



Shield 616 is a non-profit organization that provides active shooter ballistics gear to patrol officers. Most police gear is only rated to withstand ballistics from a hand gun. The gear provided by Shield 616 is rated against long guns. Each "kit" costs \$1000. In a rural area such as Koochiching County where officers are often responding to calls on their own or with backup being a significant distance away, it is imperative that these officers have on hand the kind of gear that can help keep them safe in dire situations. Donors can also provide prayer and emotional support to officers, which is so important in today's world of unfavorable views towards police officers.

Int'l Falls Elks Lodge #1599 held a fundraiser in May and was able to provide funding for gear for officers. The vest presentation to 14 officers was held at the Elks Lodge on September 26, 2017. Officers were from International Falls Police Dept., Koochiching County Sheriff Dept., and Minnesota State Highway Patrol.



Trooper Chris Thostenson, Lynde Mettler, Russ Strand, Sheriff John Kalstad, Barb Strand, Jim Kennedy.

