

S.O.TECH Mission Pack System

Starting in 1999 with a concept for modular pack system to support each phase of deployment, S.O.TECH conceived of a multi-tiered load carriage set. While other companies focuses on dedicated medical bags and EOD bags, S.O.TECH endeavored to design a set of bags that could accept mission-centric modules. These bags would break apart into multiple layers of deployment starting with an expedition duffel, this would remain on base while a backpack was extracted for field missions primarily vehicle mounted. Extracting from this pack is a go bag satchel for immediate action. And finally an organizer wallet could be extracted from the go bag to be pocketed containing secure information and currency. This concept matched a developing SOF doctrine perfectly. As S.O.TECH applied the Mission Pack concept to the USASOC SOF Medical Equipment Set's 18D Medical Pack MPMD, the SOF community realigned its thinking. Previously troops were expected to carry everything on their backs. Upon realizing that most missions were happening within one kilometer of their vehicles, the heavy ruckles were being affixed internally and externally to SOF mobility platforms. For this reason, SOTech mission packs and shoulder straps were equipped with metal buckles to guarantee positive attachment to vehicle exteriors.

The Mission Go Bag evolved from being a CLS type grab and go trauma bag to being a mission essential set of items that could be extracted from the main pack and used as a first line of action. All other modules left on the pack would be supporting elements and more advanced equipment that would be secured upon return to the vehicle should they be deemed necessary for action. Soon, a number of mission essential inserts were developed for the Mission Go Bag including a breacher, EOD, camera, laptop, and SERE set.

The insert panel of the Mission Pack System grew from a simple tool panel into a modular advanced tool pack of its own known as the Panel Pack. Keeping the main compartment empty save for a hydration sleeve and two generic mesh pockets allows the pack without panel to be used as a general three day pack. But dropping in the insert panel turns the main compartment into an advanced systems organizer. Holding documents, individual equipment in loops, and pockets for mass storage, the panel allows for each operator to assemble his or her kit for a good overland trek. Removing the panel, we mounted handles on both ends to allow your kit to be splayed on the ground or on a wall for pre-mission load checks. Velcro mounted pouches on the panels can also be ripped off and dropped into the Mission Go Bag for quick carry into action. And finally, as requests for a slim pack came in, we decided to save the customer some money, and we added a zipper closure and shoulder straps. Thus the advanced mission pannel can be removed for direct action missions and worn as its own pack. Essentially, one pack splits into three.

Finally, the Mission Pack System has a series of accessories to include a drop in set of water proof liners and a dive-able set of liners. Instead of setting up a set of land-ops bags and water ops bags, as simple set of liners is available to drop inside the mission pack. Similarly, the duffel has a removable wheel rack giving the operator the flexibility to wheel it or go light and carry the load on his or her back. And for supreme load protection, the Mission Pack System can be dropped into a hard plastic box set.

The latest development to the Mission Pack System has been an adapter system to allow the packs to mount to series of frames including the MOLLE, Airborne Assault Frame, and the venerable ALICE frame. The belt supplied with the pack can be removed and affixed with adapters to the frame. To enhance the comfort of the system, a set of modular pads has been created to slip over the belt and shoulder straps provided. These are supplied when body armor is not worn by the operator, as the Mission Pack System, although padded, was designed with slim padding for use with body armor, and in particular with the S.O.TECH BLOCS, Battle Load Out Carry System.

