

# ILEAS Membership Feedback Overview

In the last three months, ILEAS conducted a focus group and an online survey of the membership in order to get feedback on ILEAS' strengths, weaknesses, equipment needs and requested services. Over 300 agencies participated in the group and the survey. This is an abridged summary of the results.

## **After review the results, the staff recommends the following for local grants this year:**

- MDC's for agencies that currently have NO MDC capability
- Thermal/Night Vision kits
- Ballistic Shields
- StarCom21 and Other Radios (possibly funded out of different funding source)

## **ILEAS Services Desired:**

- Grant Clearinghouse Website
- Training Clearinghouse Website
- Low cost PC's and Other Technology
- Additional political lobbying on ILEAS' part for more resources
- More regional training, exercises and workshops
- Grant seminars
- SRT teams used more for regular criminal situations by the regions
- Agency pricing for all law enforcement related equipment (light bars, shields, etc.)

## **ILEAS Strengths were rated as:**

- Mutual Aid Management
- Equipment Distribution
- Website
- Keeping up on Current Events
- Special Teams Equipping/Training
- Homeland Security Training
- Guidance on Regulatory Issues
- Conference

## **ILEAS Weaknesses were listed only in narrative format. A summary of the feedback is as follows:**

- ILEAS looks like it is trying to expand into something more than its original intent.
- The only issue we have ever had with ILEAS was communication about the StarCom re-banding project.
- Lack of area or regional resource and program coordinators (staff) to provide the network linking.
- Dues/Fees
- The training at the conference could improve.
- Better communication with members e.g. Chiefs

## **Focus Group**

The big three suggestions from this group were:

- the grant/training page
- the regional representatives
- better website

## **Action Needed**

Staff requests that the Governing Board authorize:

**The ILEAS staff and the Executive Committee to review the full results of the surveys and the budget. Based on that review, a long range planning document for ILEAS should be developed and brought back to the full Governing Board for review and action.**

## ILEAS Membership Feedback Executive Summary

At the first of the year, the ILEAS staff and the Executive Committee decided to reach out to the membership and ask for feedback on services, strengths, weaknesses and the general perception of ILEAS by its members. This feedback project started out with a focus group at the conference on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. At the Governing Board meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> the Board directed staff to do a survey of the membership to see what the equipment needs are with regard to the next ILEAS grant program. During the process of that survey, feedback was requested about ILEAS in general. 272 (30%) of the member agencies responded to the survey. This report summarizes the results of both of those efforts to poll the membership and gauge their needs, satisfactions and criticisms. It is the desire of the staff to use this feedback along with the direction provided by the Board to develop a long term plan for ILEAS.

**\*\*\*NOTE – for more specific details and a list of all the feedback results, see the complete attached survey report.**

### Equipment Survey

The survey requested the respondents to rate a list of potential equipment grant items. The results of that survey are as follows:

- |                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Interoperable Radios | 5. PPE – primarily more gas masks |
| 2. MDC's                | 6. Generators                     |
| 3. Thermal/Night Vision | 7. Target Hardening               |
| 4. GPS Equipment        |                                   |

The survey also asked the respondents to enter in any other equipment that they need or want. There were 121 requests entered by respondents. They ranged widely from flashlights to police buildings. They can be placed into 8 categories:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. In-car video cameras (not eligible) | 5. <i>Tactical equipment (eligible)</i> |
| 2. Weapons (not eligible)              | 6. <i>Target hardening (eligible)</i>   |
| 3. Vehicles (not eligible)             | 7. Radios (eligible)                    |
| 4. <i>Technology (eligible)</i>        | 8. Other (eligibility varies)           |

After reviewing the survey, based on what was heard in the focus group and eligibility, this is the staff's recommendations for local grants this year:

- MDC's for agencies that currently have NO MDC capability
- Thermal/Night Vision kits
- Ballistic Shields
- StarCom21 Radios (possibly funded out of different funding source)

Staff recommends that President Beckwith appoint a Grant Committee which will review the available funds and the list above to determine grant limits, specific equipment and process.

