

ILLINOIS TERRORISM TASK FORCE  
Minutes of the Full Membership Meeting  
January 27, 2021  
10:00 a.m.  
Held via WebEx

Call to Order

Chairman Kauerauf called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending via WebEx.

A verbal roll call of ITTF voting members (agencies/organizations) participating in the meeting was as follows:

Ameren –

American Public Works Association – Vydas Juskelis, Mike Millette

American Water – Anthony Neal, Bernie Sebold

American Red Cross – Scott Clarke

Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois – Luke Howieson

Central Management Services – Craig Canfield, Brent Boesdorfer

City of Aurora -

Cities of Bloomington-Normal – Michael Humer

Cities of Champaign-Urbana – Charles Lauss

City of Chicago – Richard Guidice, Natalie Gutierrez

City of Joliet – Greg Blaskey

City of Naperville – Dan Nelson

City of Peoria – Anthony Ardis

City of Quincy – Joe Henning

City of Rockford – Michele Pankow

City of Springfield – Tom Chi

Collaborative Health Care Urgency Group – Bill Pretzer, Tom Smith

Cook County DEMRS-

DuPage County OHSEM – Murray Snow, Craig Dieckman

Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police –

Illinois Association of County Engineers – Cliff Frye

Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators – Amy Fox

Illinois Association of School Boards – Zach Messersmith

Illinois Board of Higher Education – Brook Stewart

Illinois Campus Law Enforcement Administrators – Chris Ballard

Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers – Tara Matheson, Lindsay Mancini

Illinois College of Emergency Physicians – Jason Kegg

Illinois Commerce Commission – Eric Lounsberry, Stephen Laffey

Illinois Community College Board – Matt Berry

Illinois Council of Code Administrators – Kathryn Gruber

Illinois Coroners Association – Robert Gessner

Illinois Department of Agriculture – Sandy Gilmore

Illinois Department of Corrections – Mike Chappell, Bradley Baker

Illinois Department of Human Services – Amy Dickenson-Ferguson

Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology - Dan Sluga, Jennifer Rominger

Illinois Department of Military Affairs – John Howard

Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Stuart Fraser

Illinois Department of Public Health – Andrew Friend, Michelle Hanneken

Illinois Department of Transportation – Gene Felchner

Illinois Department on Aging – Rollin Barton

Illinois Emergency Management Agency – Scott Swinford

Illinois Emergency Services Management Association – Mike Fleming  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency – Bobby Elzie  
Illinois Firefighters Association – William Offerman  
Illinois Fire Chiefs Association – Joseph Holomy  
Illinois Fire Service Institute – Royal Mortenson  
Illinois Health and Hospital Association – Keneatha Johnson  
Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm Systems – Larry Evans, Pete Smith  
Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board – Eric Arnold, Derek Carle  
Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team – Mary Connelly, Chris Jansen, Moses Lee  
Illinois Public Health Mutual Aid System – Stephen Melega, Nita Ludwig  
Illinois Public Work Mutual Aid Network – Barb Stiehl  
Illinois School Psychologists Association – Carrie Emrikson  
Illinois Sheriffs’ Association – John Sandage, Jim Kaitschuk  
Illinois State Board of Elections – Bernadette Matthews  
Illinois State Police – Brendan Kelly, Chris Trame, William Sons, Aaron Kustermann  
Lake County Emergency Management Agency – Dan Eder, Rebecca Kumar  
Logan County EMA – Kendall Caruthers  
McHenry County Emergency Management Agency – David Christensen  
Metro-East (St. Clair – Madison Counties) – Bryan Whitaker  
Mid-West Truckers Association – Don Schaefer  
Mutual Aid Box Alarm System – Glenn Erickson, Bernie Lyons  
Nicor Gas – Mark Guth  
Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal – Alix Armstead  
Ogle County Emergency Management Agency – Brian VanVickle  
People’s Gas – Charlie Graham  
Quad Cities – Robert DeFrance, Jeff Yerkey  
Regional Superintendents of Schools – Jeff Vose, Chris Tennyson  
Secretary of State Police – Jason Dunn, Ron Lewis  
Will County – Harold Damron

