



# Northwest Illinois Criminal Justice Commission

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Mobile Team Unit #1 is funded in partnership with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board

## Basic SWAT – Introductory SWAT Operator

**DATE:** August 17-21, 2026

**Registration Ends:** August 1, 2026

**TIME:** 8:00 AM—5:00 PM      40 Hours

**LOCATION:** Winnebago Co. Sheriff's Department, 650 West State St., Rockford, IL

**INSTRUCTOR:** Winnebago County Sheriff's Department Instructors

### Objective

Following this block of instruction, the officer will be proficient in the basic concept of what a SWAT team's mission is and how to work and communicate as a tactical team in a tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving situation.

### Materials

Students are required to bring their assigned gear to include:

- Ballistic Vest
- Helmet
- Gloves
- Eye Protection
- Chemical Gas Mask
- Assigned Handgun (200 rounds) and Rifle (50 rounds)
- Simunition Handgun and Rifle or "blue bolt" for patrol rifle (100 rounds of simunition for each)

### Introduction (1 hour)

During the introduction students will be briefed on safety procedures for the week. They will also be given the locations for different stages of the training. The general mission of a SWAT team will be explained.

### Chemical Agents (3 hours)

Instructors will go over different types of chemical agents that are available on the commercial market. We will discuss the effects of these chemical agents on the human body. Different delivery methods for these agents will be discussed and demonstrated. Students will learn what chemical agents work best for different circumstance and objectives.

### Surround and Call out (4 hours)

Surround and call out is a basic and commonly used SWAT team deployment. We will discuss the need for containment of the scene. Instructors will go over the difference between cover and concealment and how to use each on SWAT team deployment. Lighting, if used properly can be used to distract a barricaded suspect, and to mask the movements of a SWAT team. We will go over other diversionary devices and when they can be utilized. We will discuss the use of armored vehicles in a barricade situation. Negotiators are often used to gain compliance with barricaded individuals. The importance of communication between negotiators and SWAT will be stressed, as well as the use of CIT during this type of situation.

### Breaching (4 hours)

Breaching is an important component in a SWAT operation. If you are not able to gain access to your objective, everything else is irrelevant. Instructors will explain door construction and



materials used on different types of doors. It is important to understand the construction so you can determine the fastest and safest way to defeat the door/window. We will discuss and demonstrate mechanical, shotgun, and energetic breaching on a variety of door types. Students will be given hands on training on mechanical breaching using a variety of tools. The class will become proficient in determining what techniques will be the most successful on different types of doors. We will also get hands on training on porting windows in a tactical manner, and the benefits of doing so.

### **Deliberate Room Clearing (4 hours)**

Students will be introduced to room clearing tactics and close quarter movement. They will learn the difference between deliberate and dynamic room clearing and the advantages/disadvantages of both. They will be proficient in slow methodical room clearing techniques into various types of rooms and learn how to find points of domination. Students will learn how to provide protection for their teammates while clearing a building for a suspect. Use of technology will be discussed and demonstrated.

### **Vehicle Assaults (4 hours)**

This will introduce the student to two types of vehicle assaults. We will conduct practical exercises on an “L” assault and a “U” assault. They will also be given experience on tubular assaults which includes airplanes, passenger trains, and busses. They will learn ballistic effects of different ammunitions on auto glass.

### **Dynamic Room clearing (4 hours)**

This program will provide the students with slightly faster paced room clearing technique. They will learn when it is appropriate to use dynamic clearing tactics, and some of the legal aspects of using dynamic clearing. Students will work through practical exercises that include clearing many different rooms, from many different angles.

### **Scenario Based Shooting (4 hours)**

Multiple scenarios will be set up for the students. Many of the scenarios will be completed one student at a time. The purpose for this is to give each student the opportunity to address the situations and make their own decisions. Roll players will be used to make the scenarios as life like as possible. Students will use the knowledge that they have gained throughout the week do handle different situations. Decision making will be a large part of these exercises. While the student is engaged in the scenario, they will be confronted with rapidly evolving changes that they need to work through as they complete their objective.

### **Room Clearing (4 hours)**

As room clearing is a large part of the SWAT team’s mission, we will use this time to fine tune room clearing techniques. Students will be challenged by the addition of difficult terrain and circumstances such as stairs, officer down, self-aid/buddy aid, large rooms, and operating in gas chemical masks.

### **Field Training Exercise (8 hours)**

A large-scale scenario will be set up. Class will be briefed on the situation in the scenario, and they will use the tactics learned throughout the week to handle the problem. Students will have to show proficiency in decision making, problem solving, and communication. Students will have to determine the best tactics to use in an intense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving situation.

### **This course has been certified by the ILETSB and approved to meet the following mandates:**

- De-Escalation Techniques - 2.0 hours
- Emergency Medical Response - 1.0 hours
- Officer Safety Techniques - 20.0 hours
- Crisis Intervention – 8.0 hours
- Crisis Intervention Team Training – 1.0 hours

### **REGISTRATION:**

All registrations are received on the [MTU#1 website](#). Find Registration instructions [here](#)

Partial funding provided by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.

**THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC MEETING**