

**Mr. Rick VanKeuren, Training Specialist, Arizona Peace Officers Standards  
And Training, Phoenix Arizona**

Before becoming a Training Specialist for The Arizona Peace Officers Standards and Training Board, Rick retired as a Trooper for the Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZDPS) after 24 years of service. Rick started his law enforcement career with a California Reserve POST certificate in 1989. In 1991, he enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps where he attained the rank of Sergeant working as a Military Working Dog Handler in the Military Police. As a bomb dog handler, he provided dignitary protection for the President of the United States, First Lady, Secretary of State and the Emperor of Japan among his other duties. Following his enlistment, Rick continued to serve his community as a State Trooper in Arizona.

Serving on the Southern Border of Arizona, Rick worked as a narcotics Detective assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration in Yuma Arizona. There, Rick wrote Title III investigations and warrants, as well as supervising and participating in active field enforcement operations. Rick discovered and investigated one of the largest cases in U.S. history for the chemical diversion of millions of gallons of methamphetamine precursors into the Republic of Mexico. (United States v Tamico). The conclusion and findings of this investigation ultimately assisted AZ Governor Jan Brewer in passing legislation in regard to precursor chemicals within the state.

Rick was assigned as the lead firearms instructor for his Patrol District in 2007. He maintained those duties until he transferred to the AZDPS headquarters at the Armory in 2014. There, Rick was assigned as a master instructor whose duties included the development of firearms, less lethal and tactical training and weapons testing and procurement for AZDPS.

Rick was instrumental in the reintroduction and further development of the less lethal impact weapons for the Arizona Department of Public Safety. Those systems were vital in preventing millions of dollars of damage to personal and public property during 2020. Rick developed curricula to introduce the red dot sighting handgun sighting systems to AZDPS. The system is now issued to all Arizona Troopers.

Rick has provided testimony or expert opinions in courtroom proceedings, Critical Incident Review Boards, Officer Involved Shooting Boards, and Officer Administrative Hearings.

Rick currently works at the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board in Phoenix Arizona. He is responsible for maintaining and updating the basic curriculum given to all peace officers in Arizona. Rick works with instructors and attorneys throughout the state to ensure the training is up to date and relevant. He is a member of a team of specialists who audits the

state's academies to ensure they are in compliance with state training standards and record keeping.

Rick holds instructor level certifications. Master Taser instructor, NRA Precision rifle, and pistol instructor, AZPOST pistol, shotgun, and patrol rifle instructor, CTS Less lethal 40mm/Shotgun instructor, High Threat Vehicle Engagement instructor, Active Shooter Instructor, Monadnock Side Handle Baton instructor, Reality based Force on Force instructor, and AHA Basic Life/CPR instructor.