

# “The Beast”

THE PRESIDENTIAL LIMOUSINE

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## “The Beast” The Presidential Limousine



The Presidential limousine is a rolling fortress---so much so--- that it is referred to by Secret Service agents as--- “The Beast.”

In August, 2013 according to a news story the Department of Homeland Security was opening bidding for a contract--- to design and engineer the next Presidential Limousine--and with noting some of the requirements involved it is interesting to discover more of the specifics about the car.

Not much is actually known about The Beast-- since it falls under the Secret Service's classified motor pool, but a few specifications and secrets have leaked out over the last few years.

The 2009 Presidential limousine (the one being used now) was manufactured by General Motors. The vehicle's outward appearance carries many current Cadillac styling themes---and is also referred to as **Cadillac One**.

However, The Beast shares little in common with a standard production Cadillac car.

Its chassis, engine and transmission are based on those used in the Chevrolet Kodiak, a rugged commercial vehicle used as everything from a dump truck to a U-Haul truck.

Calling it armored---is an understatement. It has more armor, high-tech gadgetry, offensive and defensive gear than a small battalion. The precise specs of this modified Cadillac aren't available to the public due to security reasons, but we DO know that it is made largely of titanium, steel, ceramic and aluminum---and it

is so fortified that almost no sound enters the cockpit, necessitating special microphones rigged on the body so the driver and passengers can hear what's going on around the car.



The Beast is built to be capable of withstanding direct strikes from rocket-propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices. There is probably not a better-armored vehicle WITH WINDOWS on the planet than The Beast.

Its armor plating is said to be 8 inches thick--- and its doors weigh as much as those on a Boeing 757 aircraft. The bulletproof windows are said to be able to absorb a bullet, while the inner plastic layers can essentially catch a bullet like a baseball glove.

And the nearly bus-sized tires are Kevlar-reinforced---puncture and shred-resistant--- which if compromised are capable of keeping the Beast running on the road on only the steel wheels if necessary.

The interior of the limousine is sealed off from the outside world to reduce risks of a chemical attack, while special foam surrounds the fuel tank to insulate it in the event of an impact.

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The Presidential limousine can seat seven people. At the very least---the Beast has three passengers aboard---the driver, the President's lead Secret Service protective agent in the front passenger seat---and of course, the President himself---who sits in the back. A glass partition divides the front from the back. There are three rearward facing spots for seating available in the back on a bench, and one spot next to the President available for a guest. A folding desk separates the President from his guest's spot. There are TV's, VCR's and CD players in the rear for the passengers' enjoyment.

Storage compartments in the interior panels of the car contain communications equipment which is called the Limousine Control Package and is operated by the White House Communication Agency--- and allows communication with the other vehicles in the motorcade.

This voice and data device --- links the vehicle to the White House Communication Agency's vehicle (called the Roadrunner) which is at the rear of the motorcade. This allows command and control functions to be performed from the limo ---and this communication is done using encrypted information.



The Beast is exceedingly well-equipped.

Pop open the trunk--- and it is said that you'll find everything from firefighting equipment and oxygen tanks--- and even a blood bank--- with a supply of the President's blood type.

It has a special night vision system in a secret location. There are tear gas canisters, shotguns, and supposedly grenade launchers-- -integrated into The Beast.

The car is driven by a highly trained Secret Service agent who is capable of executing tight J-turns and other police-style evasion techniques---and can turn the limousine 180 degrees in a matter of seconds to escape trouble if necessary. The Secret Service drivers have undergone extensive training at a secluded Secret Service training facility (thought to be a military base) and have received input from engineers and test drivers.

When on the road---The Beast is not alone. The Secret Service actually has a few other Beast-like vehicles. Although it's not known whether they're all functionally identical--- some look more like a Cadillac DTS than The Beast. The other limousines are used for high-ranking foreign officials and VIP guests when they're in Washington, D.C. In addition, the President sometimes travels in a heavily-armored Chevrolet Suburban or a bus known as Ground Force One--- rather than the Beast.

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Directly behind the President's car, you might see Chevy Suburbans and inside you might see a group- of very scary-looking guys dressed in scary-looking SWAT-like costumes, carrying a bunch of scary-looking weapons. There is an arsenal of weapons in those vehicles---an example being M16 rifles.



When on the move---The Presidential limousine is surrounded by a motorcade (sometimes between 30 and 45 vehicles)---including local police, The Beast's Decoy, a mobile communications center, the press, and other armed vehicles.

And at the rear of any Presidential motorcade is a paramedic-equipped ambulance.

There are also well-trained counter snipers that line every route, to keep the agents on the ground from having to use all of Cadillac One's features. They help enable the

President to stay safe---even if he leaves the “Belly of The Beast.”



The Beast has its own airplane. Any time the President is traveling---The Secret Service makes use of a C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft to haul The Beast, a second limo and a heavily armored Chevrolet Suburban communications vehicle which is directly linked to a military satellite.

On domestic trips--- vehicles carrying the President--- display the American and Presidential Standard flags, which are illuminated by directional flood lights mounted on the hood. When the President performs a state visit to a foreign country, the Presidential Standard flag is replaced by the foreign country's flag.

The Beast is rumored to weigh about 20,000 pounds, so it obviously cannot go at rocket speed. Hitting 60 mph from a complete stop takes about 15 seconds, which is more than just about any new car you could think of. The big car's top speed is said to max out at 60 mph---and in addition all that weight makes it a guzzler---using fuel at a rate of only 8 miles per gallon.

According to the aforementioned news article---the battle to build the next “Beast” has begun!

The solicitation for the contract--- will be in two phases.

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**Phase I** of the process is merely to vet the capabilities and Top Secret clearances of interested parties, with the specific vehicle requirements revealed only to those that make it to Phase II--where they will THEN be given the statement of objectives and will be allowed to submit a detailed proposal.

The contract for the new limousine is to be awarded by September 29<sup>th</sup> 2013, but due to the sensitive nature of the vehicle, it's likely we won't know anything more about it until the new car enters service---including the price.

But we might get some idea of the cost by noting what was spend on the 1993 delivery to the White House of three Cadillac limousines. They were estimated to have cost a total of near \$10 million.

What the public doesn't know about The Beast is subject to endless speculation, rumor and conjecture---and it's always possible that some of the features may be unconfirmed due to security reasons.

But by all measures---the President's new ground vehicle---which could be in service as early as 2015--- is meant to be designed to insure that the Secret Service has everything it needs to protect the President from any threat he might face--- while traveling by car on the road. His safety is their top priority!

\* Hopefully----”The Beast”---will always help to insure the safety of the current President--- as well as any future President of the United States.



“Beasts of the Past”

