

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is it called a Tactical Blanket and from where did the name come?

Start with where the name came from... on February 28, 1997, an incident, commonly known as, "North Hollywood Shootout". Officers drove into the line of fire to rescue a wounded officer. The inventor of the Tactical Blanket watched news coverage of this event as it unfolded and decided that a large, easily deployable, ballistic shield, large enough to "blanket" the side of a cruiser would have made the rescue safer for the rescuing officers. That is when he began developing the Tactical Blanket. The product was originally referred to as "Instant Armor - A Field Deployed Armored Blanket" because of how quickly it could be deployed. The name eventually evolved into the "Tactical Blanket Systems**. The company name remains Instant Armor, Inc.

What are the differences between the "1st Responder™" and the "TACIII+™"?

A fully deployed 8-panel **1st Responder™** is 51" tall by 9' wide. A 5-panel assembled **TAC III+™** is 48" tall by 7'6" wide. A single **1st Responder™** panel is 51" tall by 14" wide. A single **TAC III+™** panel is 48" tall by 20" wide. The 8-panel **1st Responder™** weighs ±56 pounds. A 5-panel **TAC III+™** weighs ±124 pounds. A single **1st Responder™** panel weighs ±6 pounds. A single **TAC III+™** panel weighs ±25 pounds.

What is the difference in deployment method?

The **1st Responder**™ is fully assembled as it is stored in the Softcase. The **TAC III+**™ must be assembled when removed from the case.

How long does it take to deploy a Tactical Blanket?

Because the **1st Responder**™ is assembled in the Softcase, it can be deployed on either a vehicle or ready for team use in under 2 minutes. The **TAC III+**™ needs to be assembled into a ballistic wall configuration. It takes approximately 4-5 minutes for a single officer to assemble a 5-panel **TAC III+**™ blanket.

Can either system be used as individual shields?

Yes. An individual **1st Responder**™ panel, at 14" wide, is ideal for fitting into tight spaces like the narrow isle of a bus, airplane, motorhome, or other hallway. Each **1st Responder**™ panel has two handholds for single panel deployment. You can also use 2 or 3 (or more) panels as an individual shield.

The *TAC III+*™ is really designed as a stand-alone shield that is part of a larger "Ballistic Wall". Each *TAC III+*™ panel includes our exclusive "Gladiator Grip™". This gripping design allows the user full, positive control of the panel with one hand. You can literally turn the panel 90° horizontal or hold it overhead. The major advantage here is that your other hand is free to use a weapon, flashlight, drag a victim, etc.

How are the individual panels connected?

The panels of the *1st Responder*™ are attached together with a full length, vertical Velcro hinge. Additionally, each panel is secured to the next with two horizontal securing straps.

The **TAC III+™** panels are attached together by means of three 5/16" machine bolts. These bolts have a "T" handle and are designed for quick insertion and extraction. No tools necessary.



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Can a projectile penetrate the where the panels are joined?

Unlikely, but always a possibility. The *1st Responder*[™] panels each have a 1" ballistic overlap. The *TAC III+* [™] panels have a 2½" ballistic overlap. The respective panels have been tested by an independent laboratory to meet or exceed their stated NIJ standard.

Are the individual panels soft or rigid?

The armor panels for both versions of the *Tactical Blanket Systems*™ are very rigid.

Do I need a pole set in order to keep the panels rigid?

The use of the aluminum Pole Set will help keep the deployed blanket in-line, straight and rigid. On the **1st Responder**TM it also assists in maintaining the ballistic overlap of the panels.

Is there any other product on the market like the Tactical Blanket Systems™?

In a word...NO. The concept of the multi-paneled *Tactical Blanket System*™ is unique and protected by United States Patent. No other product on the market comes close to the design concept or versatility of the *Tactical Blanket Systems*™.

Are Instant Armor products available through dealers?

In the U.S. the *Tactical Blanket Systems*™ are available exclusively through the manufacturer, Instant Armor. All price quotes, orders, invoicing, production, and product shipping are handled from our main office in Simi Valley, California.

What if I have a question you didn't answer here?

Contact us... email, text, or call. We'll be please to answer your questions.