

Meet Our Instructors

Ed Van Buren

**Sergeant (Ret.) – Supervisor and Trainer of K-9/Interdiction Unit
Douglas County (Nebraska) Sheriff's Department**

Ed is the owner of Code 2 K-9 Services LLC in Omaha, Nebraska.

Ed spent over 30 years in Law Enforcement, 18 years as a K-9 Deputy and 11 years as a K-9 Supervisor and Trainer. Ed also spent over five years working undercover in a Narcotics Task Force purchasing illegal drugs and guns from outlaw bikers, gang members, white supremacists and many other characters. The undercover work provided Ed with invaluable experience that would enable him to read, understand and communicate with some of the most dangerous criminals that officers encounter.



These experiences would prove beneficial in the K-9/Interdiction Unit where Ed seized over \$7 million in drug related currency and almost one ton of marijuana in one stop alone and thousands of pounds altogether.

Course Topics: *Criminal Interdiction, Compartments & Concealment, Roadside Interviews, Etc.*

Robert Francis Cryne

**Career Prosecutor in both State & Federal Court
Omaha, Nebraska**



Robert Francis Cryne is a career prosecutor. Over the past forty (40) years, he has had extensive experience with multi-national investigations involving trans-national criminal, narcotics trafficking, and terrorist organizations in the Middle East, Europe and Latin America.

Mr. Cryne retired from the U.S. Justice Department in July, 2014, after service with the Special Operations Division (SOD) in Washington, DC, and before that as an Assistant U. S. Attorney with the United States Attorney's Office in Nebraska on the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) and the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). He previously worked for many years as a Deputy County Attorney with the Douglas County Attorney's Office in Omaha, first on the Felony Trial Staff, then as Deputy in Charge of Narcotics, Firearms and Special Operations. During the cold War from 1979-1982, he served on active duty as a Captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps in Western Europe.

During the Second Gulf War, from 2005-2006, Mr. Cryne served with the Regime Crimes Liaison's Office (RCLO) as an Attorney Adviser to the Iraqi High Tribunal for the Trial of Saddam Hussein and other former high officials of the Iraqi Ba'ath Socialist Party for War Crimes, Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity. He also served as RCLO Principal Liaison with the Kuwaiti government concerning Iraqi War Crimes and atrocities during the Invasion and Occupation of Kuwait 1990-91. His duties took him around Iraq and the Persian Gulf. He was recognized for Distinguished Service by both the Iraqi and Kuwaiti governments. He received the Director's Award, U. S. Department of Justice, for Outstanding Service in the Global War on Terror.

Since retiring from government service in 2014, Mr. Cryne has engaged in legal practice, been court appointed as a Special Prosecutor, has served as a consultant on national and International Law Enforcement, Organized Crime and Terrorism, and is an Adjunct Professor at University of Nebraska School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and other area institutions of higher education.

Course Topics: *Courtroom Testimony, Search Warrant Preparation*

Mike Kerby **Captain (Ret.) – Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy** **Nebraska State Patrol**

Captain Mike Kerby, former Commander of the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) Training Academy, retired in December of 2013 after serving 35 years with the NSP.

Mike began his career with the NSP in 1978, stationed in Fremont, NE. In 1987, Mike transferred to Omaha. In 1982, he was promoted to sergeant and moved to Lincoln to work at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy. From 1987 until 1999, he worked in the training division. In April 1999, he took over as Lieutenant of the Police Service Dog Division, after already working with patrol dogs for 10 years.

Mike received numerous awards, including Nebraska State Patrol Group Citation Awards and the Nebraska State Patrol's Distinguished Service Award.



Throughout the years, Mike accumulated countless hours of training in areas of defensive tactics, special weapons and tactics (SWAT), and police service dogs.

Mike is an internationally recognized instructor and highly respected trainer of police service dogs. He has taught in Australia, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom, as well as throughout the U.S. In 1998, he became one of a handful of Americans selected to judge at the International Police Dog Championships in Lübeck, Germany. He's a teacher of judges — the highest rank within the German canine training system. In October of 2015, Mike became a Staff Instructor at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center, allowing him to continue sharing his knowledge and expertise with local, county and state police recruits.

