



Northwest Illinois Criminal Justice Commission

Jeff Ragan, Regional Director

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

Firearms Instructor Development-24 Hr.

DATE: November 16-18, 2026

Registration Ends: November 1, 2026

TIME: 8:00 AM—4:00 PM 24 Hours

LOCATION: Winnebago Criminal Justice Center, 650 W. State St., Rockford, IL

INSTRUCTOR: Jared Smith - DMEC

PURPOSE OF COURSE: The purpose of this course is to prepare qualified individuals to become effective and responsible firearms instructors. This course focuses on enhancing both technical shooting skills and instructional abilities, emphasizing safety, range management, lesson planning, and student assessment. Participants will learn how to communicate clearly, correct shooting deficiencies, and apply adult learning principles in a classroom and range setting. By the end of the course, attendees should be capable of confidently teaching firearms fundamentals, conducting live-fire training, managing the range function at their agency, and ensuring a safe and structured learning environment for their students.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an intensive 3-day training program designed to equip experienced shooters with the knowledge, skills, and instructional techniques necessary to effectively train others in the safe and proficient use of firearms. This course is intended for students who are already certified firearms instructors. This course serves as continuing education to ensure that modern methodology is being trained.

The course begins with a focus on the foundations of adult learning and instructional theory, helping participants understand how to effectively deliver training material to a diverse range of students. Participants will explore learning styles, communication techniques, coaching strategies, and how to provide corrective feedback in both classroom and range environments. Emphasis is placed on developing clear and structured lesson plans that align with training objectives and safety protocols.

Participants will learn to conduct safety briefings, manage live-fire exercises, and oversee range operations while maintaining the highest standards of safety and control. Live-fire portions will evaluate each participant's shooting proficiency and ability to demonstrate techniques in a clear and controlled manner.

Throughout the course, students will be required to present instructional segments to their peers, receive feedback, and refine their teaching approach. Practical exercises include leading classroom modules, facilitating range drills, and diagnosing shooting errors, qualities essential for any instructor responsible for student safety and training outcomes.

The course concludes with a comprehensive skills evaluation, including two qualifications, teaching demonstration, and lesson plan development.

COURSE GOALS: The goals of this course are as follows:

- Train officers to safely and effectively manage law enforcement live-fire training environments.

Mobile Team In-service Training Unit #1 (ASSIST) Program

Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

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- Elevate individual shooting skills to meet or exceed departmental instructor standards.
- Develop the ability to write and deliver ILETSB/POST-compliant firearms training lesson plans.
- Apply adult learning strategies tailored to law enforcement trainees.
- Communicate clearly and assertively in both classroom and high-risk range settings.
- Diagnose and correct officer shooting deficiencies to improve qualification success rates.
- Conduct range briefings with a focus on officer safety, accountability, and legal liability.
- Prepare instructors to lead remedial training for underperforming or high-risk personnel.
- Reinforce understanding of use-of-force policies, case law, and departmental procedures.
- Foster leadership, professionalism, and integrity in all aspects of firearms instruction.

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

- De-Escalation Techniques - 10.0 hours
- Laws Concerning Stops, Searches, and the Use of Force - 1.0 hours
- Officer Wellness/Mental Health - 1.0 hours
- Const. Use of LE Authority – 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