

Today's challenges for law enforcement agencies are real and increasing. In response, Don founded Premier Police Training, LLC, a national law enforcement training company. Helping agencies and officers reduce the chance of lawsuits by providing timely and authoritative use of force and search & seizure training is Don's passion. His teaching skills, knowledge, and dynamic presentations significantly increase officer confidence and effectiveness. Don has trained thousands of officers from city, county, state, federal, and tribal agencies.

After serving as a field officer for the first ten years of his law enforcement career, Don was promoted to Central Region Supervisor, where he led, supervised, and mentored a regional team of officers. He coordinated criminal investigations and special enforcement details with state and federal agencies, oversaw search/rescue/recovery events, trained defensive tactics, reviewed and developed department policies, conducted numerous public relations and outreach efforts, and represented his department on the Homeland Security Senior Advisory Team.

For nine years, Don served as a Special Assistant Attorney General and top-rated academy instructor for the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation, Law Enforcement Training Section. He served as subject matter expert in use of force and search & seizure, scenario-based skills evaluations, development of basic and advanced law enforcement courses and curriculum, and the use of adult learning strategies. Don also played a significant role in transitioning a large state agency and the law enforcement training academy from an FTO-based training model to a PTO-based system.

Don instructed defensive tactics for more than twenty years and is currently a firearms instructor, MILO simulator use of force evaluator, expert witness in search & seizure and use of force, and a police ethics instructor.

He has authored several law enforcement training books including *Simplifying Search and Seizure for Law Enforcement*, *Simplifying Use of Force for Law Enforcement*, and a *Search and Seizure Pocket Guide for Law Enforcement*. He also was a contributing editor for two on-line use of force courses created by the Law Enforcement Resource Center out of Minneapolis, MN: *Reduce Liability – Know the Rules for Your Use of Force* and *The Rules of Force and Deadly Force*.

His latest contribution to law enforcement training on a national level was the creation of a new national training program entitled *Confident Non-Escalation: This is Where De-Escalation Training Begins*. This training program was developed after much research into the causes of lawsuits due to officer-induced escalation.

Don holds a bachelor's degree in the biological sciences and a master's degree in criminal justice, graduating Summa Cum Laude.

He is a nationally certified instructor through the International Association of the Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST).

Don now serves as Academic Program Coordinator and lead instructor for a four-year university law enforcement program and still serves his community as a part-time Deputy Sheriff.