

ACTIVE SHOOTER EQUIPMENT:

Aug 06

General:

I believe the acceptance of the M-4 rifle system as a “patrol rifle” has turned the odds in favor of the average patrol officer and their ability to handle a myriad of tactical situations. How best to compliment the M-4 system for a tactical encounter is the next dilemma facing officers and their respective budgets.

With the numerous equipment manufacturers catering to every tactical whim, it is difficult to find a simple, streamlined and cost effective system to outfit patrol officers who respond to active shooter or high threat situations.

I am going to discuss three major systems or concepts in tactical equipment when employing the patrol rifle. They are systems that I have trained with and employed. Two factors are important in this equation. One being cost, the other being the time it takes you to put on once you lay hands on it in the back of your patrol car.

They are in order of cost:

- **Active Shooter Bag (s)**
- **Vest (s)**
- **Plate Carrier**

Common Equipment for a Tactical Situation:

This is by no means a comprehensive list, but it will get the job done. It can be added to or subtracted from as the individual officer sees fit.

- 3 extra rifle magazines
- Batteries for gun lights/Optics
- Radio Battery
- Chem-lights/Signaling lights
- Tourniquet
- Medical Scissors
- Kerlix/Coflex/Rubber Gloves (2 Wound Kits)
- Water
- Flex Ties (2)

Extra magazines can be standard or special ammunition as required for the mission. Those who have used flashlights know that lithium batteries go out without warning and spares must be kept close at hand. Radio batteries fail much the same and we should carry spares to keep the lines of communication open. Also, Chem-lights and battery powered signaling lights can be use for link-ups with friendly elements.

The medical equipment is a must as it will not get to the crisis area without an officer bringing it. As I tell students, killing the bad guys is easy. How efficiently we deal with the wounded innocents is where you will make your money. The medical scissors are used for exposing wounds and tourniquets are used to stop bleeding on extremities. Wound or bandage kits are used to plug the holes, and tourniquets are used to stop bleeding.

A water bottle can be drained and refilled many times during an operation helping keep the officer hydrated. Finally, flex ties can help secure multiple suspects. Also, you are not limited to the equipment list that I included at the beginning of the article. Comfort items such as extra meds, aspirin, etc., go a long way to make the call out go smooth.

Active Shooter Bag

Originally designed as a “Grab and Go” or “Break Away” bag when your vehicle was disabled during protection missions, it is the simplest and most cost effective way to support your M-4 system. It was modeled after the military’s Claymore Mine carrying bag which has been used for carrying everything from extra magazines and ammunition to toilet articles. It is a simple versatile piece of gear that can be used for a variety of missions.

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Time to put on: | 3 Seconds |
| Cost: | \$29.36 |



Active shooter Bag



Typical contents of the Active Shooter Bag



Ammo bag which holds four rifle mags and two pistol mags-Cost: \$38.73

Vest

The concept of throwing on a prepacked vest has been around for some time. Generally not providing ballistic protection, they can be rapidly put on over your soft body armor, zipped up and worn into the fight. You can prepare a vest with ballistic protection, but the cost sky rocket with additional Kevlar. Also, all vests and plate carriers have a drag strap on the back.

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Time to put on: | Under 10 Seconds |
| Cost: | \$338.24 (Carrier Only) |





This body armor type vest can be worn with or without the Kevlar inserts and can be outfitted with modular pockets in ergonomic places that help streamline the vest to the individual officer's body dynamics and shooting techniques.



This mesh net type vest can also be outfitted with modular pockets in ergonomic places that are conducive to individual officer's body dynamics and shooting techniques.
Cost: \$165.38



Plate Carriers

At the top end of the equipment spectrum is the plate carrier. This carrier will hold a “Rifle Plate” front and rear that will stop just that, multiple hits from high caliber rifles, to include 5.56, 7.62 x 39 and .308. These plates have become lighter and more conducive to carry. These carriers are generally light, streamlined and vent well in hot climates. The best part is that they stop rifle bullets, something your soft body armor will not do. You will need to order a few extra pouches to fit your extra equipment in.

Time to put on: Under 10 Seconds
Cost: \$159.96 (Carrier Only)



Plate Carrier front



Plate Carrier Rear

Additional Comments:

I suggest that you mark your equipment with “POLICE OR SHERIFF” to cut down on the risk of fratricide. Wear it during your Active Shooter training so others visually get used to what you look like.

Also, there are numerous pouches and attachments out there that will compliment these vests. My suggestion is to find a dual purpose pouch that can be used for magazines, flashbangs, water, etc. I use the Eagle Double M-14 pouch for this.

Further, train with it during your range practice, getting it out of the car, putting it on and shooting with it. This is the only way mentally and physically to get used to bringing it to the fight.

Finally, I want to thank the folks at Eagle for supplying the equipment for my pictures. They are consummate professionals and have been providing exceptional equipment to the military and Law Enforcement community for years.

EQUIPMENT SOURCES:

Eagle Industries

www.eagleindustries.com

BIO:

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www.combatshootingandtactics.com Paul has also been hired by Triple Canopy as a Senior Manager to help set up their Law Enforcement Training Division.

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