

# IOWA POLICE JOURNAL

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## BOARD SPOTLIGHT

By Josh Bell, ISPA Director



Greetings from Cedar Rapids! The summer has flown by like usual, and I hope you were able to enjoy it when you could. This is my second year on the Iowa State Police Association Board — to say I've learned a lot is an understatement.

This past legislative session was an eye opener for me. I know the other board members have also touched on this, but we cannot encourage you enough to get out and contact your local legislators. This will be a pension year at the capitol, and we must have a united alliance and strong showing of support to keep our pension left alone. It will be a battle!

Past President Zach Lewis had reported about our trip to Washington D.C. and how we spoke to Iowa legislators about different programs that affect us. One of these programs we lobbied on was the 1033 Program. On August 28, 2017, President Donald Trump signed an executive order reviving a Department of Defense program that allows police departments to receive surplus military equipment.

The 1033 Program will give police departments access to cold weather gear, sleeping bags, flashlights and medical supplies — as well as night vision equipment, helicopters and M79 grenade launchers. The most visible effect of the program will be the acquisition of mine-resistant ambush protected vehicles (MRAPs) that will be used by police departments all over the country.

My point is that it does make a difference when we band together to make our voices heard. Please continue the “grass roots” movement when speaking with friends, family and local leaders.

Our annual conference is right around the corner; I know President Todd Thoeming and Local 2 is excited to host this year. Take care, and God bless.