



Tactical Helmet: Usage & Defense

A tactical helmet looks very intimidating when you're on a tactical team, but in some police departments you'd be called names if you were a patrol officer and you carried one around with you in your patrol, or worse yet, you might not even be allowed to carry one. That is, until a shooting occurs where common sense dictates that you need one. In the mid-morning of February 28, 1997, Larry Phillips and Emil Matasareanu raked police with automatic gunfire from assault rifles after a botched bank robbery in North Hollywood, California. The event shocked law enforcement throughout the United States. One of the memorable images of that horrific event were Los Angeles Police Department patrol officers, street cops, donning their Kevlar helmets which they pulled from their standard issue "Go Bags" (a sports bag filled with some essential gear for such confrontations: extra ammunition, tactical lights, knee pads, etc.).

After this event many American police departments "saw the writing on the wall" and issued assault rifles to their patrol officers for greater "stopping power". It made sense because it took 300 police officers to stop two well-armed bank robbers using self-taught military tactics. Unfortunately, most departments failed to issue ballistics helmets along with those more powerful weapons. Then there were those police departments out there that didn't learn a thing from this event, or even from the new threats of terrorism, and still refused to issue their officers assault rifles because of "liability" concerns. Even if they don't trust their police officers with these more powerful weapons there is no reason not to issue life-saving helmets.

Even though most tactical officers wear helmets they just have not caught on like ballistic vests have with patrol officers, traffic officers, and other "routine" duties, yet they all

