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Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK) Help Save Lives in Tucson Shooting

The United States military has long been at the forefront of providing lifesaving training and equipment to soldiers in combat. The Sheriff's Department recognized the extreme value of taking these advancements and putting them into the hands of first responders in the field. In June 2010, all of our deputies were given an Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK) designed for blunt force and penetrating trauma commonly associated with traumatic gunshot and stab wounds. Extensive research was conducted to develop these kits to include collaboration with SWAT trained paramedics and emergency room physicians. By the end of July 2010, every deputy had been trained and possessed the skills to successfully employ the IFAKs.

On January 8, 2011, Pima County suffered its most tragic and violent day in its history when a lone gunman shot and killed six people including a United States federal judge, the Honorable John Roll. U.S. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was wounded in the shooting along with twelve others. Responding deputies utilized IFAKs to save lives.

The value of this equipment cannot be overstated in providing initial life saving measures to victims until advanced medical support arrives.

These kits contain:

- 1 - SOF tactical tourniquet
- 2 - Emergency 6" military bandages
- 1 - Asherman chest seal
- 1 - Quick Clot combat gauze
- 1 - Pair of EMT shears

For further information on how the Pima County Sheriff's Department implemented these life saving IFAKs, contact Sheriff's Department Tactical Medic Tom Price at (520) 351-4865.



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