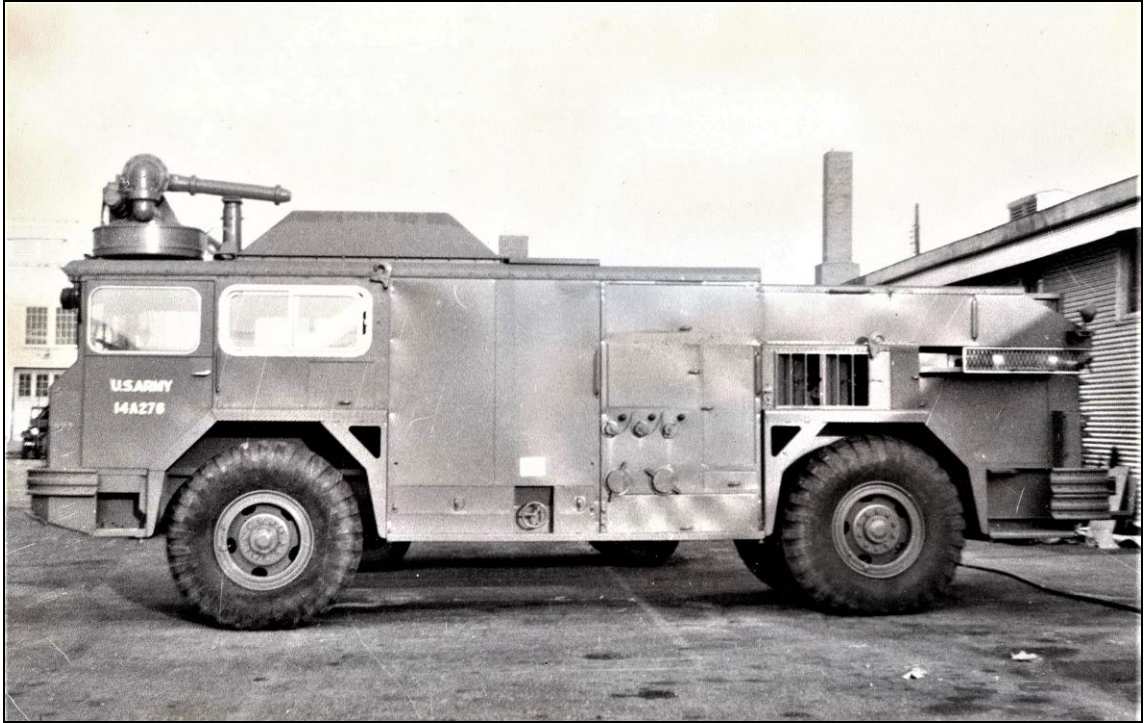


The U.S. Army Class 1500 Fire Truck



Class 1500 USA 14A276

Beginning in 1954 the Army Corps of Engineers had begun development of the Class 1500 Crash Truck to meet the challenges associated with new type of weapons, missile installations and the increased use of aircraft at Army Airfields, but it wasn't until 1959 that the truck went into production. Manufactured by the Walter Motor Truck Company it was constructed with an all-aluminum frame which was integral with giving a very rigid construction. The 4x4 vehicle was powered by a rear mounted, LeRoi, 8-cylinder, 300 hp gasoline engine driving all 4 wheels through a torque converter and 3 speed transmission and could travel at low speed while pumping at full capacity though a special pump transmission. Fully loaded the truck had a top speed of 60 mph and could accelerate from 0 to 50 mph in 60 seconds. It measured 28 ft in length, was 8 ft. wide and 12 ft at the highest point on the turret.

The completely enclosed, heated cab could hold 6 fire fighters and protection of all equipment was provided in enclosed and heated compartments. Two 150 foot, 1 inch booster lines were mounted on hose reels in compartments on each side of the body. The truck was equipped with a two stage 1,500 gpm centrifugal pump, mounted midship on the chassis with the pump panel located on the right side of the vehicle and carried 950 gallons of water and 200 gallons of foam. A remote controlled turret nozzle designed by the Engineer Research and Development Laboratories was located on the roof of the truck cab and a 20,000 pound winch with 300 feet of 5/8 inch cable was mounted on the forward vehicle frame with operation controls located in the cab.

A 20 foot extension and 16 foot A frame ladder along with 4, 5 in hard tubes were carried above the engine compartment between the two hose beds. The hose beds held 1,000 feet of 2 ½ and 150 feet of 1 ½ inch hose. Tires were flotation type military size 16-00 x 25. Army records indicate that 136, Class 1500 crash trucks were produced.