### ILEAS Services

The survey provided the opportunity for the membership to suggest possible services that ILEAS should be providing. Again, the members rated a fixed list and entered in free form suggestions. The list rankings were:

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Grant Clearinghouse Website        | 4. Secure Data Warehouse             |
| 2. Training Clearinghouse Website     | 5. Regional Coordinators             |
| 3. Low cost PC's and Other Technology | 6. Continuity of Operations Planning |

The Grant/Training Clearinghouse websites and low cost computers and technology were very highly rated – especially the grant clearinghouse. As this was also highly rated by the focus group, ILEAS has already started this process. See the Proposed Programs document. The low cost PC/technology program is an interesting proposal that needs more work and exploration. The regional coordinator program was in the bottom half of the online survey; however we believe that is because those taking the survey did not know what it really was. When it was discussed in the focus group, it became one of their top recommendations.

The respondents also added the following ideas:

- Additional political lobbying on ILEAS' part for more resources
- More regional training, exercises and workshops
- Grant seminars
- SRT teams used more for regular criminal situations by the regions
- Agency pricing for all law enforcement related equipment (light bars, shields, etc.)

### **ILEAS Strengths**

As above, the respondents rated and described ILEAS' strengths. The ratings results were:

- |                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Mutual Aid Management        | 5. Special Teams Equipping/Training |
| 2. Equipment Distribution       | 6. Homeland Security Training       |
| 3. Website                      | 7. Guidance on Regulatory Issues    |
| 4. Keeping up on Current Events | 8. Conference                       |

This is a sample of the 30 comments:

- It was hard to rank these items, we feel ILEAS does a good job at everything you have been involved in! Maybe a way for line officers to sign up for news or email bulletins/updates. Most chiefs are not too good at passing things on and patrol is sometimes out of the loop or unaware of ILEAS or what you are doing
- The information shared on current events has been very useful. Getting e-mails on specific incidents helps our agency keep up to date on events, etc.
- Communication between ILEAS and PD's is excellent.
- I feel ILEAS does a great job and is a great benefit to Law Enforcement.
- Well Organized and Staffed with Quality People
- Staff is great!
- The Exe. Director & Staff are simply the best.
- Easily accessible for questions.
- Very well organized and managed.
- Staff is always very receptive and easy to work with.
- I feel you are doing a great job with all of the listed items.
- Great information, but needs to be more focused on how too support.
- Quick E-mail response from ILEAS staff.
- I really think the website says it all....everything you have is listed somehow on the web. Very useful for all agencies.
- Thanks for all you do.
- Outstanding organization - keep up the good work.

Overall, the comments were VERY positive.

### **ILEAS Weaknesses**

In this section, the respondents described ILEAS' weaknesses. There were 21 responses that ILEAS had no weaknesses out of the 54 responses to this question. This is a sample of the more common weaknesses listed:

- I would have liked to have seen the training center be centrally located within the state.
- ILEAS looks like it is trying to expand into something more than its original intent.
- The only issue we have ever had with ILEAS was communication about the StarCom re-banding project. The issue was eventually resolved but it seemed that the communication lines with the project failed.
- Lack of area or regional resource and program coordinators (staff) to provide the network linking.
- Dues/Fees
- The training at the conference could improve.
- Better communication with members e.g. Chiefs

Nearly half of the responses about ILEAS' weaknesses were instead positive comments. However, the ILEAS staff is reviewing each and every negative comment and examining how we can improve.

## **General Feedback**

Respondents were asked for general feedback. Overall, ILEAS was given positive feedback for its work to help law enforcement in Illinois. There are definitely multiple opinions about the same issues. Some respondents were very complimentary that ILEAS is trying to anticipate the current and future needs of law enforcement and tries to stay ahead of the issues. On the other hand, other respondents were critical that ILEAS was trying to expand and should go back to its mission of only providing mutual aid. Some praised us for helping smaller agencies and some criticized ILEAS for failing to help smaller agencies. There were those that suggested the implementation of the Regional Planning Coordinator position and the creation of additional teams.

Many respondents have needs that are entirely outside the scope of homeland security funds. They are looking for basic police equipment, training and support. Please review all the comments for more details.

## **Focus Group**

On March 2, 2009 at the last conference, ILEAS conducted a focus group exercise. Approximately 30 law enforcement ILEAS member attendees were asked to participate in a group exercise/discussion. The attendees represented all geographical regions in the state, large agencies, small agencies, municipalities, counties, special districts/university police, etc. Everyone that participated was a volunteer.

