

MSA Police Line.



CE LINE MSA POLICE LINE MSA POLICE LINE MSA POLICE LINE



MSA's Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH)

Trusted by our military forces.
Now available for our police forces.

- Developed to meet stringent demands of **U.S. Military Special Op Command**
- Named one of **10 Best Inventions** by U.S. Army Material Command
- Delivers **unsurpassed protection**, optimum balance, unshakeable stability
- Employs **innovative suspension system** of movable comfort pads
- Dissipates impact energy for **better protection** of wearer
- Provides **customized sizing** for comfortable fit
- Compatible with NVGs, MSA gas mask, MSA MICH comm system

**Protecting the Protectors
Since 1914.**

MSA POLICE LINE

1-888-MSA-0018
MSAnet.com

SAVED BY HIS MSA ACH

Army Sergeant Survives Afghan Shot in Head, Travels to Meet Helmet Maker

“It saved my life,”

1SG (First Sergeant), U.S. Army, Colin Rich said simply, of MSA's Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH) he was wearing when a “friendly” Afghan soldier shot him in the back of the head.

nearby Army base. He met with a group of AMF (Afghan Military Force) to discuss the operation.



Their Pakistani commander told 1SG Rich that an explosives team was on the way. Rich pulled back about a hundred yards to await their arrival.

Rich didn't know that a “Waziri” mercenary in the area was taking aim at his head. He never heard the shot.

“The coward shot me in the back of the head,” he said, calmly recalling the moment. The impact knocked him face down onto the ground and instantly blinded him. “I just felt the violence of the bullet,” he said. “I knew immediately what happened.”

An intense firefight ensued, even as 1SG Rich stuffed a

field dressing between his helmet and skull to staunch the bleeding. During a lull in the shooting, a medic examined him and told him he'd been shot. “I know,” said Sgt. Rich. “Get him.”

Within 18 hours, Rich lay on an operating table in Germany. A CT scan revealed five skull fragments embedded in his brain. But no bullet.

Rich, an 18-year veteran and ballistics expert, himself has solved the mystery of the missing bullet.

“The Waziris were carrying G-3 rifles. The MSA ACH is rated for a 9mm round,” he explained. “The G-3 shoots a bullet about three times that size.”

He pointed to a hole at the back of the helmet. “The bullet entered here,” he said, “then took a right turn, bounced off my head, then skipped underneath the lip of the helmet.”

“I'm here telling you my story because of the helmet. It exceeded its guarantee—” he paused and seemed to search for words, “—by my life.”



AFTER EFFECTS

During the firefight that followed his shooting the “Waziris” retreated to a nearby building. An air strike was requested, and the building was destroyed. Whether the mercenary who shot 1SG Rich survived either the gunfight or bombing is unknown.

By the time Rich visited MSA Newport in July 2003, he'd regained about 45% of his sight. He was unable to drive a car and grudgingly used a white cane to detect obstacles as he walked. He said he didn't like the “stick,” because it made people think he was blind. By fall 2003, though still not driving, he won another battle in his fight to regain his sight and “retired the stick.”



He had traveled nearly 10,000 miles to MSA's factory in Newport, Vermont, to thank MSA associates who had made his helmet. His journey started seven months earlier in a place the U.S. military called the deadliest place in Afghanistan, a sparsely populated cross-road near the Pakistan border called Shkin.

Sgt. Rich's mission that day was to destroy two rockets that Taliban fighters had attempted to use against a



Reprinted from MSA Spotlight on Safety article (Volume 6, Issue 2) (2003)

MSA

POLICE LINE

1.888.MSA.0018
MSAnet.com