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Security Film Holds Glass in Place at Chattanooga Shooting Site

July 21st, 2015 by Casey Flores

Eleven years ago, Matthew Smith, owner of the Window Tinting Company in Chattanooga, Tenn., installed security window film on the city's armed forces center, hoping it'd never have to get used.

"I've done a lot of security film and I always thing to myself 'I don't ever want this stuff to be tested,'" he says.

Unfortunately, during last week's shootings, when Mohammad Youssuf Abdulazeez allegedly shot and killed five Marines, the product was tested and passed.

"What we had was glass retention film with an attachment film that was over 11 years old that did its job—it retained the glass in the framing system," Smith says. "I'm very proud that our layer of security did what it was designed to do."

Had the film not been there, Smith says the story could have ended even more tragically.

"It was tempered glass, so it would have all fell on the ground," he explains. "At that point, we don't know if the shooter would have entered the building or would have driven off."

The armed forces center was the first place Abdulazeez targeted before driving to the Naval Reserve Center, where the fatalities took place.



An FBI investigator investigates the scene of a shooting outside a military recruiting center on Friday, July 17, 2015, in Chattanooga, Tenn. Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez of Hixson, Tenn., attacked two military facilities on Thursday, in a shooting rampage that killed four Marines. (AP Photo/John Bazemore)

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