

CONSULATE

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Consulate is a **self-sustaining mobile laboratory designed for remote survival, counter-defense, and autonomous operations** in environments where traditional systems of control and infrastructure fail. Built around a **Toyota Land Cruiser 76 and the exploration rover Embassy** [\(Artnews\)](#), this installation serves both as a mobile control center and a safe haven for those seeking temporary autonomy in uncertain situations.

The vehicle, often used in military and humanitarian contexts, turns into a **stealth resistance tool** capable of navigating the remoteness, providing shelter, mobility, and technological support for off-grid living and escape strategies.



The Toyota Land Cruiser 76 has earned its reputation as a military vehicle of choice due to its rugged durability and ability to endure extreme conditions. Historically, it has been crucial in conflict zones where mobility and reliability make it an invaluable asset. These vehicles create **asymmetries in the battlefield** as they are purchased not only by humanitarian organizations and armed forces but also by dissident groups, **blurring the lines between military operations and resistance movements.**

During the Toyota War (1987-1989) in the Chad-Libya conflict, Toyota vehicles, including the Land Cruiser 76, were equipped with missile systems and used as military transport. These vehicles were vital for rapid maneuvering and covert operations, facilitating guerrilla tactics against a far superior opponent. The Land Cruiser's presence in both military and dissident hands introduces complex dynamics on the battlefield, where **control, survival, and resistance are intertwined through the use of the same tools.**

In Consulate, the Toyota 76 is transformed into a mobile base for life and research. It serves as a stealth platform for those operating in remote locations, equipped with a battery system to power communication tools, data collection devices, and self-repair technologies. **Its independence is further augmented by adaptable solar panels and Artificial Intelligences**, which ensure sustainability in environments where traditional infrastructure has collapsed.



This Toyota Land Cruiser 76, bought by my family, has been used for parallel travelling, albeit in more privileged circumstances. It has accompanied my personal journey, serving as a crucial part of my growth and the development of my research. Through its robust design and versatility, it allowed me to explore both technical and mechanical challenges in real-world, rugged conditions. The expeditions with this vehicle—built for extreme terrains and conditions—has shaped my exploration of technological autonomy and self-sufficiency, contributing to the conceptualization of “Embassy” project at maltabiennale.art and then “Consulate”.

This car is not only a mechanical object but also a tool of academic unlearning and problem-solving in a world of constant flux.

Consulate is more than just a representation of technical autonomy. From the moment I traveled in the Toyota, the installation acquires a personal, poetic significance. It becomes a symbol of an imagined journey—**a counter-altare to the increasingly suffocating systems** of control in a world of rising political regimes. The vehicle has accompanied me throughout my life, its presence central to both my personal experiences and the formation of my artistic and research approach.

The Toyota, as a powerful, mobile, and rugged tool, allows to navigate the landscape of control, **building new form of coexistence where political systems fail**. This installation is not just about survival in remote places; it is about creating **new perspectives for decentralized communities**, hijacking egemonic surveillance architectures.

The interior of the Toyota Land Cruiser 76 are **reconfigured as a space for living, repair, and operation**. Field tables are set up around the vehicle, covered with blueprints, documents, and tools crucial for self-sufficiency in remote areas. This mobile base operates independently, **every objects in Consulate fits within the car**.

