



Kon-Spe-Q-Eddie: IllumiNITE Technical Wear

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Several months ago I received my first piece of equipment to proudly review for IPMBA. The item is a very attractive jacket from IllumiNITE, out of Ashland MA. Right out of the package and at first glance, the jacket had some very striking qualities – including high visibility green color, generous pockets, vented back, drawstring waist, strategically placed reflective piping, and a lightweight mesh liner. Further inspection revealed a really cool feature; the jacket rolls into itself and becomes a compact pack that you can clip around your waist.

Looking at this garment, it is evident that without a doubt it achieves its goal. The magic of IllumiNITE products, though, occurs without the effects of the fire planet. When our nocturnal counterparts begin their day, IllumiNITE's products truly demonstrate how they got their name.

Imbedded in the fabric of all their products is what they call "sataLITE DISH" reflectors. The "sataLITE DISH" technology acts like millions of tiny mirrors that work together to bounce any lighting back to its original source, much like most other reflective products we have seen and used. The very distinct and impressive difference with IllumiNITE's products is that these reflective qualities are not confined to a stripe or lettering. Nearly the entire garment surface is imbedded with this "Electric Cowboy" ability, which IllumiNITE so appropriately names "silhouette reflectivity". When the garment is illuminated, the observer has a clear image or outline of the wearer, including the upper and/or lower extremities (depending on the garment worn). This technology, combined with the many color choices available, creates a very effective and attractive product.

We tested the reflectivity using both direct and indirect lighting sources. Let me tell you, it is really hard to hide at any angle while wearing this stuff. In fact, if it is *in-conspicuity* you're after, you will have to throw a cover over yourself and hide behind a building underneath a rock because this product really achieves its goal. There is a clear and immediately evident advantage to wearing this type of product over a simple stripe or lettering in reflective material. The IllumiNITE fabric creates an easily identifiable profile of the wearer from an impressive distance, upwards of 150 feet! This "silhouette" image is very hard to ignore as it appears to be an actual lighting source. The angle of reflectivity is about the same as with any reflective type product; it provides you approximately 15 degrees in either direction without direct lighting for more stealthy approaches.

Night bicycle operations put us at greatest risk for being struck, so we use many different types of equipment and materials to keep us conspicuous. IllumiNITE's products are a welcome addition to our arsenal. They carry a large assortment of shirts, pants, jackets, shorts and gloves. These folks even offer a line of garments for pets! All their products are manufactured with high-tech, breathable, and water resistant fabrics and materials. All-in-all, I was very impressed with the quality, fit and effectiveness of their garment.



For more information, visit www.illuminate.com or call 1-800-497-6171.

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