

# Los Angeles Police Department, Bomb Squad Bomb Truck Built For The Future

by Tim Cooper and Rich Nagatoshi



The LAPD Bomb Squad was in the need of a useful and operator friendly, self contained platform for a command post to conduct robot operations and carry specialized equipment at major incidents and large post blast investigations. The vehicles used in the past were the “off the shelf” panel trucks that were tasked with carrying too much equipment and required major modifications that always proved inadequate. In the summer of 2004, the Unit’s logistics officer (at that time, we only had one assigned) set about establishing specifications for a response truck that would fulfill the needs of the Unit, hold up in a city environment and be cost effective based on fiscal restraints.

Rich Nagatoshi, LAPD Bomb Squad Senior Logistic Officer, compiled vast amounts of specifications, suggestions, recommendations and lessons learned from multiple sources. Having experience from LAPD SWAT and their truck, he knew what to get on such a platform and what not to. He contacted Pierce in Appleton, Wisconsin with the proposal to build the “ultimate” vehicle which could address the needs of the Bomb Squad. Of course not everything could be placed on this vehicle but the needed basic operational requirements were readily facilitated by Pierce.

The final outcome; the Pierce Arrow XT, 33 foot long, 43500 GVW, response truck with state of the art electronics and communications. It also has growth potential with durability and dependability that will support the Unit into the future. Fully outfitted with a robot (F-6 Andros), SRS-5s and miscellaneous equipment brought the final cost to approximately \$900,000. That sum might not sound “cost effective” but considering the platform is comparable with your fire department’s apparatus its longevity tempers the original payout.



Operations

The truck has an internal cabin area set up for the robot operator that can be closed off and segregated from support personnel to prevent interference and interruptions. (A video monitor is positioned on the outside of the truck that can be tuned to broadcast the robot camera feed for others to view.)

The robot is stored and deployed out the rear storage compartment. Internal video monitors and power sources facilitate ease of deployment and storage. The truck has abundant lockable storage compartments accessible from both sides. Acting as the Bomb Squad command post, it contains most of the equipment that may be needed on bomb calls, plus provides protection from the weather and the unwanted prying eyes.



Robot Bay

## SPECIFICATIONS

Body Type: Aluminum Walk-in  
Chassis: Arrow XT  
Engine: Cat C13, 430 hp  
Transmission: Allison EVS 4000  
Alternator: Nichoff, 400 amp  
Generator: Onan 12kW, Diesel  
Suspension, Front: TAK-4  
Suspension, Rear: Air  
Braking System: Wabco ABS  
Wheelbase: 223"  
Dimensions, Body: 24.5'  
Dimensions, Cab: 103"  
Cab Seating Capacity: 2  
GVW Rating: 43500 lb  
Global Positioning System: Eclipse  
Backup Warning: Safety Vision Camera w/ 5.5" LCD Monitor  
Camera: 25' Pneumatic Mast w/ Pelco Camera  
Video Monitoring System: 14" Pelco  
Interior Monitor: Two - 21" LCD Flat Screen  
DVD Recorder: Panasonic  
Satellite Phone: Qualcomm  
Fax/Printer/Copier/Scanner: Brother  
Climate Control: Heater/AC in Cab and Body  
Microwave: 1.2 Cu Ft  
Refrigerator: 1.7 Cu Ft  
Hitch: 5K Towing  
Awning: 2- Electric

The need for such a response truck is dependant on local requirements and will be tempered by your budget restraints. The final product the LAPD received has proven to be worth the cost. This is not an endorsement but an observation of our current acquisition. Contact Officer Rich Nagatoshi at (213) 485-7474 for technical specifications of the design or at: [www.piercehomelandsecurity.com/vehicles/LA\\_Bomb.cfm](http://www.piercehomelandsecurity.com/vehicles/LA_Bomb.cfm).

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