippers make it secure and sturdy, and the backpack has a capacity of total 45l at 37x75x21cm, weighing 3.9kg empty.



Kroko Tactical's M-1045 backpack was taken out to the field, into the woods, onto the water and finally to the range. It never skipped a beat. Super spacious, rugged and comfy!

The M-1045 features a front loader clamshell for easy access to stowed gear. The full clamshell opening provides excellent and easy access to everything inside, as well as access to all the gear one shoves in there along the way. The main compartment includes one large mesh zipper pouch.

There's a bottom zipper that also provides easy access to gear stowed further down, so one does not have to open the whole bag.

It features built-in ITW-North America Nexus GhilleTex buckles, some of the highest quality military-spec plastic hardware on the market, making it light, quieter and pass through a metal detector, while the GhillieTex technology produces a very low infra-red signature, meaning they do not stand out when viewed through IR vision (not tested by us yet, as we did not have night vision kit handy).



The M-1045 features built-in ITW-North America Nexus GhilleTex buckles.



Four compression straps keep the load tight, securing the main compartment and do not allow the bag to look bulky.



The front loader clamshell for easy access to stowed gear.



It features enough room for everything you need for a long trip.



The bottom zipper provides easy access to gear stowed further down.



Side handles on back enable easy pickup.

The sternum strap distributes weight evenly throughout the upper body to avoid the weight to be focused at a point, helping to lock the bag weight in position, while the adjustable hip belt, which Kroko Tactical calls WDA (Weight Distribution Adapter, part of Kroko's weight distribution system), transfers the extra weight towards the hips. This releases the stress from your back, shoulder, neck and spine.

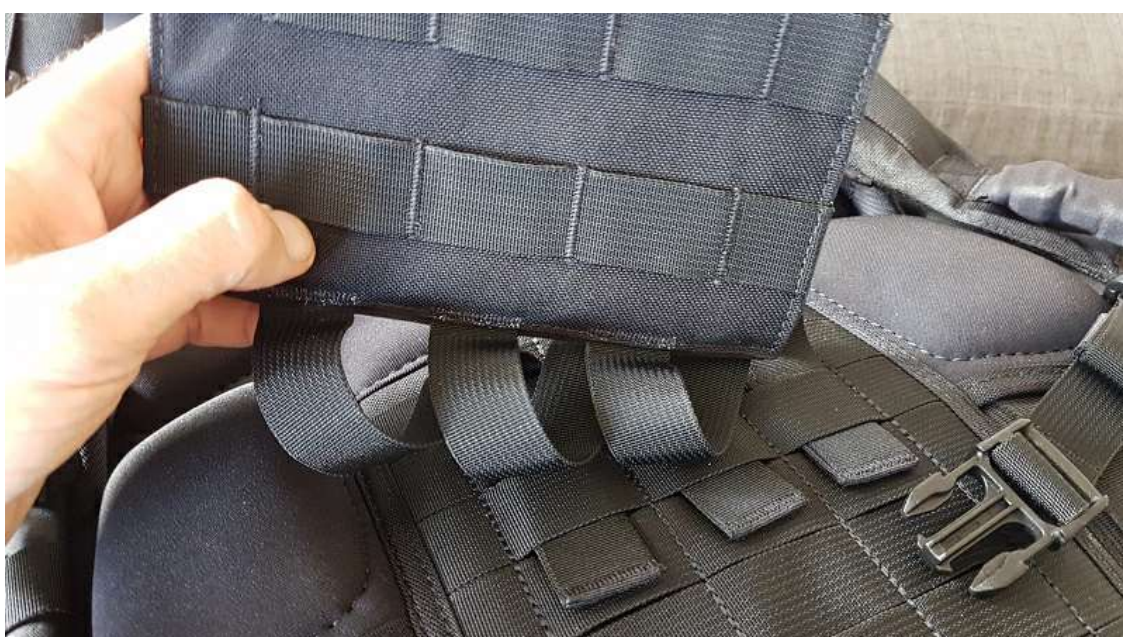
Adjustable waist straps make the backpack adaptable for taller people. Designed with three MOLLE rows, the WDA securely sits on the bottom of the pack until you choose to disconnect it. The WDA keeps the tactical backpack attached on position while moving roughly. Spine reinforcement features an anatomically shaped back plate and two aluminium reinforcement bars on each side.



The laser cut MOLLE make sure you can add whatever you need to the bag. These can be found on front and the sides of the backpack.