The discussion was an open format and the participation was good. This is a list of issues that the focus group brought to ILEAS for consideration:

- A need for regional representatives to be liaisons between the locals and the administrative staff for compliance and service delivery. The participants liked the idea of a regional intelligence officers. The creation of the Regional Planning Coordinators came directly from this discussion and comments in the survey.
- Regional web pages and the opening up of ILEAS to lower ranks and officers
- The posting of after action reports on operations and exercises so that everyone can benefit from the experiences of others
- More routine communications updates from ILEAS
- Conduct more regional exercises
- ILEAS needs to go to the Illinois Municipal League and the County Officials organizations and educate them about ILEAS
- The Grant and Training Clearinghouse web pages were emphatically suggested
- Training Center tuition needs clarification
- Overall the focus group participants were VERY supportive of ILEAS and wanted the organization to grow and to become a full-service agency. However, there was caution not to become a bureaucracy.

The big three suggestions from this group were the grant/training page, the regional representatives and a better website.

## **Action Needed**

Staff requests that the Governing Board authorize:

- The ILEAS staff and the Executive Committee to review the full results of the surveys and the budget. Based on that review, a long range planning document for ILEAS should be developed and brought back to the full Governing Board for review and action.



## ILEAS Online Survey Full Results

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The survey was completed by 272 agencies (as of May 25, 2009). These are the results of the various questions.

### Question #1 – Equipment

Please rank (1-7) from the following list your equipment priorities. If equipment that you want is not on the list, please enter it into the narrative field below. This is NOT a complete list of what is available on the AEL. However, the Board and ITTF do not want to purchase and distribute equipment just because it is on an authorized list; but rather equipment that you NEED to enhance your homeland security response capabilities.

#### Equipment Priorities

8. Radios
9. MDC's
10. Thermal/Night Vision
11. GPS
12. PPE
13. Generators
14. Target Hardening

#### Other Equipment Suggestions

Please enter any other equipment that you are interested in – even if it is not on the AEL list.

ILEAS is interested in what local agencies would like to obtain so that we can work to obtain grant funding to provide it.

#### In-Car video Systems

- Squad Video Systems
- Digital In-Car video cameras, personal worn digital video
- In-Car Video Cameras
- In-Car Digital Cameras
- in car camera systems
- We are looking for in car video cameras.
- in car camera equipment grant funding.
- in car video cameras
- in car video cameras
- in car video cameras
- squad car cameras
- In car camera systems
- In car video cameras.
- Digital In car Cameras
- Digital In-car cameras
- In car mobile computers
- L3 Communications Digital MobileVision
- car cameras
- There still departments out there that are seeking funding for in car video cameras.
- digital video camera for patrol cars
- In-car cameras

- Something that has been brought more to my attention in connection to court related matters is in-car cameras. These have been more impressive on what they have to offer our officers, and with the technology what they can give us.

### Weapons & Weapons Systems

- Tasers
- Tasers
- Tasers - especially for small department.
- AR15 rifles
- AR-15's
- Less Lethal Munitions
- Riot Control Munitions
- Patrol Rifles and Less Than Lethal equipment
- Glock Pistols
- Patrol Rifles
- special weapons (i.e.: 40 mm launchers, tasers)
- Patrol Rifles

### Radios

- StarCom radio's
- StarCom funding for equipment start up costs. Interoperability met along with FCC rebanding requirements for 2013.
- new high band radios (800mh)
- Radio's-portable, mobile
- would like to see another grant for portable hand held radios
- P-25 Radios, portable and mobile.
- Radio microwave link-system tower, antenna
- Radios
- Radios
- Sat phones that do not rely on local power and cell phone tower operation to function.

### Vehicles

- Patrol vehicles, all wheel drive.
- Patrol Vehicles,
- Small command vehicle that is on the road all of the time. Expedition or Tahoe.
- Squad cars
- Special Vehicles (ATV, Motorcycles, 4 x 4's)
- ATV's
- Bicycles
- UC Vehicles
- Specialized bomb response vehicle.
- covert vehicles (not new vehicles, but road worthy)
- Funds for replacing an aging fleet.
- Vehicles, cars or SUV's.

### Tactical Equipment

- Level III Vests for SWAT operators
- Good night vision, especially for our specialty teams, would be second.
- additional gas masks
- Night vision equipment
- Intervention equipment in the form of training and tactical entry equipment.
- Body Armor, ballistic shield
- Gas Masks
- Ballistic shields and helmets.

