

Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Accomplishments for 2004

THE ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT ALARM SYSTEM (ILEAS) acquired a full-time Executive Director in July. The Executive Director is dedicated to management of the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid grant programs. He established a home administrative office in Urbana and all law enforcement mutual aid records were centralized there.

ILEAS also developed a website at www.ileas.org. This website provides information to all members of the law enforcement community in Illinois about grant and mutual aid programs, personal protective equipment, and other pertinent information with regard to law enforcement and terrorism.

A centralized, encrypted and password-protected web-based purchasing and financial management program was established. This system ties together the Governing Board, the Executive Director and Task Force financial employees. Additionally, the Board Treasurer established a new accounting procedure to track grants and purchases.

The mutual aid alarm card system was formally put into place on April 15th. On April 20th, its first successful activation was a serious fatal tornado event at Utica in LaSalle County where the Sheriff requested and received 25 officers from surrounding agencies. There have been several successful activations of alarms since then. During 2004, the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) maintained their own separate alarm system in concert with ILEAS's system. ILEAS is working with NIPAS to merge the systems so that there is only one Illinois mutual aid network.

The distribution of over 23,000 respirators to every law enforcement agency in Illinois was completed in 2004. Stockpiles of canisters are available and pre-positioned throughout the State for disasters. ILEAS reached an agreement with the Illinois Department of Labor clarifying rules for respirator use by law enforcement personnel.

ILEAS contracted the development of an online membership and alarm card management system. The system was developed and testing was completed in the last quarter of 2004. Starting in the first quarter of 2005, the every law enforcement agency will be able to create mutual aid alarm cards electronically. These electronic cards will be available to Northwest Central Dispatch and Peoria Dispatch. The system is encrypted and password protected.

ILEAS purchased software for Northwest Central Dispatch to assist with alarm card activation and notifications. This system will automatically notify police agencies of a possible alarm card request so that they can be more prepared when called by Northwest Central Dispatch - thus reducing the response time to alarms.

ILEAS also distributed the statewide suspicious package protocols to every law enforcement agency in Illinois. This protocol was developed by local law enforcement and fire departments, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the State of Illinois.

ILEAS completed the training and equipping of 4 Weapons of Mass Destruction Special Response Teams. These teams, totaling 120 officers, are equipped to operate as tactical teams in a contaminated environment. Their mission is to immediately respond to a Weapons of Mass Destruction incident, within their regions, and to provide all avenues of support to the local incident

commander, the State Weapons of Mass Destruction Team, and the appropriate federal agencies responsible for the mitigation and investigation of such incident. Also in 2004, ILEAS began the process of writing the first ever statewide weapons of mass destruction team protocols and policies. They should be complete in the second quarter of 2005.

ILEAS budgeted and began the formation of seven more teams. Two of those teams have been trained and at the end of 2004 are being equipped. Five more teams are being assembled and will be trained and equipped in 2005.

ILEAS joined the Illinois Wireless Information Network (IWIN). Work is underway to connect to ALERTS, the other statewide wireless network.

ILEAS contracted with Entrust and the Universities of Chicago and Illinois to establish a secured digital statewide credentialing system for special teams and staff resources. Work started in 2004 on the development of such a system. ILEAS is working closely with the Illinois State Police and the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) to develop the system.

ILEAS participated in a task force, developed by the Governor's office, to address school security issues and make legislative proposals with regard to safety and drills. Additionally, the task force began the process of combining the two previous school security plans offered by the State into one unified plan.

On September 10, 2004, the State of Florida requested 50 law enforcement officers from Illinois pursuant to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). IEMA staff contacted ILEAS for assistance organizing the response. By Monday the 13th, 36 departments volunteered 50 officers and 39 squad cars. Just as that level was achieved, Florida canceled their request due to Hurricane Ivan making a westward turn. This was ILEAS's first experience with EMAC and as a result, developed a list of agencies that are willing to participate in future interstate activations.

In cooperation with MABAS, ILEAS developed specifications for a mobile command post. ILEAS purchased 12 of these vehicles for delivery in 2005. They will be placed strategically around the State.

ILEAS granted 75 local law enforcement agencies and law enforcement consortiums grants for homeland security, totaling \$4 million. The grants were for interoperable communications, training, personal protective equipment and critical public facility target hardening. These grants were let in conjunction with the Terrorism Task Force's Regional Grant program.

ILEAS held its first training conference in Springfield on April 4-6th. Various training sessions were conducted for the 300+ attendees. Additionally regional meetings were held to strengthen the relationships among local agencies in various parts of the State.

ILEAS made orders to purchase 522 Motorola StarCom21 UHF trunked mobile radios for local law enforcement agencies. Once received and installed, these radios will provide statewide coverage for local agencies during disasters and mutual aid situations.

