



BearCats stop bullets, just as Fire Trucks stop fires.

Inventory of Armored Vehicles Quantity: _____

Inventory of Fire Trucks Quantity: _____

In 1999, Lenco Armored Vehicles identified a gaping hole in the Law Enforcement community. A typical visit to the web site of a big name Police Department showed highly equipped Tactical Officers with state-of-the-art vests, shields, helmets and pole cameras, kneeling in front of decommissioned ambulances, military surplus vehicles and dilapidated bread trucks. None specifically built as a response and rescue unit.

That same year, Lenco introduced the first B.E.A.R. (Ballistic Engineered Armored Response vehicle). Though most agencies initially had little funding for such equipment, they were undeniably enthusiastic about the concept. Since that first truck, Lenco has delivered over 1,200 B.E.A.R.s and BearCats into the U.S. Law Enforcement community, with market penetration reaching 97% of the top 100 urban areas, along with 32 State Police agencies.

The threat of gun violence does not have boundary limitations. Thankfully, Lenco's passive multi-hit armor system provides ballistic protection not previously available. Crisis Negotiators & Tactical Medics (Psychologists and Doctors really--trying to save the lives of violent suspects) never before had been given the opportunity to safely roll face-to-face with an active shooter or barricaded gunman. In the past, negotiators and medics remained outside the "hot zone," several blocks away.

The argument which claims this equipment is "militarizing" police departments is, therefore, a misrepresentation of how missions with a Lenco vehicle actually play out.

Currently, when a suspect threatens a police officer with a deadly weapon, for the good of the community, that public servant is sworn to neutralize the perpetrator. If, however, the officer is inside a B.E.A.R or a BearCat, negotiations become a legitimate first option. On the other hand, when a Tank or Armored Personnel Carrier is on a true "military operation," its job is to escalate violence with its enemy to the point of annihilation. The BearCat, therefore, has the exact opposite mission of a Tank.

Without exception, every agency with a Lenco vehicle has reported perpetrator surrenders within minutes of arrival, as the suspect realizes his idea for mayhem has been overmatched by the police department's show of force. Lenco vehicles thereby reduce overtime expenses, while dramatically minimizing physical exposure, as most often SWAT personnel return home without a fight.

In one recent case in New Mexico, an individual hoping to commit "suicide by cop" raked the barrel of his AK-47 across the windshield of a BearCat; the officers flinched, but did not shoot. They trusted their BearCat. At a unique moment when the distraught person passed by the vehicle again, an officer opened a gun port and disabled the man with a less-lethal device. They were able to take him alive and unharmed.

In a second case in Colorado, deputies were contacted by a family concerned for their loved one who had recently disappeared, and had attempted suicide twice before. Deputies began their search with a BearCat, as they knew he was well armed. Eventually, the individual fired deadly .308 rifle rounds, striking the BearCat. Still, the Sheriff's command staff ordered their SWAT operators to hold back. After a lengthy search, law enforcement found and apprehended the man, unharmed. In a post incident interview, a public information officer stated, "You need to know what your strengths are," referring to their BearCat.

No other product can provide a police agency with that type of protection, flexibility, and speed of deployment. Our municipality and command staff will forever be judged for its level of preparedness.

Nearly every teenager in this community owns a smartphone with GPS, a capability originally designed to support Army Rangers. High pressure water pumps that aid fire-fighters world-wide owe part of their success and development to U.S. Navy engineers battling onboard blazes. Do we as a community criticize either group for enjoying their so called "military" technology?

Imagine the reaction of visitors to our Fire Department's web site, if they saw public servants kneeling before a dilapidated bread truck, holding large water pails to support a bucket brigade.

With Lenco vehicles having a decades long track record, isn't it time we pledge the same state-of-the-art protection to our Police Officers and vulnerable citizenry, as we do our Fire Fighters?