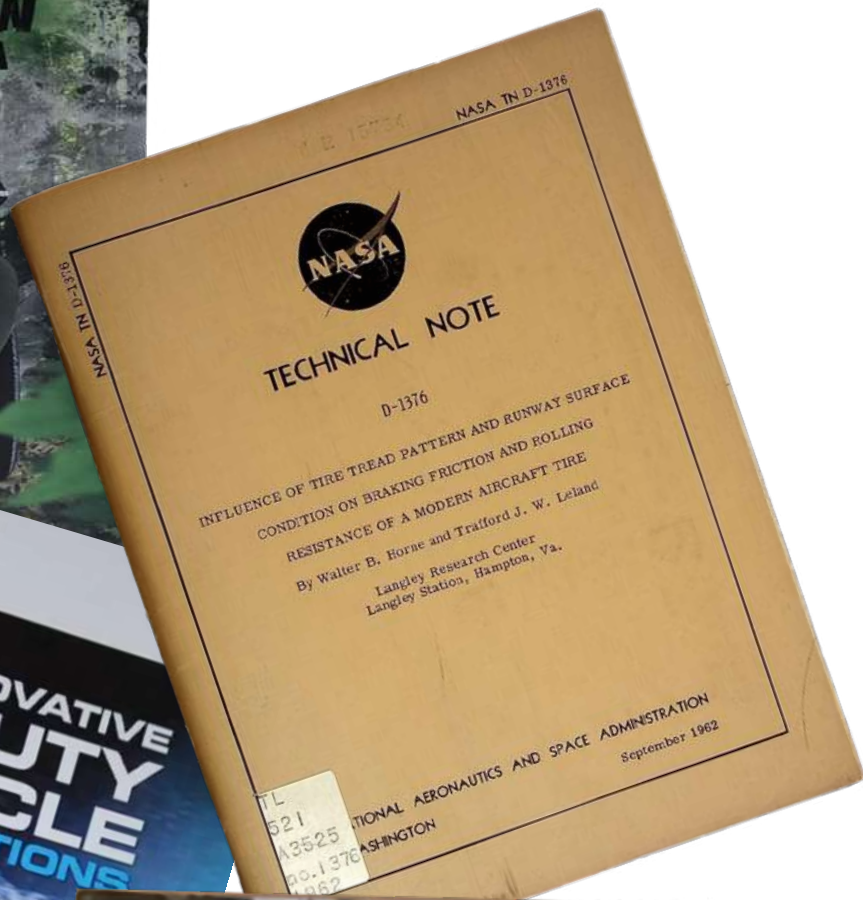


Beyond its mechanical resilience, the Toyota 76 becomes a repository of essential materials for research and development. Visitors interact with various documents that re-imagine technologies and tools to navigate ungovernable remoteness:

- **Toyota manuals** that detail the vehicle's mechanical adaptations and its role in logistics and mobility in harsh environments.
- **Military armament brochures** that highlight Toyota's integration into combat zones, emphasizing rapid mobility and strategic defense.
- **NASA technical notes** on exploration vehicles and robotic systems, offering insights into how space technologies can be repurposed for earthly survival and self-repair.
- **Artist-created documents** staging alternative technical strategies, nomadic living models, and temporary autonomous zones that challenge conventional systems of control.

These documents not only serve as a foundation for mutual learning but also **highlight a narrative suspended between fiction and reality.**

In Consulate, visitors engage with these documents, interpreting the contents according to one's own desires and ideally triggering personal strategies.



documents examples



TECHNICAL NOTE NO. 45
SA'ID TRANSNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
RSC

STEALTH STRATEGIES FOR TECHNICAL VEHICLES:
INTEGRATING NOMADIC MOBILITY AND OPERATIONAL DISCRETION

Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)



Embassy at maltabiennale.art, Gozo (Malta), 2024

Consulate also features two specific operating systems: **Embassy**, a NASA-inspired exploration rover developed for maltabiennale.art curated by Sofia Baldi Pighi, and **Liability**, a custom-built AI running the laboratory.

Embassy, partially disassembled and undergoing maintenance, exists in a suspended time—**a before or after the storm**—highlighting the diverse intentions of the project. The rover, while under preparation, adds to the enigmatic atmosphere of Consulate, acting as a backdrop to the current operations.

Liability functions as the autonomous operator of the mobile laboratory, using the data collection and communication systems within the Toyota and Embassy to monitor the environment and interact with visitors. Liability not only guides the operations of the installation but **engages publics in unpredictable dialogues**, also trying to communicate with their own devices.



Embassy at maltabiennale.art, Gozo (Malta), 2024

Consulate is a meditation on the **merging of technological systems from disparate fields**—military, space exploration, and autonomous systems—**into a unified, self-reliant structure**. By merging the mechanical capabilities of the Toyota with the technological intelligence of the Embassy rover and Liability AI, Consulate explores new ways of **adapting advanced technologies for autonomous living** in the face of global instability.

