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Mr. James Page
Executive Director
Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm
System
1905 E. Main
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Dear Mr. Page:

Your concept of a law enforcement training and evaluation center is both timely and important to homeland security; specifically to situations where police teams find themselves, as they did at Virginia Tech, in situations where they face an assailant or assailants, well armed but without knowledge of specific armaments; located in a large building, with no knowledge of specific location.

The old Champaign County Nursing Home poses a unique opportunity to simulate a broad range of potential situations. Because of its construction, it can be set up to simulate bullpen offices; class rooms, department stores, hospitals. In its basement, it can easily pass for the sorts of tunnels, blocked by storage facilities, HVAC equipment, ventilation and service passages that would be found in the utility spaces of almost any large urban building; regardless of specific use. The potential of this site for training law enforcement personnel from individuals first on the scene to SWAT teams is most impressive.

This same attributes of situational versatility makes the Center an ideal place to test new equipment; from infrared imagers to sonic tracking devices to clandestine 'bugs'. The area around the facility will permit the testing and evaluation of weapons and weapon systems-from hand guns to small explosive devices- that might be used in field situations.

The Center's site is appropriate to these uses. Located in an area of very low population density, yet within a few miles of a major university, and a mid-sized urban area, it, I believe, will have no problems with community acceptance. Further, because of the University complex; its associated dormitories, motels, restaurants, etc. the Center will be capable of servicing the residential needs of students coming from throughout the Midwest; indeed throughout the country.

Finally, I must commend you and your staff for getting the support of senior law enforcement officials from other states into your plans and processes. I am confident that you will be successful.

Yours truly,

Harvey Drucker

Chair, Committee on Research and Development

Illinois Terrorism Task Force