- body armor and
- Ballistic Shields
- Advanced EOD Equipment such as total containment vessel, timely updates in general use equipment (bomb suits, x-rays, etc.) Advanced SWAT Equipment such as Armored Vehicle(s), Ballistic Blankets, Marksman Night vision Optics.
- Kevlar Helmets and 1 or 2 riot shields for departments.
- Ballistic Shields
- Kevlar helmets
- night vision equipment
- Breaching Tools
- Would like to see SRT equipment made available to smaller agencies who are doing a combined agency team / active shooter response etc. Items such as: ballistic vests, helmets, rams, shields (protective), vehicles, night vision devices, tactical gear etc.
- Ballistic Shields
- The problem with the MDC grant is that departments who have made sacrifices to purchase them before are basically out of the grant process. Pole mount covert camera systems, that are either fixed or moveable are something that can really help with the homeland security mission in all of our communities.
- HDU items, such as more x-ray devices, PPE's, tanks, etc. Protective suits would be a benefit to the HDU teams.
- Tactical training simulator.
- Ballistic shields, small to medium sized breaching equipment
- Wireless control for the bomb robot that was awarded to our agency.

### Technology

- Live Scan Fingerprint system
- Intershare/Interbadge Upload programs
- Portable surveillance systems (i.e. cameras for use by SWAT operators)
- telephone recording systems
- Surveillance Equipment: Portable Video Cameras and Accessories
- Computer Aided Dispatch /Records management and data sharing software/hardware. Servers, software, mobile data hardware.
- Up to date In-Office Desktop computers
- computers
- GPS
- Live Scan
- Video Surveillance equipment & Tracking devices
- Automated License Plate Recognition (APLR)
- Crime mapping software
- Covert surveillance camera's
- tracking system for vehicles GPS
- stand alone computer for tracking covert operations such as sex crimes, drugs, fraud, etc.
- Big screen TV with DVD player/recorder for training and so forth
- Standardized critical incident response hard and software that allows for uniform and standardized responses
- Live video feeds from high risk areas (schools, nuclear plants, bridges, etc.)
- We would like consideration given to funding protects that implement the Boeing visual security operations console (VSOC) product. Ogle county in cooperation with the Byron police dept. And the Byron community school district has a pilot project for VSOC ready. All we need is assistance with the funding. Other members of prairie shield regional alliance would also participate in such a project if more funding was made available.
- MDC's

### Target Hardening

- Surveillance systems for Police departments interior and exterior
- Also would like to harden courthouse and 911 centers with more keyless entry doors and additional cameras.
- Upgrades and improvements to the robotic system for IED neutralization. Any equipment for Bomb Squads and SRT.
- Target Hardening is our first priority. Camera's key card system for the city building would be our first request.
- Video Security Equipment
- video surveillance equipment both recorders and playback
- Video security systems and vehicle identification systems
- Physical security enhancement equipment

### Other

- exercise equipment
- AED's
- Defibrillators
- Generator
- Radar
- Generator for 911 communication center.
- radar equipment
- Radar unit
- We would like to see a Total Station or some type of equipment such as this available so that we can reconstruct crash scenes and crime scenes.
- new police department building
- Message Board Trailers
- covert radios frequency's (protected)
- Safety Vests, Traffic
- Flashlights, Stinger Style with AC/DC Chargers

### **Question #2 – Services**

**ILEAS is interested in hearing from its members about the services it provides and possible new services in the future. Please list or describe below any service that you would like for ILEAS to provide to local law enforcement in Illinois. Please rank (1-6) the following services that have been proposed in the past:**

#### **ILEAS Services**

7. Grant Clearinghouse Website
8. Training Clearinghouse Website
9. Low cost PC's and Other Technology
10. Secure Data Warehouse
11. Regional Coordinators
12. Continuity of Operations Planning

#### **Other Services Suggestions**

**Describe Other Potential Services that ILEAS Can Provide:**

- Regional meetings for in-person updates and networking. This is a vital benefit to LE agencies at the annual conference, and could be expanded to at least additional single-day event in a local environment for regions are groups of regions. One additional service" that comes to mind would be lobbying efforts in Springfield and D.C. This is likely already occurring