### Minutes

- *Motion to approve the December 9, 2020, Full Membership Meeting Minutes.*

*Motion to Approve: Joe Holomy, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association*  
*Seconded: Mick Humer, Cities of Bloomington-Normal*  
*Motion Carried*

### National and Illinois Homeland Security Updates

Director Tate-Nadeau, Governor’s Homeland Security Advisor, thanked the ITTF member entities that supported inauguration events. She reported that President Biden nominated Deanne Criswell to serve as the new FEMA administrator. Director Tate-Nadeau has interacted and worked with her over the years. She also discussed some new NEMA initiatives that are being proposed to FEMA, such as increasing the number of urban areas from 32 to 77, thus making determination of SHSP and UASI funding a competitive process. She also talked about the proposed increase in percentage of FEMA funds that support Enhancing Cyber Security, Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places, Enhancing Information and Intelligence Sharing and Analysis and Cooperation, and Enhancing Emerging Threats from 5 percent in each category to 7 1/2 percent. The state of Illinois is providing guidance and input regarding the position that FEMA should take on these initiatives.

## Cyber Security Briefing

Dan Sluga, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), DoIT, provided the following updates:

### Solarwinds

- Solarwinds is an information technology infrastructure tool for managing networks and a number of other tasks. The malware left in the wake of this breach has a few names. Fireeye calls it Sunburst; Microsoft calls it Solorigate; another discovered malware has been called Supernova. The bad actor appears to be Russia - also called APT29 or Cozy Bear.
- The federal government and many states, including the SOI, are leaving Solarwinds and will replicate its functionality with other products.
- As with many things, the best options are to keep software updated and patched. This includes upgrades to new versions of software. While this costs organizations money, it should be included in all budgeting.
- It's also a good idea to remove outdated or deprecated software. A good example is Flash Player or adobe Flash player which was officially deprecated late last year and blocked on the January 12. Items such as this should simply be uninstalled.

### Social Media and Online Reputation for Public Officials/Offices and Public Servants

- During the recent insurrection, one particular official in a southern U.S. county had a number of incendiary posts on social media platform Parler. The official was taking a lot of heat for those posts and was pretty confused about it - because none of the posts, or even the account, were made by him. It was a fake account set up by unknown actors using his identity.
- What can be done? Regardless of the social media platform, you cannot be everywhere. As a public official or public servant, you might be able to take advantage of services available that will monitor social media platforms; Google might even work. One thing you can do is get the word out that your office is open for inquiries in case anyone has questions. Alternatively, if you do not participate in social media, you could let that be known as well.

### IoT (Internet of Things)

- The IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act mentioned last month has been signed into law. IoT stands for the Internet of Things - that is, the number of small internet-connected devices, such as your television, thermostat or even your refrigerator. IoT has been viewed as the wild west of information technology, as products are rushed to market without considering security. This new act will help define standards to govern the Internet of Things.  
<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/94123-iot-cybersecurity-improvement-act-signed-into-law>

### National and State Intelligence Briefing

Aaron Kustermann, Chief, Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC), Illinois State Police, provided a briefing on national and Illinois security issues.

## Old Business

### Safe2Help Website and BETA Schools Update

Chairman Kauerauf provided a briefing on the Safe2Help Website and BETA Schools:

- On November 23, 2020, the State of Illinois implemented a beta test of the Safe2Help Illinois program.
- Two school districts are participating in the beta test: Illini Bluffs (Peoria County) and Dixon (Lee County).
- The beta test is scheduled to run for 12 weeks and will allow program staff to systematically evaluate major components of the program, including call center, training and education, outreach, marketing, and student communication.
- In early January, the program received its first report through the call center regarding self-harm.
- The Safe2Help Illinois website is now fully functional with the addition of the 'Contact Us Now' section.
- The mobile version of the website also is available for download at the Google and Apple stores.
- Anticipating that the pilot phase will begin in early March. Anyone who knows of school districts that would be interested in participating in the pilot should contact Chairman Kauerauf.

