

Lon Bartel Biography

Lon Bartel started his career when he became a peace officer in 1997 and was a certified law enforcement trainer for over 17 years. AZPOST recognized Lon as an expert in the areas of Defensive Tactics and Firearms. He was also a TASER Master Instructor for 12 years.

Lon served as his department's Rangemaster from 2005-2017 where he managed the Firearms Instructional Team. This included managing the armory, indoor range, and curriculum for the department. In 2008, he wrote the department's 'Use of Force Policy/Response Options Policy' and in 2015 the 'Non-sworn Use of Force Policy.'

In addition, as a member of his department's SWAT team, Lon was the Senior Operator and was instrumental in creating the 'Explosive Breaching Program' for his department in 2008. He is a certified breaching instructor, and he was the lead Tactical Breacher for four years.

Lon graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Exercise and Sports Science (Magna Cum Laude) from Arizona State University. Lon has been certified by the Force Science Institute as a certified Use of Force analyst and is a certified Advanced Specialist.

Lon co-founded the Arizona Tactical Officers Association and served as the secretary for five years. Lon has been an adjunct instructor for Simunitions, the largest manufacturer of force on force technology, and training munitions for seven years. This has allowed him to witness thousands of simulated incidents, which provides invaluable insight into human performance under stress.

Lon has used his expertise to serve on numerous review boards to include reviewing and evaluating 300+ actual police cases involving the use of force and deadly force. He has been a guest firearms instructor for SHOTS Ranch, and IALEFI North Carolina ATC.

Lon was also instrumental in developing the VirTra V-VICTA program. V-VICTA (VirTra's Virtual Interactive Coursework Training Academy) is a multi-modal learning and training strategy that leverages virtual simulation technology and course presentation to maximize a student's development. By lending his expertise as a Subject Matter Expert, VirTra was able to attain the IADLEST certification for their work on multiple courses as part of the V-VICTA program.

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