- Training for the north part of the State
- Agency pricing for all law enforcement related equipment (light bars, shields, etc.)
- Host more region meetings and exercises on local level so that people in the district area can get to know each other and there resources.
- It almost appears that ILEAS is looking to create additional roles to justify itself. Stick to the original mission -- and do it well. Example: ILEAS really wants to get into the business of purchasing PCs and laptops? Isn't this what the State purchasing plan is? PS: I often can find better deals on lap tops and PCs on my own vs. what the State purchase plan has to offer.
- Automatic Supervisor Call Up is WAY WAY overdue. We have been asking for this for YEARS! For every 5-7 cars (officers), a supervisor (sergeant) AND a commander should automatically be sent. For every 5-7 sergeants, a commander should be sent, along with a chief.
- It's nice to have all of the ILEAS special teams, etc. available, but mutual aid for cars and supervisors is absolutely needed and WAY OVERDUE by ILEAS.
- ILEAS should not only establish the automatic supervisor call up, they should provide regional training for supervisors in managing mutual aid. Regional Training" means that ILEAS would train supervisors from the same geographic area so we are all on the same page when calling or responding to mutual aid. "
- On-line secure storage??? Stick to the original intent of what ILEAS was established for.
- Exercise and operations order library.
- Again, these items are all important; it is difficult to say that any one in particular is more critical than another.
- Letting us know what grants are out there.
- NIMS certification assistance
- Multi agency response scenario training.
- Grant proposal seminars.
- The SRT teams used in criminal situations with mutual agreements.

### **Question #3 – ILEAS Strengths**

ILEAS is very interested to know what its members consider its strengths and its weaknesses. We would like to build onto the former and work to remove the latter. Please rank (1-8) the following:

#### **ILEAS Strengths**

9. Mutual Aid
10. Equipment Distribution
11. Website
12. Current Events
13. Special Teams
14. Training
15. Guidance on Regulatory Issues
16. Conference

#### **Other Strengths**

##### **Describe Other Strengths:**

- It was hard to rank these items, we feel ILEAS does a good job at everything you have been involved in! Maybe a way for line officers to sign up for news or email bullitins/updates. Most chiefs are not too good at passing things on and patrol is sometimes out of the loop or unaware of ILEAS or what you are doing

- The information shared on current events has been very useful. Getting e-mails on specific incidents helps our agency keep up to date on ebents, etc.
- Communication between ILEAS and PD's is excellent.
- I feel ILEAS does a great job and is a great benefit to Law Enforcement. Hard to rank items above, the only reason why I listed the 7 & 8 items lower is because I have not had the opportunity to utilize those items but I am sure they are an asset to larger departments.
- Well Organized and Staffed with Quality People Timely Dissemination of Information and availability of Resources
- Staff is great! I have never had any problem in getting staff to respond to a request even if they just got back to me to let me know that the request does not fall under ILEAS.

I would like to see ILEAS expand on the Focus Group" concept you had at the conference

- The Exe. Director & Staff are simply the best. The are mission focused" and work very
- Easily accessible for questions.
- Very well organized and managed.
- Staff is always very receptive and easy to work with.
- All are strengths. All really have equal importance depending on what you are looking for. The above numbers should all be 1 and 2 only.
- It was hard to list anything past four because I feel you are doing a great job with all of the listed items.
- Great information, but needs to be more focused on how too support.
- The availability of ILEAS staff via telephone calls has been beneficial. Quick E-mail response from ILEAS staff.
- They are only ranked because you required it.... but to rank the conference 8th would not be an accurate indicator of the value of the conference itself or any other item listed above. They are all important and I agree they are all strengths.
- Thanks for all you do.
- Having access to the recourses when you need them.
- This category I find difficult to rate. I believe ILEAS does offer a great service in all listed options above.
- Personal service and technical assistance.
- ILEAS does a good job communicating via email.
- Simply having the resources available for use is strength.
- All of the above are valuable strengths.
- I really think the website says it all....everything you have is listed somehow on the web. Very useful for all agencies.
- This section was difficult to complete due to ILEAS being very strong in all eight areas.
- Mutual Aid response cards need addition of supervisors or special area equipment added to cards. For small events that may be OK for large events for small towns no supervisory help is coming to your aid. Does not follow NIMS protocol for teams and supervisors, local law enforcement resources should be an automatic response if you reach a specific box card level like a mobile command center.
- Quick response to concerns we have.

