

Tactical officers give MSA's Responder® CBRN PAPR a perfect score!

What this means to Firefighters

This product is the same PAPR component that is part of **MSA's FireHawk® M7 Responder® CBRN Air Mask**.



This unique new respiratory protection platform can be quickly configured from SCBA to APR (air-purifying respirator) or PAPR (powered air-purifying respirator), when firefighters need reliable respiratory protection but not at the SCBA level.

Many firefighters are not accustomed to wearing and relying upon a PAPR, but at certain times, this PAPR mode will serve them well.

Firefighters also can rely on the police officers who carefully tested this Responder CBRN PAPR and pronounced it a perfect 5.0!

What this means to Police Officers

MSA's Responder CBRN PAPR received the top rating of 5.0 out of 5.0 possible points from NTOA police officers who field-tested its performance on the job, rating it in 13 separate categories.

The test results were posted online and in the NTOA's Tactical Edge publication. (CBRN means "Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear" agents. PAPR means "Powered Air-Purifying Respirator." NTOA stands for "National Tactical Officers Association.")



This is the seventh major MSA product that has been tested and recommended by NTOA members. Others include the **Millennium® CBRN Gas Mask**, the **Supreme Pro™ Ear Muffs**, the **ACH Advanced Combat Helmet**, and the **RAV Releasable Assault Vest**.



NTOA officers gave the Responder CBRN PAPR the highest possible scores, and here is what they said about their experience. *(Comments are edited slightly.)*

"MSA's Responder CBRN PAPR is revolutionary! I have been involved with less lethal and chemical munitions for 20 years. As a trainer, team member, primary and back-up gas man, I have worn many military and commercial protective masks.

"Nothing short of an SCBA has ever come close to the comfort and visibility of this system. The system filters the air and provides it to the wearer under pressure, with the virtual elimination of any closed-in feeling and fogging.

"The filters are also superior to any that I have ever used, stopping even the smallest particulate matter. If you are involved in any sort of tactical team that uses chemical

munitions, you owe it to yourself to purchase this system. There is no comparison between this and a traditional protective mask. This system renders all others obsolete."



"When I first got this kit, I was a little overwhelmed, having had little previous experience with PAPRs, but within 5 minutes, the unit was operational, the components were properly placed, and I was seriously impressed.

"When added to all of the other equipment that we now have to carry, I was surprised to find that the PAPR added more benefits than noticeable weight. Notably, the cool air flow from the blower kept me refreshed and alert. Physical exertion, such as running stairs, never sapped my strength. The mask never fogged up, and my confidence level increased, partly because I knew that the positive air flow provided for better protection levels.

"Decontamination of the unit is fairly simple. It has few cracks/crevices, and the hose size makes it easy for Decon teams to brush it clean of contaminants. Construction of the unit is also very good. The blower unit is solid and very well made. The hose is tough and takes the abuse of a tactical situation. The Millennium facepiece is a great improvement over the older masks I have used; it would be hard to go back.

"In all, the MSA PAPR kit is outstanding product. I highly recommend the addition of the MSA PAPR to an LE/MIL department/agency equipment issue. The initial cost of the unit is far outweighed by the cost in lives saved/injuries averted, both during an event (contamination and heat injuries), and in training (lower chance of heat injuries)."



Reviews of other NTOA-tested-and-recommended MSA products

ACH Ballistic Helmet rates top marks from tactical officers

MSA's **ACH Advanced Combat Helmet** received an outstanding rating of 4.58 out of 5.0 possible points from NTOA police officers who field-tested its performance on the job.

One officer liked wearing "the very same helmet being deemed the latest and greatest by the U.S. Army."

He continued: "The biggest issue about helmet use has long been comfort or lack thereof. MSA addressed that issue with a unique suspension system that uses thick, moldable foam pads that develop a memory of the wearer's head. They also incorporate a channel through the helmet for headsets, thereby reducing compression of the wearer's scalp.

"The high cut in the back allows the wearer to hyperextend his neck for good prone shooting as well. All around, the helmet is a big hit, and I highly recommend it."

Another officer stated, "The MSA Advanced Combat Helmet is by far the most comfortable piece of ballistic headgear I have ever had the opportunity to place on my head!

"First of all, the helmet actually fit my head. The custom sizing and quick-release chin strap allow the helmet to rest securely in position. . . .

"The padding system that sits inside the helmet was like having a pillow between my head and the helmet. It was a nice change from the helmet that I was issued when I started on our SRT almost seven years ago."

Yet another officer remarked, "My SWAT team has been using [MSA's] Advanced Combat Helmet for about six months.

"The retention/suspension system provides stability and balance, even when the operator is using NVGs. I have worn this

helmet on callouts that have lasted up to five hours, and I have never experienced any 'hot spots.'

"The helmet provides me with a good field of view and easily accommodates my communications system and CBRN equipment. I highly recommend this helmet."



NTOA recommends Supreme Pro™ Hearing Muffs

MSA's **Supreme Pro Hearing Protection Muffs** were field-tested by two members of the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA), and given a final score of 4.42 out of a possible 5.00.

A police officer from Illinois wrote, in part: "The hearing was great while the product was being worn. . . . When shots were fired, it muffled the shot. It was easy to access the

battery compartment and change batteries. . . and control the volume."

Among a Michigan officer's comments: "I strongly recommend this product to range personnel or anyone subjected to long periods in noisy environments. [It] was worn in all types of weather . . . from 30 to 85 degrees and . . . in a rainstorm. . . . This product is very impressive. I liked its

simplicity, . . . comfort and performance. Even after long-range sessions I was hardly aware that I was wearing the unit."

