

September 21, 2011

Mr. Jim Page
Executive Director, ILEAS
1701 E. Main Street
Urbana, IL 61802

Dear Director Page,

I recently had the honor and pleasure of attending the ILEAS 80 hour Basic SWAT School, and I am writing this letter in order to provide feedback for the instructors involved. After completion of this course, I was left with an overwhelming sense that those involved deserved commendation.

I am a full time Emergency Medicine Physician practicing at a large academic center and hold a faculty position as Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine. As such, I personally instruct student and resident doctors on a daily basis. Having gone through 11 years of secondary education and training at institutions such as the University of Chicago, I have also enjoyed copious opportunities to be instructed. I consider myself a professional student.

It is with this background that I judge the instructors of ILEAS's Basic SWAT School, and I can honestly say that I have not met a more professional and engaging group of instructors. Prior to class, I knew very little about the subject material presented. During the lecture component of class, Randy Olsberg and Ed Mohn taught us how and why to think about the material and not just what to think. After spending 10 long and exhausting days with Randy Olsberg, I left feeling inspired not just to be a better instructor myself, but also to be a better person. He is truly a man of great integrity. Ed Mohn was a constant source of energy and enthusiasm, constantly motivating us while providing appropriate comic relief. Ed was a seemingly endless source of knowledge of tactics for any scenario we encountered and delivered clear and concise instruction.

As we progressed into more physical, hands-on instruction, we had the additional benefit of instruction from Greg Poulos and Ed Roncone. The class was continually broken into smaller groups and given more intimate instruction. It was here that I expected the quality of instruction to be diminished. I could not have been more wrong. Greg walked us through a multitude of vigorous exercises and instruction on defensive tactics. By the end of the day, he had people such as myself (with no martial arts background) taking down large SWAT officers in role-playing scenarios with one hand! This was just the beginning of our exposure to Greg as an instructor. He became an ever-present figure during our class and was constantly giving feedback and instruction on complicated material in a way that made me confident in how to execute what we were being taught. He is obviously a master at his trade, but what is more impressive is that he is a master at teaching the trade. It is very rare in any profession to have someone of this caliber who can preach what he practices, and it is even rarer that such a person does so with such grace

and humility. Greg inspired me to be a better emergency physician and provided me with a tremendous role model as a tactical physician. Ed Roncone just completed the package of high quality instructors. He embodied what was great about this course. He was professional, insightful, clear and concise, humble yet confident, and was simply a pleasure with whom to spend 10 straight days!

It has been difficult to articulate exactly how impressed I am with this course. It has set a new standard for me as a professional student and teacher, and for that, I am forever grateful. I hope that my feedback does the instructors the justice they deserve. If there are any questions or concerns that I can help address, please do not hesitate to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,

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