



For the last ten years the Police Department's SWAT Team used a 1986 Ford money carrier (armored car) as the Department's rescue vehicle. For some time the converted armored car had been in very poor condition; the roof leaked water and the vehicle had been in constant need of mechanical repair. Due to its low ballistic rating the armored car never truly provided adequate protection.

The industry standard cost across the nation for SWAT Team armored vehicles had been typically over \$250,000, clearly more than the Police Department could afford. The Salinas Police SWAT Team began exploring funding options for a replacement including applying for grants, however this proved unsuccessful. Based on the need for a replacement, Officer Fors began exploring the option of acquiring a vehicle through the United States Government's 1033 Program.

The 1033 Program was established by the United States Government as a means of reallocating government equipment for use by law enforcement agencies. The Salinas Police Department participated in the 1033 program for many years and has acquired equipment through this program in the past. Officer Fors began making contact with facilitators of the 1033 Program in Northern California, Texas, and Washington State, and began the arduous process of navigating the bureaucratic applications for a surplus armored vehicle.

Officer Fors' indefatigable efforts resulted in the Salinas Police Department being awarded one of the first armored vehicles of its type in California. The Department was given literally one week to pick up the vehicle or the Department would be passed over. Officer Fors coordinated the effort to secure the vehicle and managed to secure one from a closer location in Washington State as opposed to Texas. With short notice Officer Fors, Officer Robert Hampson, and Sergeant John Murray drove to Seattle Washington to examine and retrieve the vehicle, now known as the Armored Rescue Vehicle (ARV).

The ARV cost the United States Government \$658,000 to manufacture and equip. The Salinas Police Department acquired the vehicle at no charge. The vehicle was used by the Army for training, had never been deployed abroad, and only had 7,600 miles of service. The Police Department incurred transportation costs (approximately \$1,350) to drive the vehicle from the state

of Washington to Salinas. Currently the ARV can and will be maintained by the City of Salinas Fleet maintenance division and uses over the counter civilian parts for replacement.

In order to prepare the ARV for law enforcement service in Salinas, paint, decals and additional lighting equipment were acquired at a cost of \$10,800. Officer Fors reached out to our partners at the Office of Emergency Services and sought grant funding to paint the vehicle. The Office of Emergency Services provided \$8,000 to complete the project, further minimizing costs to the Salinas Police Department and the City of Salinas. The total cost to date incurred by the City of Salinas has been \$4,150.

Officer Fors has been an indispensable leader in this project and worked tirelessly to transform this Army surplus vehicle into a functioning addition to the Salinas Police Department fleet. In addition to paint and decals Officer Fors coordinated the addition of the following items: exterior lighting, side and rear mounted cameras, Code 3 equipment, interior seating, radio, air horn, front mounted ram, mounting and storage for SWAT equipment and more. Additionally, Officer Fors coordinated the construction of the ARV storage facility at considerable cost savings to the Department and has since acquired his Class B license.

The ARV will provide superior ballistic protection in high-risk situations. It will also provide the capability to rescue wounded or downed officers and civilians from positions officers may not otherwise safely approach, and protect community members if they are forced to evacuate their homes.

During these tough economic times for the City the Police Department has had to find alternative solutions to the challenges we face. The acquisition of the ARV has been part of that work; saving the community members a small fortune. This would not have occurred without Officer Fors commitment.

His leadership on the ARV project is reflective of the highest traditions and values of the Salinas Police Department and the SWAT Team, and is deserving of the Salinas Police Department Letter of Achievement.