

As a career law enforcement officer, Master Defensive Tactics Instructor, Baton, Tazer, Pepper Spray, and Firearms Instructor, I also am a graduate of the Eugene Metro SWAT School, and commanded the Oakridge Emergency Tactical Response Team for seven years, I am also now a writer.

I have been in four line of duty shootings all of which were justified, three in Oregon and one in Louisiana where I started in law enforcement. I can tell you when someone is shooting at you, your friends, or the community in general it is sure nice to be able to call in an armored vehicle that is projectile resistant, and in one of my cases it was used successfully to resolve the situation without the loss of anyone's life, I do feel that if the up-armored vehicle was not deployed by the Lane County Sheriff's Department in my case the suspect would have been killed or seriously injured when SWAT made entry, as the suspect was laying in ambush and would not come out after hundreds of hails. As a firearms instructor I have seen ballistic tests and damages done by bullets when they have hit pretty much anything, A rifle rounds from a bolt action 30-06 will pretty much go through any part of a patrol car except the engine and perhaps the wheel base (maybe.) Instead of sending our cops out there in vehicles that cannot stop a rifle round in a tactical situation allow departments to have up-armored vehicles, and military grade vight vision and thermals, allow them to use military grade small arms if a tactical situations needs it, and let them wear body armor that can stop a rifle round. Right now, an average patrol person's armor cannot rifle rounds from large caliber hunting rifles, military grade body armor can. While I agree, we cannot have there vehicles driving down the road as patrol vehicles they need to be kept for those rainy days when it may save the shooters life or the officers life when deploying to a tactical situation. With tactical situations coming with more and more frequency we should be seeking ways to resolve conflicts with less loss of life not more, Failing to allow officers to utilize military grade equipment in military grade situations will only cause officers to use more force to protect their lives and the lives of the people nearby. Without the option to call SWAT to come in and tactically resolve a situation you are taking away another tool from the police. Haven't you taken from police too many tools, overregulation of law enforcement is a disaster waiting to happen, and you are stoking the fire. Please defeat the bill at the earliest possible time.

Stephan Ball

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