- I don't like having to rank these services on a scale of 1 to 8 as if to suggest that item number eight is a problem. I believe ILEAS does a good job in all of the areas that it has chosen to participate and is an excellent resource especially for smaller agencies.
- Assistance and cooperation of the ILEAS staff, facilitation of exchange of information between agencies on variety of issues
- ILEAS does not have any significant weakness at this point, and the rankings for Training, the website, and the conference should not indicate a perceived weakness by our agency. The conference could use some tightening up in regards to the breakout sessions, although this last conference is much improved over last year's. The website is quickly becoming a very effective and efficient tool unlike any other in the country.
- Outstanding organization - keep up the good work.
- Mutual Aid response for front line cars and officers is outstanding (we have used mutual aid several times, including 40 cars and over 15 cars on real events. .... BUT, the lack of automatic supervisor call up makes this a poor system. Span of Control is very important.

#### **Question #4– ILEAS Weaknesses**

**Please describe what you perceive as weaknesses ILEAS weaknesses so that the Governing Board and the staff can work to reduce and eventually overcome them.**

- None stands out. Doing excellent job for the time ILEAS has been in existence
- None
- none noted
- None that I have seen.
- None; good organization
- None that I can think of!
- None that we can think of.
- I have no complaints.
- At this time I can not think of any weakness. So far what New Berlin has received and ask for has gone well.
- I am not aware of any weaknesses.
- There is no weakness, you guy's do a great job.
- I think ILEAS does an excellent job. A member, I need to avail myself more of what ILEAS provides.
- I do not feel that ILEAS has any weaknesses. I have ranked the above by the services I have used or benefited from. I have not used all of the services nor have I been able to attend a conference. It is my opinion that all of the above are great resources I just have not had the opportunity to work or be apart of a special team or attend a conference.
- None that come to mind. Everything progressing very nicely. ILEAS is very organized with good people, very impressed with what ILEAS has done is the last 5 years
- I do not see the organization as having any weaknesses. Efforts focused on mutual aid, training and communications continues to improve each year.
- Considering the size of the staff, and the huge amount of coordination that has to occur, I see no deficiencies worthy of comment.

- Although we are ILEAS members we are not real active members. With that said we do not see any weaknesses.
- Training for new points of contact" at the local agencies about ILEAS when a ranking officer retires and the responsibility is assumed by another individual within the same agency."
- Lack of information on training at the new training center. In regards to cost, housing, meals, transportation and availability
- Very hard to get Illinois Law Enforcement on the same page. This organization is a model for the entire nation!
- I was on it and found just chatting with Jim and the staff about issues helped greatly.
- To say you have a weakness is to be nit picking on my part- I think you do a great job, and the emails are timely and meaningful with good information and not a lot of BS that is not needed.
- I like the conferences, as a small agency, I don't get to network with other agencies outside my immediate area on a regular basis. The couple of day away from the job here to hear current topics is wonderful and I come back recharged.
- The website is very helpful however it has a lot of information. Perhaps a different format might make it less busy? Just a thought. Great information.
- The VENDORS are wonderful to see at the conference, something other than a magazine article, I can touch and feel there! Keep up the good work.
- Not necessarily an ILEAS-specific weakness, but interoperable communications continues to rear its ugly head time and time again in law enforcement, more so when calling an ILEAS box and knowing that it is very likely you will have difficulty communicating with officers responding to your request.
- Update the Website on a more regular basis especially the Grants information
- I would have liked to have seen the training center be centrally located within the state. It is difficult to participate and be involved.
- See comment posted under Services. ILEAS looks like it is trying to expand into something more than its original intent, to justify itself.
- The radio issues are a nightmare. We can never seem to get the channels programmed so that they are consistent throughout the State. Each time we get a new radio or hand held the programming is non-existent or does not conform with other team radios. I would suggest a master template accessible to all teams with a portable programming unit so that each team could program their own radios.
- You need to get out more equipment to the communities that need it the most; not to police department's that are operating large budgets that can afford the equipment. My budget right now is cut to the bare bones" of \$2.1 million and there are numerous departments that operate budgets much larger than that; they are given special privileges due to their mere size.
- Make training more accessible to the South Suburbs of Chicago. Some middle towns with training rooms would be Matteson, Olympia Fields, Tinley Park or Homewood.
- The south side of Chicago communities is in need of Mobile Field Force Teams. Departments have officers who would be willing and able to participate if the availability was there. In the event of a major planned incident, this resource would be invaluable.
- We really need to utilize our alarm card system like MABAS. Those firemen really have their act together on the mutual aid. Every firefighter knows what mutual aid is, many of our street officers don't know how the ILEAS alarm system works. It should be taught in the academies and also should be part of annual training not unlike LEADS certification.

