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Investigating Officer-Involved Shootings

Instructor: Sergeant Mark Dell'Ergo

January 24-26, 2018 (8:00-17:00)

Hosted by: Thornton Police Department

Thornton, Colorado (Denver Area)

This instructor led course will provide the experienced officer/investigator with the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct the most thorough, non-biased OIS investigation possible. This course focuses on the benefits of using the "team" or "task force" approach to OIS investigations. We will start from the initial OIS call out, proceed through all the steps and legalities of the investigative process, and end with a prosecutor presenting a recent OIS 2-week jury trial.

An officer-involved shooting is one of the most important investigations you will ever be involved in. Are you ready?

PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to provide an experienced officer/investigator with the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct the most thorough, non-biased OIS investigation possible.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on the benefits of using a "team" or "task force" approach to OIS investigations. There are several methods currently in use throughout the nation, such as the homicide model or the homicide and internal affairs model. Although these may be great investigative models, these "in-house" models have an inherent bias, even though a bias may not truly exist. These models are an invitation for the public and the media to create bias or a conspiracy theory for the department. An independent, outside body investigating and analyzing the OIS is the best way to overcome these perceptions.

We will be reviewing real cases to illustrate how to investigate different types of officer-involved shootings. Please be aware this course has extremely graphic picture and video content. This course contains officer-involved shooting case studies with numerous death scene photographs and videos that are intense and highly graphic. We will discuss legal, civil, and criminal implications associated with an OIS. A prosecutor will present a recent OIS two-week jury trial wherein a deputy was killed, another deputy was shot, and one of the two suspects was killed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate proper incident response, establish proper scene security, scene documentation, scene management, evidence collection & processing
- Discuss establishing the legal right to stay on scene (search warrants, written consent)
- Use of deadly force and case law (Graham v. Connor, Tennessee v. Garner, etc.)
- Discuss the public safety statement and officer crime scene walk through
- Discuss effective ways and techniques to process an OIS scene
- Demonstrate proper techniques for interviewing witnesses and involved officers- free recall, when to interview, etc.
- Recognize the role of OIS scene analysis and reconstruction
- Understand OIS investigations are 3 investigations- criminal (suspect), criminal (officer), and internal/administrative
- Discuss the methods of current OIS investigations and the benefits of a team or task force approach
- Discuss the issues of human dynamics in OIS incidents- perceptual distortions, stress, fear & arousal, and memory issues
- Discuss post-incident behavior- both involved and uninvolved officers
- Discuss how to handle officers injured or killed from officer-involved shootings
- Understand the role of media in officer-involved shootings- when to release info and how much
- Discuss agency training policies related to officer-involved incidents
- Discuss new challenges with the use of body worn cameras
- Discuss how to make your case the best possible case for trial



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Course Location

Thornton Police Department
9551 Civic Center Drive
Thornton, CO 80229

Training contact: Sergeant Chris Fusetti at
(720) 977-5079 or Chris.Fusetti@cityofthornton.net

INSTRUCTORS

Mark Dell'Ergo recently retired as sworn Utah police officer with over 20 years of experience. He worked for city police department for over 9 years before he was hired at the Utah County D.A.'s office. Mark held the rank of sergeant in the D.A.'s office special investigations unit. Mark worked in a county with a population of nearly 600,000 residents in 22 cities. He has worked patrol, detectives, SWAT, FTO, PIO, internal affairs, undercover, homicide, and sex crimes. For the last 10 years, Mark has supervised the CSI team of a 70+ member county officer-involved shooting task force. For the majority of his career, Mark has worked in investigations. Mark was involved in an officer-involved shooting which gives him a unique perspective having been on both sides of the investigation. Mark earned a bachelor degree in Behavioral Science with a Psychology Emphasis from Utah Valley University. Mark was an adjunct instructor at Utah Valley University and certified as a Force Science Analyst by the Force Science Institute©. Mark lives in a mountain valley above Salt Lake City, Utah with his wife of 21 years and four children. When he is not working, Mark can be found spending time with his family, backpacking, fly-fishing, muzzleloader hunting, and skiing. Mark has been an LE instructor for over 15 years and he has taught law enforcement officers from all over the U.S.

AnnMarie Howard is the Chief Deputy Juab County Attorney in Utah. She began working as a prosecutor for Juab County (south of Salt Lake City) in 1996. She has prosecuted in juvenile court, justice court, and district court. AnnMarie works for a small jurisdiction with a main interstate passing through, which provides her the opportunity to prosecute a variety of cases such as murder, drug trafficking, sexual assault, domestic violence, and poaching, to name a few. Her current assignment is prosecuting juvenile and adult offenders with a focus on special victim cases. AnnMarie is a graduate of J. Reuben Clark Law School in Provo, Utah, and has practiced both civil and criminal law. She is an appointee to the Utah Prosecutor Policy Advisory Committee with the Utah Prosecution Council. She graduated from Train the Trainer, Automobile Homicide Prosecutor Course, and Forensic Child Interviewing. She served as a member of the 4th District Court Pro Bono Commission and is currently on the Board of Directors for Self-Help Homes. She has served in her community and in the public schools in various elected positions. She has also taught as a certified R.A.D. Kids instructor. She and her husband are the parents of 5 children: 3 are students at Brigham Young University, one in high school, and one in elementary school. She enjoys traveling and some of her favorite locations are Samoa, Italy, France, and Switzerland. When given the opportunity, she enjoys hiking the many mountain trails in Utah.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Officers, deputies, detectives, agents, investigators, coroners/medical examiners, crime scene personnel, first line supervisors, supervisors, command staff, and prosecuting attorneys. Due to the sensitive nature of the subject matter, attendance is restricted to sworn, civilian, and military law enforcement personnel or those who are directly involved in the criminal justice system.

DATE: January 24-26, 2018 (Wednesday-Friday)

HOTEL: Doubletree by Hilton Denver-Thornton 83 E 120TH Ave., Thornton, CO 80233 (303) 920-8000
<http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/colorado/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-denver-thornton-DENTNDT/index.html>

TUITION: \$375.00 per person** NOTE: The seat is not guaranteed until the tuition is paid. Unless otherwise arranged with Code 4 Consultants, students accepted to attend the course must pay the course fee by January 5, 2018.

MATERIALS: Attendees will receive a comprehensive course manual, online access to OIS forms & checklists, and a certificate of attendance.

TO REGISTER: Go to www.code4consultants.com and click the Register tab. Fill out the registration form and then click on Payment tab to pay for the course. Click [HERE](#) to register now!

****Agencies sending 4 or more officers can receive tuition discounts****