

## Latest Homeland Security Armored Vehicle

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The Department of Homeland Security (through the U.S. Army Forces Command) recently retrofitted 2,717 of these 'Mine Resistant Protected' vehicles for service on the streets of the United States.

Although I've seen and read several online blurbs about this vehicle of late, I decided to dig slightly deeper and discover more about the vehicle itself.

The new DHS sanctioned 'Street Sweeper' (my own slang due to the gun ports) is built by Navistar Defense (NavistarDefense.com), a division within the Navistar organization. Under the Navistar umbrella are several other companies including International Trucks, IC Bus (they make school buses), Monaco RV (recreational vehicles), WorkHorse (they make chassis), MaxxForce (diesel engines), and Navistar Financial (the money arm of the company).



From Navistar Defense:

The International® MaxxPro® is Navistar Defense's Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle and incorporates the latest design in armoring technology. Extensively tested by the military and used in theater today, the MaxxPro features a

V-shaped hull and other design features that greatly improve survivability. With so much protection, it's the vehicle that every crew wants when they're out in the field.

MaxxPro® MRAP specifications:

Length: 254" (21.2 feet)

Width: 102" (8.5 feet)

Height: 120" (10 feet)

Wheel base: 153" (12.8 feet)

Curb weight: 37,850 lbs. (18.9 tons)

Engine: MaxxForce® 9.3

The MaxxPro MRAP is built to withstand ballistic arms fire, mine blasts, IEDs, and other emerging threats. Its V-shaped hull helps deflect blasts out and away from the crew and its armoring can be customized to meet any mission requirement.

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The installation contract retrofits 2,717 vintage MaxxPro vehicles (work performed in West Point, Mississippi) with a new rolling chassis. This chassis enhancement included the addition of the DXM™ independent suspension, a MaxxForce® 9.3 engine, and a 570 amp alternator and driveline. The work was completed at the end of May 2012.

Observations and Questions:

Why would DHS need such over-the-top vehicles on U.S. streets to withstand IEDs and mine blasts?

There are rails along the perimeter windows/gun ports to help displace the impact of RPG rounds... seems a bit much for a Police/Rescue vehicle...

They all have gun ports... Rescue vehicle?

Seriously, why would DHS need such a vehicle on our streets? What are they expecting or preparing for? It is a ridiculous over-the-top display of force that is meant to intimidate and associate the DHS name and logo with 'FEAR'. Just like all that's happening with the TSA (under the wing of DHS), this is about normalization of a new way of American life.

By the way, you're the one who paid for these. Or better said... your grand-kids will pay for these since we are living on a negative balance sheet with a 16 Trillion dollar deficit.

I am curious to know if any of our MSB readers have seen any of these vehicles?

Send photos and encounters if you have them...

George Washington once said, "Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action."

Update: One reader has suggested that the DHS vehicles are not Navistar MaxxPro, but Golan (Israeli made) armored vehicles. There have been numerous reports on this story swirling within the blogosphere with varying claims of make and model. While this new information may or may not be accurate, I still question the need for these types of military armored vehicles riding on the 'free' streets of America, regardless of who makes them.

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