

Armored Vehicles

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Recently, the Secretary of the Navy was here to recognize the efforts of our people in providing the armor kits to be added to the vehicles that are involved in the war in Iraq. For their efforts, Logistics Command, the Maintenance Center and MCLB Albany received a Meritorious Unit Commendation. The whole project was a joint effort that has already saved many lives of our military members overseas.

The military has known the importance of armor for thousands of years. Armor has changed in its design as a result of changes in technology. We have gone from the leather armor used by ancient warriors to metal suits of armor that were worn by medieval knights. Even now there are various forms of body armor, each tailored to specific needs and tasks.

In order for any type of armor to be effective, it must be used. A friend of mine who was a Marine helicopter pilot in Vietnam told me that the pilots would commonly get their flak jackets, but would not wear them in the manner for which they were designed. Instead, they would sit on them, recognizing that the greatest threat they faced was from weapons fired from the ground into the underside of the aircraft. Armor has to be used where it will offer the greatest amount of protection.

The Bible talks about how important it is for us to be properly armored spiritually, as well. Ephesians 6:13-17 talks about the various pieces of armor and what functions they each serve. However, we need to remember that even though each of these is available to us, they are of no value to us unless we use them. I was taught very early in my military career that my personal protective gear was no good to me unless I had it with me, knew how to use it correctly and then actually used it when the time came.

Can you imagine someone having their protective gear available to them, knowing how to use it, but then refusing to use it? How tragic if this refusal resulted in a needless loss of life. But it would be just as bad if we gave body armor to someone and expected that person to use it but never instructed him or her on the proper use of the equipment.

The Bible is very clear that we are constantly engaged in warfare against spiritual forces and powers, but we each have protection available to us. It is tragic when someone does not use the protection God has made available to each person and it results in spiritual damage to our lives. It doesn't just harm that individual; it is damaging to the Kingdom of God, as well.

Many people, however, have good intentions with regard to the spiritual armor God has given us; they just don't have proper instructions in their use. We have the responsibility to not only understand how to properly spiritually protect ourselves, but also to make sure that those around us are protected as well. After all, isn't it the responsibility of each Marine to look out for the other Marines?

Take care of yourself spiritually by using the armor God has given you. Then help someone else use his or her Spiritual Protective Gear, as well. In doing so, you will truly show yourself to be "Always Faithful."

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in church on Sunday.