- It is taking too long to receive the portable radio re banding reimbursement check.
- Early warning on grants and assistance with grant preparation.
- I perceive a lot of background chatter with team members who aren't the team leaders (overall team leaders). While excellent information is garnered from these highly intelligent and extremely committed team members it potentially creates a problem for the overall team leader. I'm not sure there is a way to get around this but I think you need to be sensitive to it. Having said that, this again is not a weakness. This informal and sometimes formalized way to communicate has brought you this far and you have been very successful.
- The only issue we have ever had with ILEAS was communication about the StarCom re-banding project. The issue was eventually resolved but it seemed that the communication lines with the project failed.
- I think many small towns do not understand NIMS requirements and NIMSCAST. Help there and training someone at each agency to be able to monitor this on their own.
- Lack of area or regional resource and program coordinators (staff) to provide the network linking.
- Training in southern Illinois
- Dues/Fees
- Better communication with members e.g. Chiefs
- The only weakness I see is that the conference needs to be more focused on terrorism issues and try not to repeat stuff that is already widely known to law enforcement. Try to bring in some heroes that have lived the fight against terrorism to speak. This seems to get the attention better from an audience.
- Assistance with NIMS
- Lack of strategically placed detection devices (radiological, chemical, license plate readers) along the interstates, railroads, etc. to provide a comprehensive statewide detection and notification system.
- I believe that currently, ILEAS is still in the growing stage and does not carry the clout that agencies such as MABAS does when it comes to lobbying or influencing political decision makers. I hope to see the organization continue to expand and become the single main voice for law enforcement state wide and eventually nationally.
- Lack of alternate funding for other initiatives not covered by grant funding (realizing that ILEAS has little control over this weakness)
- I would like to see ILEAS sponsor more patrol officer training classes
- ILEAS needs to start looking to the future of the organization as many of the current regional board members are nearing retirement over the next several years. Succession planning will be important to the success of this organization to continue the excellence instilled by its founders and the current board.
- A clearinghouse" for available grants and assistance with grant applications specifically for ILEAS supported functions/equipment/training would be helpful. Although a MDC "recycling" and/or disposal program is in place the logistics involved are cumbersome - perhaps a designated drop off location during a regularly scheduled date range and/or dates would be helpful. "
- A Mobile Field Force for the south suburbs of Chicago would be very helpful.
- The Conference could be changed to a one-day update and conducted at the regional level.
- The training at the conference could improve.
- Our agency has activated ILEAS one time since we've been a member and it worked reasonably well. During this particular activation procedure there was a small communication error/oversight because not

all agencies were notified about our need. However, I don't know if this oversight was due to an ILEAS communication error or a communication error on our end. The situation went pretty well and we were able to manage without the other agencies.

- Not geared toward small departments.
- We have had nothing but positive experiences so we have no weaknesses to point out.
- As stated, the lack of automatic supervisor call up is a MAJOR weakness.
- Need help to walk through the 09 NIMS compliance form, so i can apply for 09 grant

