

Special-Purpose Vehicles

Disaster GIS vehicle

A one-of-a-kind vehicle recently delivered to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency combines geospatial intelligence hardware and software with robust communications capabilities. The Domestic Mobile Integrated Geospatial-Intelligence System is intended to support other agencies during either disasters or National Special Security Events.



For previous events and disasters, the NGA (which is part of the Department of Defense) deployed equipment designed primarily for military end-users. The new vehicle, however, was built on a fire engine chassis specifically for domestic use, explains J.P. Patten, DMIGS program manager at NGA. He adds, "The emphasis these days is on intelligence community collaboration" and notes that NGA personnel have been training with FEMA.

The goal was to have the unit finished in time for hurricane season, Patten says, and in fact very soon after being delivered, the DMIGS was deployed to Jacksonville, Fla., for the response to Hurricane Ernesto.

A typical disaster deployment would see the DMIGS move into an area and base with FEMA US&R task forces, which would be the first and one of the primary users of the geospatial information provided by the DMIGS.

Though the NGA is unable to disclose detailed information about the DMIGS' electronics, Patten notes that almost all of the hardware and software, including workstations, video displays and data storage, are commercial off-the-shelf products.

The vehicle is rated at 43,000 pounds and features a 32kw generator and a 2.4-meter roof-mounted dish for satellite communications.

For 24/7 operations, the DMIGS would typically operate with two to three drivers and about six analysts. The NGA is in the process of acquiring a support vehicle to help transport personnel, specialized power cables, food, water, fuel and generators. Roughly the size of a medium ambulance, the support vehicle is expected to be delivered next spring.

Pierce, 920-832-3231, www.piercehomelandsecurity.com

Mass-decon vehicles

The first five of 25 identical mass-decontamination vehicles have been delivered to Illinois's Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, one of the nation's largest fire mutual aid networks.



Twenty-two, purchased with DHS funding through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Illinois Terrorism Task Force, will be assigned to hazmat teams within

MABAS divisions across the state. The other three trucks, funded through an Urban Areas Security Initiative grant, will be assigned to MABAS divisions in Cook County. The order is worth more than \$5 million and is scheduled to be completed by late next spring, according to project co-chair Chief Bill Bell of the Oak Park (Ill.) Fire Department.

Despite the vehicles' intended specialty, Bell notes, "There will be a number of uses for them," including, so far, firefighter rehab, warming/cooling for rescue divers and providing mobile showers for MABAS US&R personnel.

Each truck is built on an International 4300 chassis with a 220hp International diesel engine, Allison transmission and 10kw Onan diesel genset. The body features entry/exit doors on each side; two workstations in the command area directly behind the cab, which is reached by a crawl-through opening; and a roof-mounted 1,500-watt Command Light.

There are six shower positions fitted with high-flow (5gpm) showerheads. Hot water is supplied by two 560,000-btu diesel water heaters, and every vehicle has a 100-gallon wastewater tank with a 30gpm pump. The floor is made of solid epoxy resin and silica sand for traction when wet. The all-aluminum rear liftgate has a capacity of 1,600 lbs., enough for two first responders and one patient.

The vehicles are designed to maintain gender separation, and a 24-inch-wide exterior roller system and exterior modesty barrier allow simultaneous interior and exterior decon.

Modex Inc., 800-967-7887, www.deconsolutions.com