### SFY 21 Preparedness and Response Grant (PAR) Project Requests and FFY 18 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds

Bob Evans, IEMA Preparedness Grants Section Manager, reported on the status of the projects that were approved at the December 9, 2020, full membership meeting using unobligated funds (FFY 18 HSGP and SFY 21 PAR). The following projects have been funded: Illinois Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) Project in the amount of \$100,000 (FFY 18 HSGP), Collapse Technical Rescue Training Prop Maintenance Project (IFSI Champaign) in the amount of \$270,00 (SFY 21 PAR), Emergency Operations Center (WIU Macomb) Training Center Project in the amount of \$340,000 (SFY 21 PAR). The Body Covert Armor and other Ballistic Equipment for State Weapons of Mass Destruction Team (SWMDT) Project in the amount of \$50,000 (SFY 21 PAR) were funded with some returned SWMDT operational funds and were removed from the approved unallocated project list. Evans also explained that the 9-11 Funding (September 11 license plate fund) received this year will be used to fund the repairs/maintenance on Regional Training Center (RTC) Site Props (used for hazardous materials and technical rescue trainings) located throughout the state. The 9-11 funds will be used to provide individual grants to the local units of government where the props are located.

Chairman Kauerauf and Bob Evans will be contacting grantees for a status update on grant funds that will not be expended from the SFY 21 PAR Grants (ending June 30, 2021) and FFY 17 and 18 HSGP grants (ending August 31, 2021).

### FY 20 National Cybersecurity Review Survey

Chairman Kauerauf discussed at the December 9, 2020, ITTF meeting that all FFY 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program grantees are required to complete the Cyber Security Review Survey.

- The assessment provides grantees with feedback to support their cyber security needs and provides DHS and FEMA with a more comprehensive snapshot of the country's cybersecurity posture.
- Failure to complete this requirement by the February 28, 2021, deadline will result in the inability of the State of Illinois to reimburse these grantees for expenses.

## 2020 ITTF Annual Report

As reported last month, compilation of the 2020 ITTF Annual Report is underway. The report must be submitted to the Governor's Office by March 1, 2021.

Instructions for the committees:

- All committees should be completing their 'key initiatives' from the past year (2020).
- As with last year, the items included should be fully described so a reader not familiar with the project/program understands the purpose.
- Photos and graphics always add to the visual appeal of the report – please include with the summary any image that can add to or enhance the narrative.
- Due to COVID 19 mass vaccination and inaugural preparations, the ITTF is extending the deadline to February 15, 2021, for committees to submit their reports.
- ITTF staff will submit a concise summary of accomplishments and initiatives to the Governor's Office to fulfill the Executive Order mandate and produce a more detailed version to post online.

## State of Illinois Homeland Security Strategy – Vision 2025

- The State of Illinois has embarked on the development of a new homeland security strategy that will drive the ITTF's homeland security activities.
- Although the strategy won't be completed in time for the FFY 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program application process, the state is going to move quickly with the development of the statewide strategy.
- The final strategy, which will align with national and state assessment, mitigation, and after-action findings, will be the focus of all new ITTF grant activities over the next five years.
- For Vision 2025, Illinois will be implementing a 'grass-roots' effort to identify our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats through a series of local townhall meetings.
- The Vision 2025 strategy will look different than strategies in the past because of the need to focus on mental health and sociological issues that have become the root cause of so many of our nation's threats and vulnerabilities.
- All ITTF member organizations are asked to support this effort through endorsement of the process and communications to those they represent.
- Ms. Madison DeRousse, a graduate intern from UIS, is supporting the project. She has begun data collection activities to support the development process and will be reaching out to ITTF members to schedule meetings to discuss the strategy.

## ITTF Training Policy Working Group

At the December ITTF meeting, Chairman Kauerauf discussed that one of the founding responsibilities of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, as the Governor's homeland security advisory body, is the area of policy development. At that time, he recommended forming a short-term focus group to consider the need for an ITTF policy to assist schools and public safety agencies in determining appropriate training and education for active shooter incident management (ASIM) and school safety and violent event incident management (SSAVEIM) reunification courses. The focus group was formed, and Royal Mortenson, Chair of the Training Committee, is overseeing the group. Director Mortenson reported that on January 21, 2021, the ITTF Policy Development Focus Group (11 members representing ITTF entities/organizations) participated in a video conference overview of IFSI's ASIM and SSAVEIM programs given by IFSI Assistant Director JP Moore. At that time, it was decided that the group would experience the tabletop simulated exercise in person. A full demonstration of ASIM and SSAVEIM curriculum, along with a tabletop exercise, was set up at IFSI on February 25, 2021. A final recommendation will be provided to the Council of Chairs at the March 24, 2021, meeting.

