

Drug Investigations for Street Officers and New Drug Investigators

Instructor: John Kempf

John Kempf is currently a Captain and District Commander of The Idaho State Police District One office located in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. John began his career as a Trooper with the Idaho State Police in 1997 and was promoted to Detective in 2000 where his primary focus was narcotics investigations. As a Detective John lead and participated in hundreds of narcotic cases ranging from street level investigations to complex conspiracy and federal wire tape cases. In 2008 John was promoted to Sergeant and supervised a narcotics unit whose primary focus is mid to upper-level drug traffickers. In 2014 John was promoted to Detective Lieutenant where he managed a unit whose caseloads included major narcotics cases, Officer Involved Shootings /Critical Incidents, Homicides and Professional Standards Investigations. John is a member of the National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies and the coordinator for Idaho of the Domestic Highway Enforcement program.

John has been called to testify in Federal Court as an expert witness on drug investigations and is one of the lead instructors and organizers of the Idaho Basic Narcotics Officers Course. John has received numerous accolades for his law enforcement efforts including a U.S. Department of Justice Award for Public Service, Certificate of Merit from the Governor of Idaho, and Outstanding Supervisor award from the Idaho State Police. John has also been awarded the Idaho State Police Silver Star and the Idaho Medal of Honor for Bravery.

Course Objectives:

The course is designed to assist in providing a solid foundation of investigative techniques from which officers can safely and ethically conduct drug investigations. Officers are given current and relevant information on Drug Identification, Informant Handling, Consent Searches, Operations Planning, and Controlled Purchases. Policies and procedures differ from agency to agency and this presentation is a general overview, created to not conflict with your department operating guidelines in drug investigations.

Basic Drug Identification and Trends

Topics include the identification of illicit street drugs, common terms, nomenclature, prices, weights, clandestine lab, and the Uniformed Controlled Substance Act. The physiological effects of illicit drugs will also be covered. Officers will also discuss current local and national drug trends.

Intelligence Gathering

Officers will learn what information sources are available to them and how to use that information to initiate proactive drug investigations.

Operations Planning

Officers will be instructed on the safe planning of operations such as covert surveillance, controlled purchases, and raids. Topics such as de-confliction and operational secrecy /security will also be covered.

Voluntary Consent Searches

An often misunderstood and under-utilized tool by drug investigators, consent searches can be the start or finish of many successful cases. This course will cover proven, legal, and ethical techniques used to successfully conduct consensual encounters.

Confidential Informant Handling

The use of Confidential Informants, although a powerful tool in drug investigations, can quickly become a

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liability to the case. Officers will be instructed on the proper and ethical handling of informants, the varying motivations, and the risks associated with the use of informants.

Controlled Purchases

Officers will be instructed on the basic mechanics of a safe and ethical controlled purchase of illicit drugs. Officers will learn the hazards associated with controlled purchases, the advantages, and disadvantages of using an undercover officer.

Case Study

A variety of actual narcotic cases will be broken down step-by-step from the initial stages through to prosecution.

Court Preparation

In the last several years there has been a shift in which juries, judges and prosecutors view drug investigations, the credibility of informants and the “CSI” effect on evidence. Officers will be instructed on the importance of accurate and ethical documentation, testimony, and evidence presentation.

Day 1

8:00 a.m.—8:30 a.m.

Registration

8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Basic Drug Identification and Trends
Intelligence Gathering

12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

Lunch (On Your Own)

1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Operations Planning
Voluntary Consent Searches

Day 2

8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Confidential Informant Handling
Controlled Purchases

12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

Lunch (On Your Own)

1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Case Study

Day 3

8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Court Preparation

12:00 p.m.

Certificate Presentation