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Maxpedition Active Shooter Response Bag

WHEN people hear about an active shooter, most think of a shooting at a school, but active shooters can be encountered in malls, restaurants, movie theaters, and other public spaces. Evil can, and does, occur anywhere.

When I was at a class covering active shooter scenarios, one of the instructors asked students what we felt we needed. I was surprised by what many first responders said. Some felt carrying just a long gun was enough, while others advocated carrying everything but the kitchen sink. I do not feel either view is entirely correct.

One student had a couple boxes of loose extra ammo in a large pack. Really? In a critical situation, you do not have time to stop, dig through your gear, and jam magazines. He also had a dozen sets of hard handcuffs and a full combat trauma kit including an IV.

In this situation, your job as a first responder is not to treat and evacuate the wounded—it is to find the shooter and keep him from shooting again. You must put your feelings aside and move through the downed and bleeding in order to do this.

In my estimation, first responders need to have a small bag so they can stay mobile and take the fight to the attacker. This would include extra loaded magazines for long gun and pistol, a spare flashlight, knife, small set of bolt cutters, sheep's foot or pry bar, flex cuffs, wire cutters, and door wedges for outward opening doors.



Above: Front of Active Shooter Response Bag has two Velcro flap closure pockets that can each hold two AR mags.

Left: Rear of bag has quilt stitching. One-inch webbing waist belt has QD buckle.



One idea was to use APAL-AIR illuminated light strips from Brite-Strike Technologies. Available in Green, Red, White, Blue, and Amber, they can be set for a slow strobe, fast strobe or constant-on and stuck on a door with their adhesive backing for silent color-coded signaling. A green light could indicate a room has been cleared, while a red would indicate not cleared or wounded inside.

Recently I received a bag that I feel is almost ideal for this specialized task—the Maxpedition Active Shooter Response Bag (ASRB).

On the outside front of the ASRB are two double magazine pockets, both capable of carrying two

30-round magazines. Each mag pouch has elastic retention as well as a flap that closes with Velcro®. Having five 30-round magazines (including the magazine in the carbine) loaded with 28 rounds each means you are starting the fight with 140 rounds on your person, not counting your handgun.

On the left side of the bag are two smaller mag pouches, which could be used for pistol magazines, a spare flashlight, knife holder, multi-tool, or similar-sized piece of gear. They both have flaps that secure with Velcro. The right side has four rows and two columns of MOLLE webbing for placement of other items.

At the top of the bag is a grab handle, great for carrying on the run from the car. A large heavy zipper with paracord pulls allows easy access to the inside of the bag, which measures 7"Lx4"Wx9"H. The interior is loop lined for CCW or other modular accessories.

If this is too small for your needs, Maxpedition also makes a slightly larger version of the ASRB that has three AR mag pockets on the front with an interior that measures 10"Lx4"Wx9"H.

The bag has a removable 1.5-inch shoulder strap with non-slip shoulder pad. The strap can be folded over and has two small Velcro breakaway keepers so it can be fully deployed immediately upon leaving the vehicle. The strap can be adjusted from 28 to 52 inches. A one-inch nylon waist strap with quick-detach buckle keeps the bag in place as you run.

The Maxpedition Active Shooter Response Bag is available in Black, Foliage Green, Khaki, OD Green, and Hunter, which is Khaki with 54 square inches of Blaze Orange material on the two-mag-pocket version.

My girlfriend, a deputy sheriff, recently attended an active shooter class put on by her agency. The instructors stressed to be very careful on an active shooter call as it will likely bring officers from everywhere, including many plainclothes officers, increasing the chances of a blue-on-blue shooting. The Hunter, with its bright orange coloring, would be easily recognized by all agencies that cross-train together.

The two-mag Active Shooter Response Bag retails for \$106.99. ©



Right side has four rows of MOLLE webbing.



Left side has two pockets for extra mags, light, multi-tool, etc.

Shoulder strap is 1½ inches wide and has break-away keepers to hold excess length until needed.



Heavy-duty zippers have paracord tabs for sure, quick access to main compartment.

SOURCES

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