

New Los Angeles Sheriff's Department tactical/medical vehicle

By Steve Doucette

After two years of design and manufacturing, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department took delivery of the first two of its new tactical/medical vehicles. Built by Lenco and designed around the base model Lenco BearCat, the new vehicles are the most versatile in the tactical market.



Front view of the LASD ALS tactical vehicle

Constructed on an extended four-wheel drive BearCat chassis, the vehicles are 16 inches longer than the standard BearCat. They are designed with the rear doors hinged at the side walls to allow the entire rear of the vehicle to completely open. This allows for the ease of entry and exit of personnel, and more importantly, for the expedited loading of injured personnel. Both of the standard BearCat rear bench seats were redesigned to lengthen and widen them. This allows for its built-in fold-down litters to be used on the seats to convert them into two patient stations to treat wounded personnel.

To operate in the counter-terrorist environment, a blast shield was added to

the vehicles to withstand the blast from an improvised explosive device. The standard BearCat electrical system was enhanced along with additional batteries added to accommodate the installation of an LASD electronic counter-measure device, which is designed to jam signals used to detonate explosive devices. A radiation detection package and an infrared combustible gas detection system are built into the vehicles, along with a thermal imaging FLIR system. The vehicles are also equipped with a high-definition color camera with extensive optical zoom capability, which allows for the detailed examination of locations or suspects while safely enclosed in the vehicle.

The vehicles' medical capabilities are state-of-the-art. Each vehicle is a Los Angeles County Department of Health Services-certified Advanced Life Support vehicle. The vehicles are equipped with mounted Zoll EKG monitors/biphasic defibrillators, Welch-Allyn Propaq LT monitors, GlideScope video laryngoscopes, IV/blanket warmers, oxygen, suction, intraosseous devices, all ALS drugs and a suite of ambulance exam lights. Operated by LASD Special Enforcement Bureau Emergency Services Detail paramedics, the vehicles are equipped to handle any major trauma or medical cases in the austere environment of high-risk tactical law enforcement operations.

The unique vehicles are equipped with an extensive radio system that allows interoperability with all police and fire



LASD Deputy participates in a training exercise in the LASD ALS tactical vehicle

departments within Los Angeles County. Additionally, there is direct contact to the Los Angeles County Medical Alert Center and all Los Angeles County trauma/base hospitals. The vehicles also have satellite phone systems and GPS systems. LASD is looking forward to increasing the safety margin for their personnel during future tactical operations through the use of these technologically advanced vehicles. «



Interior of the rear area of the new LASD ALS tactical vehicle