Be advised that “lookalike” Combat Application Tourniquets (C.A.T.s) have been spotted in Afghanistan. Below are photos taken of the actual U.S. government issued C.A.T. with examples of lookalike tourniquets below it. Note that the appearance of the lookalike is similar; however, instead of a solid thick band of material around the entire circumference like on the U.S. government issued C.A.T., the lookalike tourniquet has a much thinner strap on half of the circumference band. Additionally, the lookalike does not contain the Velcro® locking strip.

CAT tourniquets compared
Note that when applied, (see arrows) the lookalike tourniquet (below left) twists and creates less of a wide, even band of compression then found in the actual C.A.T. (below right). Additionally, the fastening of the stick is different and less secure given that the securing Velcro® strip for the stick is missing.

Lookalike tourniquet applied — see arrow

Actual U.S. government issued C.A.T. applied — see arrow

Please note that no negative implications or inferences are directed toward any manufacturer or organization. This alert is simply meant as a precaution to keep an eye out for the lookalike C.A.T.s. as the actual U.S. government issued C.A.T. is much more effective at stopping bleeding.