



## Upcoming Events or Press Release

### SWAT VEHICLE GIVES HUDSON COUNTY NEW IMPORTANT REGIONAL ROLE IN THE FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR RESIDENTS



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### SWAT VEHICLE GIVES HUDSON COUNTY NEW IMPORTANT REGIONAL ROLE IN THE FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR RESIDENTS

Jersey City, NJ — Hudson County has a new weapon in the war to keep our communities safer. Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise and Hudson County Sheriff announced this week that the County has taken possession of a Ballistic Engineered Armored Response Vehicle.

The cost of the vehicle is \$280,000 and was purchased using Homeland Security funds received through our County Office of Emergency Management.

The vehicle was built by Lenco Industries in Pittsfield, MA. Lenco calls this model vehicle its B.E.A.R.. BEAR stands for Ballistic Engineered Armored Response.

For security reasons we cannot elaborate on the specifications of our vehicle other than it is not your typical armored bank truck. It is over 15 tons of high tech ballistic steel that offers wrap-around explosive and projectile protection. Our vehicle is capable of withstanding just about anything up to a low-yield nuclear weapon.

With a 250-horsepower Caterpillar engine, four-wheel drive and a front end capable of breaching concrete walls and ramming vehicles from its path, there are few places it can't go.

The vehicle is the first of it's kind in New Jersey and is also currently in use by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. It can carry 12 fully equipped Special Weapons And Tactics officers inside and can be used in any number of situations such as an armed confrontation, a barricaded suspect or hostage crisis. The BEAR can be utilized by our team to support narcotics teams in dealing with high-risk search and arrest warrants and can be used in natural disasters

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as well.

The vehicle is also equipped with anti-terrorism detection equipment, which again for security reasons cannot be discussed in detail.

As many as 25 adults or 35 children can be packed into the BEAR in the event we had to extricate people from a school or shopping mall trapped by gunfire.

Not only is it a mechanism to extricate people, during negotiations with armed suspects it can be a delivery system for items such as food and phones.

Our teams mission is to support and protect other first responders (EOD/Fire/Hazmat/EMS) and to rescue community members, law enforcement and other first responders from unfolding threats and pending threats.

"The BEAR gives law enforcement in Hudson County a great platform to perform rescues in a lethal environment," explained Sheriff Joseph Cassidy. "We're honored to take charge of such a valuable tool for regional law enforcement. This vehicle is the first of its kind to be deployed in New Jersey and we take our role in its introduction very seriously."

"Although we all hope to never have to put the BEAR through its paces, we have all seen incidents unfold on television like Columbine and the Bank of America shootings." said County Executive Tom DeGise.

"This vehicle the right fit for the County's role as key regional support to municipal law enforcement and emergency management services. My thanks to Jack Burns our OEM Coordinator and his staff for winning the funding for this unique and clearly very powerful tool to protect our residents."

"I believe we now feel less vulnerable knowing we have such a fantastic tool available for deployment," noted Captain Tommy Willis of the Hudson County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office will oversee the deployment and maintenance of the BEAR in facilities located in Jersey City. Captain Willis is the point person for the unit overseeing the BEAR.



POWERFUL, INSIDE AND OUT — The new Hudson County Ballistic Engineered Armored Response (BEAR) SWAT Vehicle will be available to assist municipalities throughout the region in emergency situations, especially those involving possible exchange of gunfire or potential explosives, such as hostage takings, police/suspect stand-offs, and evacuations in the wake of a disaster. The walls of the vehicle can withstand high-powered ballistic impacts and it includes a turret top for evacuations and assault situations. Here County OEM Coordinator Jack Burns (Center) discusses some of the internal features of the vehicle with Sheriff Joseph Cassidy (Left), County Executive Thomas DeGise and his Chief of Staff, William Gaughan (Right).




A BIG MACHINE — Public officials and Sheriff's Department staff stand next to the new Hudson County SWAT Vehicle. (Left to Right) Hudson County Sheriff Joseph Cassidy, County Executive Tom DeGise, Captain Tom Willis, and Hudson County OEM Coordinator Jack Burns.



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