Kroko Tactical Weight Distribution Adapter (WDA), part of Kroko's weight distribution system, is easily detachable via an ingenious MOLLE system. See below for photos:



The shoulder straps are very thick to ensure the user's comfort even when the bag is very heavy and full of gear. The front of the straps is well-matched for horizontal clip-ons, straps, D-Rings and weight distribution straps. The shoulder straps are also modifiable, and the right shoulder strap comes with an ingenious quick release feature that can be instantly discharged in case of an emergency situation. I feared this would be triggered when in the field, which for two days it did not! At the end of this article there's a short video demonstrating this.



Very thick shoulder straps to ensure comfort.



The right shoulder strap comes with an ingenious quick release feature.



At the end of this article there's a short video demonstrating this.

It has a foam back panel, with four cushion spots, to allow airflow, lined with S-SKIN fabric. This feature keeps skin cool even though the bag is in contact with the skin. The cushioning consists of three different thicknesses and densities of cross-linked Alveolen foam, a physically crosslinked PO foam, for ultimate comfort. These pads run down each side of the bag large enough to create a ventilation channel for air flow.

S-SKIN moves the way you move, 4-way stretch fabric will not be your burden in any axis; instead it will follow wherever you go recover back to its original form. By adding more or less Spandex fibre into the fabric yarn, we can control the elasticity and therefore the movement and stretch property of the fabric.

Surface treated with durable water repellent finish, S-SKIN absorbs less sweat and moisture than mesh-type outer liners, dries quickly and is much more comfortable, especially if used for concealment products that are worn directly under clothing.

The M-1045 also features reinforcement aluminium bars in the back, making it a very sturdy backpack.



The foam back panel, with four cushion spots, allows airflow and is lined with Kroko's S-SKIN fabric.



The heavy-duty carry and drag handle is quite tough and enables rough dragging.

The front compartment has a water resistant zipper and a water resistant interior and through the two side zippers (left and right) one can access another compartment that can be accessed from either side.



Water resistant zippers and water resistant interiors keep your gear dry.





The bungee cord in the front is excellent for storing your helmet.



Absolutely loved the snap together bungee cord "buckles."



It furthermore features a removable rain/dust cover (100% polyamide), stowed in a secret waterproof compartment on bottom of pack, opening towards the hip-belt via waterproof zipper and a field repair kit that includes various belts and buckles (an extra quick release buckles is in here as well).



The M-1045 backpack features a removable rain/dust cover, stowed in a secret waterproof compartment on bottom of pack, and includes a field repair kit with various belts and buckles.





The M-1045 comes with a field repair kit that includes various belts and buckles. Now that is what I call customer support.

While using this backpack, I did not have one single complaint. It is a merge of all expectations I ever had. This amazing tactical backpack can be used for three days, assisting you for 72 hours.

As I unsuccessfully tried to destroy this bag, I found one miss, though. If you are using a backpack for a longer mission, you must make sure it has a split section intended for water and food, in order to protect documents and equipment if it spills. I found that on this backpack there is no separate section for the water-bladder, even though the main compartment features the tube outlet. I had to carry the bladder with all my other gear, hoping it would

not break. The tube outlet can also be used for whatever cable management you need...or both, as it has this outlet on either side.

It is undoubtedly one of the best military tactical backpacks out there. Regardless of where you are going or whatever operation you intend to do, the M-1045 backpack will be the best companion by carrying all your essentials throughout the journey. MONCh Gear Box approved!



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In an interview with Zarko Popovic, General Manager **KROKO Tactical**, MONCh were informed about the company, its customers and its presence at Enforce Tac 2019.

MONCh: Tell us when and how KROKO Tactical got started.

Z. Popovic: KROKO started more than 50 years ago, in 1961, as a high-end leather manufacturer in Zagreb, Croatia. With the start of the Homeland War in Croatia, we supported our troops and started to produce equipment that was needed - backpacks, belts, uniforms, etc.

MONCh: You've been providing militaries protective and load bearing gear. Describe how that came about.

Z. Popovic: Our beginnings were formative - gathering experiences from front lines, adjusting our products to reflect those, and working closely with end users. From there, we invested a lot into our R&D resources as we realized that quality and innovation are the way to go forward and differentiate ourselves in this extremely competitive market. Protective and Load Bearing systems are our strengths, we've researched, developed, designed, and manufactured over 300 different products in the last 5 years.

MONCh: What militaries use your products?

Z. Popovic: First of all, we're proudly supporting and supplying our own - Croatian Armed Forces have been our partner since day one. We've expanded into the wider European region, not only in armed forces but in law enforcement as well. Today we're supplying complete MOD and MOI of Montenegro, Kosovo Security Force, Portuguese Armed Forces, Swiss Federal Police, German Federal Police. In terms of other markets, we're active in SE Asia with Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore and expanding retail and law enforcement option in USA and Canada.

