

# FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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## Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association

### Briefing on Department of the Interior Incident Management Analysis and Reporting System (IMARS)

March 17, 2016

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) is a professional organization made up of over 26,000 Federal Law Enforcement Agents and Officers from over 65 Federal Agencies and Bureaus. This includes Officers and Agents from all the Department of the Interior Bureaus including the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service (which includes the US Park Police), the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Within FLEOA, we have taken the Initiative to form a Subcommittee which addresses issues affecting our members as it relates to Natural Resource and Environmental concerns. Our Natural Resources Environmental Working Group includes our aforementioned DOI Bureaus, as well as, the EPA and NOAA Marine Fisheries.

IMARS is the DOI Department wide reporting system for the Law Enforcement/Investigations Bureaus and sub-Bureaus, which was implemented and phased in or around 2011, when a contract was signed by NICHE to oversee the implementation and oversight of the IMARS program.

A very confusing and varied “implementation” process continues today in regards to IMARS throughout the Department of the Interior (DOI) and its’ Bureaus. The IMARS system, while providing what some would consider a decent statistical “snapshot” of a particular work groups’ workload, is not an “Investigatory” or “Analytical” tool.

The USFWS Agents work group, which conducts complex, multi-State, International and long term Investigations, requires a reporting system that is capable of linking subjects, individual acts (violations), import/export permits and other important related data. For this reason, USFWS continues to utilize their “proprietary” Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS).

LEMIS has the ability to index/link any particular subject field, such as, seized property, subject information and Intelligence data, as well as , Administrative data such as individual Refuge Officers/Agents health and fitness records and training records.

We also believe that LEMIS is providing (feeding) the mandated data into the the IMARS system, mainly due to a very competent Administrative staff.

As far as the utilization of IMARS by the other DOI Law Enforcement Bureaus , we are very aware of what is a consistent theme from IMARS users that the initial and subsequent versions of IMARS is described as “not user-friendly”.

Successful “utilization” of IMARS appears to be tied to work groups who have an individual Law Enforcement Officer or Agent who has a “heightened” IT background or interest, or has received a higher level of training than the average Officer/Agent.

FLEOA appreciates the opportunity to provide our Organizations’ insight to the Committee on this and other issues of concern. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have further questions.

Respectfully yours,

*Tim Alley*

Chairman, Environmental and Natural Resource Working Group  
NPS Special Agent, Retired