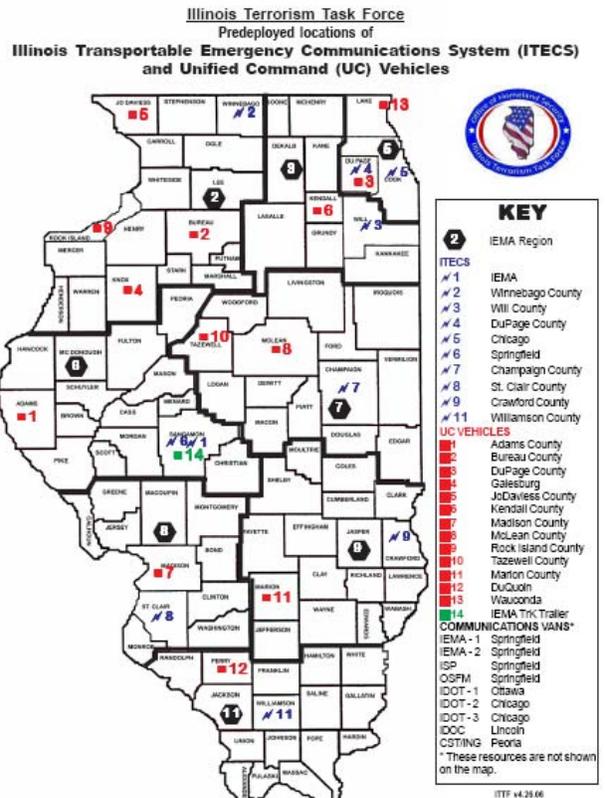


Statewide Deployable Vehicles

Illinois is among the top five most populous states, with Chicago being the third largest city. Illinois is a state with major infrastructure critical to our nation's economy, serving as a hub for the nation's telecommunications, transportation, and pipeline networks. Because of its location in the center of the country, Illinois is central to the U.S. power grid, and has by far more nuclear power generating plants than any other state. The State also plays a critical role in the nation's transportation system. It has one of the nation's busiest airports (O'Hare International Airport), and the nation's two largest railway systems. As a Great Lakes state, Illinois has a large volume of goods moving by water through the Great Lakes waterway system and through the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio Rivers. Virtually all goods entering the U.S. by intermodal cargo through the ports of Los Angeles and Seattle bound for points east of the Mississippi River pass through Illinois by rail and highway networks. The financial district in downtown Chicago handles more financial transactions by volume and dollars than any other financial district in the nation. The Central U.S. is vulnerable to damaging earthquakes. An earthquake of a 5.5 or greater magnitude in the New Madrid seismic zone would cause major physical, social and economic disruption in Illinois, with ramifications across the country.

Strategic and tactical equipment and communications are an integral component to the success and the quality of local, regional and statewide response to a major event. A disaster can strike anywhere in the state, whether it's a hazardous material or weapons of mass destruction or a natural disaster like a tornado or flood. It is critical that state and local emergency responders have the equipment needed to effectively respond to any type of disaster. To enhance local, regional and statewide response coordination and communications, Illinois has utilized U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funding to purchase various emergency management, fire service, and law enforcement response vehicles.

In 2006, Illinois continued the implementation or completed four of these vehicle acquisition and deployment projects. The following is a summary of the regionally deployed Unified Command Post Vehicle, Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications System, Mass Decontamination Vehicle, and Armored Personnel Transport Vehicle projects.



Unified Command Post Vehicle

In July 2004, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) awarded \$18 million in HSGP grants to the state's 19 homeland security regions to help build response and communications capabilities throughout the state. In 2006, thirteen regions received a Unified Command Post Vehicle that will be used during disasters to facilitate communications and coordination between local, state and federal on-scene response organizations. The vehicles will enhance local and state decision-makers ability to coordinate an effective and efficient response to a disaster and set up unified command with communications capabilities.



The 40-foot-long vehicle includes spaces for 12 decision makers plus a communications suite with room for four operators. The vehicles will be equipped with satellite, cellular phone and land line telephone capabilities, along with a generator so the post can be set up virtually anywhere. Additionally, each vehicle contains an interoperable suite of UHF, VHF, and Starcom 21 radio communications equipment and an IWIN computer terminal. The 13 command posts, which cost approximately \$230,000 each, were built to identical specifications to enable them to be used together if needed at a large disaster

scene. The vehicles were purchased in collaboration with the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS).

Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications System

In 2006, the ITTF placed nine Illinois Transportable Emergency Communications System (ITECS) throughout the state. The ITECS has an even more robust communications capability to ensure communications interoperability at the site of a major disaster. The suites are sophisticated mobile communications packages with multiple systems that are housed around the state and are available to deploy anywhere in Illinois to enhance or replace local emergency response communications following any disaster or incident. Each ITECS contains two laptop computers, a satellite Internet system, radios and repeaters, chargers and backup batteries, a multi-line telephone system, a 50-foot communications tower and one 10,000 watt diesel generator.



Each ITECS suite is staffed by three personnel: a supervisor/frequency manager; an electronics/computer technician; and a mechanical technician. These personnel received special training on the equipment and will attend a training workshop each year to keep current in equipment operations. The communications suite and tow vehicle cost nearly \$400,000. Funding for the equipment came from the HSGP grant.

Mass Decontamination Vehicles

The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) received, equipped and deployed eight of the twenty-seven planned mass decontamination vehicles. The remaining units will be deployed in 2007. The specially outfitted decontamination trucks will support local units of government to allow local fire departments to provide expedient mass decontamination of victims at the scene of a hazardous materials or weapons of mass destruction incident. Funding for the equipment came from the HSGP grant. The Chicago/Cook County Urban Area, in partnership with MABAS, will utilize Urban Area Security Initiative funding to support the acquisition of five of these units for the Urban Area.



Armored Personnel Transport Vehicles

ILEAS purchased nine Armored Personnel Transport Vehicles. Purchased from Lenco Armored Vehicles, the Lenco Bearcat was developed as a tactical armored vehicle for special operations units within the law enforcement community. The Bearcat repels multiple attacks from assault weapons by providing ballistic protection with life-saving armor. This vehicle allows emergency personnel to perform critical response and rescue operations in a safe, secure and highly mobile fashion.

