Ballistic Shields Rolled Out To MCSO Patrol Deputies

The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office is in the first phase of a four phase roll out of ballistic shields for all patrol deputies. This phase includes the deployment of 48 shields and supplemental rifle shields for patrol.

The shields measure 20” by 32” and offer an extra layer of protection for first responders. The shields will be easily accessible to deputies as they respond to calls for service. While these shields may not be suited for every situation, they are an extra tool that may be used for public safety.

“The safety and security of our first responders is top priority.” said Sheriff Paul Penzone. “Patrol deputies are faced with uncontrolled situations and the dangers associated with them. School and work place shootings are occurring far too often and I am committed to providing the necessary tools for our deputies to be successful.”

MCSO deputies have been receiving special training in the deployment and use of ballistic shields such as shooting with cover and movement techniques. In conjunction with the specialized training, patrol deputies will be receiving supplemental training by members of the MCSO SWAT Team to better prepare them for response to school and workplace violence.

MCSO has not seen a ballistic shield deployment for patrol since 2004. This is one part of an increased focus on officer and deputy safety from Sheriff Penzone’s budget request.