### **Question #5– General Feedback**

**Please tell us anything else that you believe ILEAS should know about the needs of local law enforcement.**

- Please consider smaller agencies and their grant needs. The agencies in Cook County for example receive funds from Cook County or depend on a lead agency like Chicago. Grant funding from ILEAS, Illinois criminal information authority are often less complicated and a faster method to get funds, and or equipment. Thanks for your assistance in these matters!
- I think you have a good handle on things; I have not been able to devote much time to ILEAS activities, so my opinion is limited. Keep up the good work.
- We are reaching the point where those of us who received MDC's will probably have to replace them in the next 2-3 years. I hope that ILEAS is preparing for that replacement.
- I hope that ILEAS is an advocate for those of us who have worked with the NIMS system and with IEMA and have seen what a failure those systems are and that we cannot rely on that protocol in an emergency. This needs to be seriously looked at and revamped.
- I have seen ILEAS start with a few ideas and have grown to one of best groups in the world.
- The web site password is impossible to remember without opening the file in the office to find the information. Perhaps allow the user to define the password to our preferences. As a result when the email comes from you of a recent update to the web site, I don't go there as it takes a lot of time to dig out the paper file and find the password for your site. I am password hampered as password for email accounts, IWIN accounts, combinations to locked file drawers, then go home and try to remember what I have done for personal use in my home- I write it all down, and then still forget!!! The message board needs some work to clean it up; too many topics posted and not followed through with. Perhaps post all under one topic, and then make it searchable for key words: maybe I am looking for a used k-9 car; old light bar- as it is it is listed multiple ways and I spend a lot of time opening and closing topics only to find they are not current.
- There has been talk about forming a Mobile Field Force team in our area but I have not seen any information.
- ILEAS does a great job of anticipating the needs of the Law Enforcement community and does its best to see those needs are met. Thank you for the terrific job you do.
- Make the website more easy navigable
- Staff is OUTSTANDING!!
- Is there a list available that provides data on grants/equipment received by each agency?
- We appreciate everything you do for us!
- ILEAS is top-notch. ILEAS has moved the Mason County Sheriff's Office in the right direction in terms of technology. I have nothing but praise for ILEAS and its leadership. Thank you.
- Work with individual agencies to determine what NIMS training is required for each village/city based on their employees.

- Just that you're all doing a great job and although not said enough, you are appreciated by our department.
- Grants help smaller agencies get the equipment that they desperately need since smaller agencies have smaller budgets. Larger agencies have a bigger budget and tax base to help them offset the costs of training and equipment
- ILEAS is an extraordinary concept and the organization and leadership has been excellent thus far.
- I would like to see ILEAS become a stronger advocate for Campus Police Departments. Campus Police do not qualify for most LE grants due the fact we are state agencies and/or the populations we serve cannot be counted in the public census. Our needs are identical to any state, county, municipal, police department. It would be great to have the financial assistance in carrying out our service to students, faculty, staff, and visitors.
- I would like to see ILEAS work with ICLEA. There is an untapped resource when it comes to sworn and non sworn departments that protect college and universities in the State of IL.
- Condition of patrol vehicles is a growing concern due to fleet reductions and new vehicle purchases being cut from almost every police budget in the state. Any financial assistance for vehicle acquisitions should be a priority.
- Just letting us know what is going on in the area. I thought ILEAS did a great job keeping us informed on the swine flu. I think the ILEAS is a good web site to go to for information.
- As stated above, ILEAS provides the resources for agencies to use. It is up to the agencies to use them. That is the problem we struggle with, finding the time and manpower to take full advantage.
- I think that ILEAS is doing a great job!!!
- Please continue being the eyes and ears of the local law enforcement community. I commend ILEAS for the great job they are doing in helping law enforcement on various issues.
- It is critical that interoperable communications remains a priority. I would like to see more Federal/State funding for the StarCom 21 system so that all agencies are able to use the system as an operable system as well as an interoperable system
- Need more emphasis on interoperability equipment for smaller agencies. Such as new base stations etc.
- ILEAS has performed top-notch in every contact that my Department has had with ILEAS. This is probably one of the best managed agencies in Illinois government.
- I have not had any bad experiences with ILEAS. The biggest problem and I don't know that anything can be done is simply the distance between our location in south Cook County and the location of ILEAS and the majority of classes put on by ILEAS. We, as an agency, are hard pressed to send officers away for days at a time to attend classes.
- From a small town point of view, we'd like to see class's closer to our area for Mercer, Rock Island and Henry Counties. We know were not as big as some counties, but when we are all together it is a pretty large group.
- Our department really appreciates the simplicity of getting reimbursements.
- ILEAS has been a tremendous help! You just keep getting better as you (we) grow.
- ILEAS is an important partner in mutual aid for law enforcement in this state and is a model for other states to pattern themselves after.
- ILEAS should not go too broad. It should concentrate on its basic values and continue to do the excellent job it has done.
- Keep up the good work. I am glad our agency is a part of ILEAS and in good standing, as we have been for several years. It's nice knowing that a small police agency can access so many resources in a short amount of time with a single phone call.

- Keep up the good work. I am glad our agency is a part of ILEAS and in good standing, as we have been for several years. It's nice knowing that a small police agency can access so many resources in a short amount of time with a single phone call.
- It would be helpful to group small law enforcement agencies into small geographical regions. In each region, agencies too small to afford all desired equipment, could develop a mutual inventory agreement. Each department would purchase and maintain item(s) for the group to be made available when needed.