

Field Evaluation Date: **May 1-2, 2010**

PRODUCT: **NEMO; Morpho 2P™ Tent**

LOCATION: **Shenandoah Trail, VA.
Altitude 2,500 ft**

Temperature: **low 30's F**

Weather Conditions: **Gusty Winds/Some Rain**

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OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE

Field test the NEMO; Morpho 2 Person Tent and evaluate its applications for use as a shelter for the Search & Rescue Operator.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Nemo Morpho™ 2P (2 person) tent is a unique tent compared to tents using typical “tent pole” architecture. The most striking difference is that there are **NO** tent poles. Nemo features a unique design they refer to as AST (Air Supported Technology) or “airbeams”, which they state are stronger than conventional tent poles. This also makes the tent unaffected by tent pole breakage or loss, easily repairable in the field, and it packs down into a considerably smaller package.



EVALUATION

Shelter Setup

The Morpho 2 Person tent was very easy and fast to set up! Simply locate a suitable location, prep it (if time allows), stake it down, and pump it up. The “Nemoid™” foot pump appeared to be very well made. With components that attach it to, filling the airbeams took less than one minute. After a bit of practice, on my third pitch I was able to completely set this tent up in five minutes.

The weather conditions during this trip had temperatures in the low 30's, roughly 20 mph winds at times, and some rain mixed in. Setting the tent up in the wind was not difficult once you have familiarized yourself with the Morpho. I used the wind to my advantage to spread the tent body out, stake it down, and then pump it up. There is no “rain fly” with this tent as it is a single wall tent so there was no



additional set up required.

Interior Living Space

Livable space in the Morpho 2P was considerable for a two person tent at 39 sq/ft. In my experience having slept in many two person tents, I have never experienced this much livable space. At 39 sq/ft we could have easily slept a third and possibly a fourth person inside if needed. This is a definite added plus for SAR operations.



The Morpho 2P has a lofty ceiling height of 42 inches. Even for a person with a long torso, this would have likely been a very adequate ceiling for sitting up and moving around inside the tent. The lower end of the tent still maintained adequate ceiling height of 32". With a total length of 104 inches and a width of 64 inches even a very tall person could manage to shelter in place with this tent comfortably.

Each internal air support beam had a quick clip for hanging a light. If you are creative and with the ceiling height, you could easily create a gear loft throughout the tent to store common items that you would normally store in a gear loft using tent poles, and not sacrifice too much ceiling height doing so.

External Vestibule

The MORPHO 2P has an additional 14 sq/ft. of covered vestibule space outside the tent's main entrance. One unique feature of the Morpho 2P was that the floor of the tent near the door can be rolled back to create additional vestibule space at the sacrifice of some internal floor space. This could be extremely useful for storing your back pack or bringing a K-9 companion in out of the elements. Nemo chose a 30 denier silicone polyurethane nylon for the tent floor fabric that felt very durable. For the tent shell fabric they chose a 40 denier waterproof/breathable material. The floor fabric manufactured of 30 denier silicone polyurethane nylon felt very durable when lying down on the tent floor.



Ventilation



It is a known fact that single wall tents are not necessarily the best choice if you are using them in a humid environment. Typically they do not ventilate well causing excessive condensation as a result. Here the forward thinking NEMO MORPHO 2P designers used crossbow areas near the floor on each side of the tent to allow more air flow through the tent interior. Our relative humidity was only 24% on this evening, so it was not an issue at all. The tent could not have been drier that morning after a cool brisk night in the Shenandoah Mountains.

Stowage

Breaking down the MORPHO was a breeze. I walked around the tent pulled up the stakes which took all of 60 seconds. Next I plugged in each release valve and in about a total of 30 seconds deflated the tent and stowed it in my backpack.

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. One could argue that at 5.5 lbs. this tent would traditionally be heavy in the backpacking world; however for the Search and Rescue operator the benefits gained by space, durability, and configuration options could be well worth the sacrifice.
2. No tent poles, lots of room, quick to strike and take down and most of all complete shelter and protection from “no-seeums”, chiggers, ticks, flies, mosquito’s, snakes and critters!
3. Overall it was a pleasant experience using this tent in the field. It felt roomy, secure, and dry. If I had needed to pull gear into it I could have even though there were two of us occupying the tent. If I had needed more vestibule space the tent would have given me the ability to create it.

RECOMENDATIONS

The stuff sack was a bit of a tight fit when we stowed the tent and would have been nice if it was slightly larger. For the SAR operator this tent could be used in an urban or wilderness environment. You would have to get a little creative when pitching the tent inside of a structure and employ guy lines to the tent to keep it tensioned. In addition you could also tie or weight down the stake straps for added stability. For the wilderness application,





this tent would certainly provide adequate shelter for an operator and a search dog with gear.
All in all, a really good piece of kit!

FIELD TEST RATING	
Suitability	
Durable Construction	
Quality	
Ease of Use	
Reliable	
Effective	
Cost	

5-Shields – Excellent ♦ 4-Shields – Very Good ♦ 3-Shields-Good ♦ 2-Shields – Average ♦ 1-Shield - Poor