## New Business

ILEAS has identified \$480,000 in funds in 19 ILEASSRT and \$213,000 in funds in 19 UAILESRT that will not be used by June 30, 2021. ILEAS is requesting to move the funds to Special Response Teams Equipment.

- *Motion to approve ILEAS to move \$480,000 in funds in 19 ILEASSRT to Special Response Teams Equipment line and \$213,000 in funds in 19 UAILESRT to Special Response Team Equipment Line.*

*Motion to Approve: Mick Humer, Cities of Bloomington-Normal*  
*Seconded: David Christensen, McHenry County EMA*

*Motion Carried*

## Mail – Package – Explosive Threat Checklist – review and update

- Nearly a decade ago, the ITTF assembled a group of subject matter experts to develop a standard, statewide policy for the handling of suspicious mail and packages in response to post-9/11 anthrax scares.
- The four-page document has been used extensively by both public and private organizations.
- This month the document was widely circulated to public safety agencies as part of the inaugural planning activities.
- As the document hasn't been extensively reviewed since its development in 2002, Chairman Kauerauf is requesting the formation of a focus group to review the document and determine if revisions are needed.
- He asked Lieutenant Jason Dunn and his team from the Secretary of State Police to chair this group. The Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System has already committed to supporting this effort
- The ITTF is requesting that member organizations with subject matter expertise to contact Deb Clark to volunteer to serve on this focus group.
- It is requested the focus group present its findings at the April ITTF full membership meeting.

## FFY 2021 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Timeline

- On January 6, 2021, FEMA hosted a conference call with states to review proposed changes to the FFY 2021 HSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- During the call, FEMA provided an overview of their plan to release the NOFO and discussed several programmatic changes, including
  - 30 percent of HSGP award to support federal priorities of
    - Cybersecurity
    - Protection of soft targets/crowded places
    - Information and intelligence sharing
    - Emergent threats
  - Competitive process for determination of SHSP and UASI awards
  - Increase number of urban areas from 32 to 77
  - Removal of election security requirement
- Federal priorities may also include domestic terrorism, as this was mentioned in President Biden's inaugural speech.
- FFY 2021 HSGP NOFO is expected to be released in mid-February.
- ITTF committees should ensure they have meeting scheduled between January 27, 2021, and March 12, 2021.
- Instructions will be sent to committee chairs in early February.
- For FFY 2021, ITTF committee project plans will directly support Illinois' Homeland Security Strategic Priorities.

- Maintain prior HSGP investments
- Continue (expansion) of prior HSGP investments per established program plan
- Initiate new projects that have a defined program implementation plan and scalable
- Hold March 31, 2021, for a special meeting of the ITTF Full Membership to review and vote on the final FFY 2021 HSGP application.

#### ITTF Committees

- Over the next six months, the ITTF committees will be extremely active – working on homeland security strategy and identifying preparedness needs.
- Every member organization has been assigned to an ITTF committee; please contact Deb Clark if you are unsure of the committee to which you are assigned.
- Urge all member organizations to become active participants on a committee.
- The role of the committee is to foster the exchange of information between member organizations' stakeholders and the full ITTF – a two-way communication flow.
- Committees should have representation from public, private, non-governmental, and non-profit organizations in Illinois.
- The ITTF is returning to its origins of representation and policy development.
- Full membership participation and communication will be key to our mission as defined in the Governor's Executive Order that created the task force.

#### Upcoming ITTF Meetings

- Council of Chairs Meeting – February 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via WebEx
- Council of chairs Meeting – March 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via WebEx
- Full Membership Meeting – April 28, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via WebEx

#### Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn: Joe Holomy, Illinois Fire Chiefs Association
- Seconded: Scott Clarke, American Red Cross
- Motion Carried