MONCh: Do you employ retired military personnel?

Z. Popovic: We're an equal opportunity employer, so we take our social responsibility very seriously. KROKO has a number of retired military personnel employees that are working in various roles from manufacturing to management. Apart from ex-military, we work closely with persons with disabilities either directly through employment or through sub-contractor roles with NGO's. Giving back and being involved in the community is of the utmost importance.

MONCh: How will backpacks be different in 2025?

Z. Popovic: We're seeing a lot of development in how and where military and law enforcement professionals operate. In that sense, equipment that they carry and utilize has to change as well. We believe that new, lighter, and stronger materials will play an even bigger role. Also, we'll have to provide systems that are modular so that end users can adjust equipment to the mission specific needs.

MONCh: What makes your products different?

Z. Popovic: We're in an extremely competitive field and our position is that we have to differentiate ourselves through quality, durability, innovation, and development. Our motto reflects that - "That's our R.I.D.E." - as it stands for research, innovate, develop, and enhance. We live up to those demands with the usage of a top of the line textiles, cooperating with numerous textile manufacturers on the development of new fabrics, and various international accredited laboratories to assure that we comply with those high demands.

KROKO Tactical at a Glance

KROKO Tactical is a globally successful manufacturer and supplier of military and police equipment, company that delivers the right solution at the right time and place, producing and delivering products based on customer specific needs and wishes.

MONCh: Describe your testing process.

Z. Popovic: We're a firm believer in a thorough testing of our products so that they meet our quality standards. The testing process is divided into three parts - first of all, we have a thorough inspection of materials that are used in that particular product, we compare specs with the end user requirement, and we make sure that everything is in order. Next step is to get the product out in the field and on this part, we have a cooperation with professionals that are both in active service and retired so that we can make adjustments if it's needed. The final step is to get those products in the independent laboratory to verify results.

MONCh: What do you expect to gain from Enforce Tac 2019?

Z. Popovic: We see Enforce Tac 2019 as a great way to showcase our products to professional users and decision makers. Apart from that, we also have a significant number of potential and existing business partners that are attending this event. So, we firmly believe this is an excellent opportunity to have meetings, presentations, and expand our network.

MONCh: Thank you.



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In an interview, Zarko Popovic, General Manager KROKO Tactical, states that the company is supporting and supplying the Croatian Armed Forces as well as supplying the complete MOD and MOI of Montenegro, Kosovo Security Force, Portuguese Armed Forces, Swiss Federal Police, German Federal Police. (All Photos: KROKO Tactical)

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Further informations



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Today (Wednesday, 23 January), **KROKO Tactical** presents a wide range of products - two backpacks, vests, belts and pouches at SHOT Show Pop-Up Preview 2019, booth W1514, from 08:30 a.m. till 05:30 p.m. The event is taking place at The Venetian - Palazzo Ballroom (5th floor).

KROKO is using this opportunity to showcase their products to dedicated law enforcement and military retailers and operators that who come to the show every year looking to enhance their product offerings/tactics. By presenting the latest gear and some of the best apparel along with supplying customers with everything they need for their outdoor experience, KROKO is expanding its footprint.

Go check them out.

Shown is their amazing M-1045 backpack. Review on MONCh here (<https://www.monch.com/mpg/news/gear-box/4147-m-1045.html>), and its larger brother the M-1060, with the same minimal design features, clam shell opening but 15 more litres of volume separated into one large pocket on each side. Compatible with the company's WDA, it increases comfort zone by more than 30 percent!

Furthermore they are showcasing the KROKO M-4009 lightweight and minimal vest (made of Genuine Invista yarn CORDURA 1000D woven fabric, 100% polyamide 6.6) designed for maximum mobility, weight savings, and packability, offering a variety of configuration options to suit an operators needs in terms of load carriage and comfort; and its Inflatable Maritime Tactical Life Vest, designed for missions where the risk of drowning is present. This lightweight vest consists of the upper body laser cut platform with slots for pouch attachment and removable MOLLE belt with leg suspenders. Optional equipment includes 1,5 l hydration bladder, flashlight pouch, medical pouch and radio pouch. Two front openings of the vest include reflective silver tape for improved visibility in rescue situations.

KROKO's pouches, also on show, designed for mounting on belts or vests, keep gear secure and in place without taking up too much space.

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KROKO Tacticals gear during SHOT Show Pop-Up Preview 2019, booth W1514. (Photo: Kroko Tactical)

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