Course Topics: *K-9 Problem Solving, K-9 Unit Supervision*

Michael W. Varilek

Deputy Sheriff – K-9 Handler/Drug Recognition Expert/Federal Task Force Officer Corson County (South Dakota) Sheriff's Office



Mike has been a certified Law Enforcement Officer in South Dakota since 2006, a certified Narcotic Detector Dog Handler since 2009, and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) since 2017. Mike also holds a certification as a Certified Interdiction Officer under the National Criminal Enforcement Association (NCEA).

Since 2010, Mike has been a full-time Deputy Sheriff for Corson County Sheriff's Office in North Central South Dakota where, in addition to his regular duties, he is assigned as a Task Force Officer (TFO) for the Northern Plains Safe Trails Drug Enforcement Task Force (NPSTDETF).

Mike is currently a member of the North Central South Dakota Multi-Jurisdiction Criminal Enforcement Team (NCSJ MJCT), a multi-jurisdiction team made up of six counties and one municipality, which travels from county-to-county conducting criminal enforcement operations.

Since March of 2015, Mike has also served as the Director of Emergency Management for Corson County and is the Vice Chairman of the Warhawk Emergency Management District.

Since beginning his career in 2006, Mike has conducted thousands of traffic stops and consensual encounters which have resulted in countless drug, weapon, impaired driving and wanted person arrests.

Course Topics: *Criminal Interdiction, Criminal Patrol in Rural Areas, Roadside Interviews*

Bret Lappin

Police Officer – K-9 Handler City of Ankeny (Iowa) Police Department

Bret has been a full-time Police Officer for the City of Ankeny, Iowa since 2011. Bret has been a K-9 handler since 2015 and primarily works Criminal Interdiction on Interstate 35 and Interstate 80.

For the last 4 years, Bret has studied the interpretation of body language, and recognizing deceptive behavior in relation to criminal activity.

Bret has made numerous traffic stops resulting in seizures based off of developing reasonable articulable suspicion related to criminal activity.

Course Topics: *Criminal Interdiction, Compartments & Concealment*



Deputy Kent Gries
Deputy Sheriff – Former K-9 Handler
Guthrie County (Iowa) Sheriff's Office



As a senior in high school, Deputy Gries joined his hometown fire department and ambulance service in December of 2001. Deputy Gries had a desire to be a part of public service following the 9/11 attacks and continues in the public service sector nearly two decades later.

Deputy Gries attended Buena Vista University in Storm Lake and graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, attaining the Dean's List. In December of 2006, Gries graduated first in his class academically from the Regional Law Enforcement Academy in Waterloo, IA

and began his law enforcement career working for the Coon Rapids Police Department.

Deputy Gries worked two years in Coon Rapids and four years with the Audubon County Sheriff's Office before finding his home at the Guthrie County Sheriff's Office.

While in law enforcement, Deputy Gries has excelled in detecting alcohol and drug impaired drivers and using traffic stops to make drug cases. At the time of this biography, Deputy Gries has made close to six hundred drug cases with over four hundred of those coming from the last seven years with the Guthrie County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Gries has removed nearly two hundred drug impaired drivers from the roadways in his career, all while working some of Iowa's least populated areas.

Course Topics: *Criminal Patrol in Rural Areas, Interdiction & Impaired Driving*

Rudy Negron
Police Officer (Ret.)
City of Garden Grove (California) Police Department

Rudy retired in 2018 after serving 28 years as a Police Officer for the City of Garden Grove, California.

During his career, Rudy was assigned in various capacities including Field Training Officer, Assistant Reserve Officer Coordinator, Bicycle Patrol, Street Gang & Outlaw Biker Intel, Mental Health Team, State P.O.S.T. Certified Trainer.

Rudy has served as an instructor and guest speaker for various organizations and events including the California Background Investigators Conference, California Gang Investigators Association Conference, California Gang Task Force Association, California Narcotics Officer Force Association, California Peace Officers Association, Kansas Narcotics Officers Association Conference, Law Enforcement Intelligence Analyst National Conference, Riverside County Gang Investigators Conference, Texas Association of Vehicle Theft Investigators Conference,

U.S. Marine Corps/NCIS, Western States Auto Theft Investigators Conference (California and Hawaii), Western States Biker Investigator Conference, and numerous Police and Sheriff's Departments.

Throughout his career, Rudy was assigned primarily to "Uniform Patrol"; however, he served in a secondary assignment in Biker Intel since 2004.

Course Topics: *Street Gang & Organized Motorcycle Gang Investigations*

**Mark Langan
Sergeant (Ret.)
City of Omaha (Nebraska) Police Department**

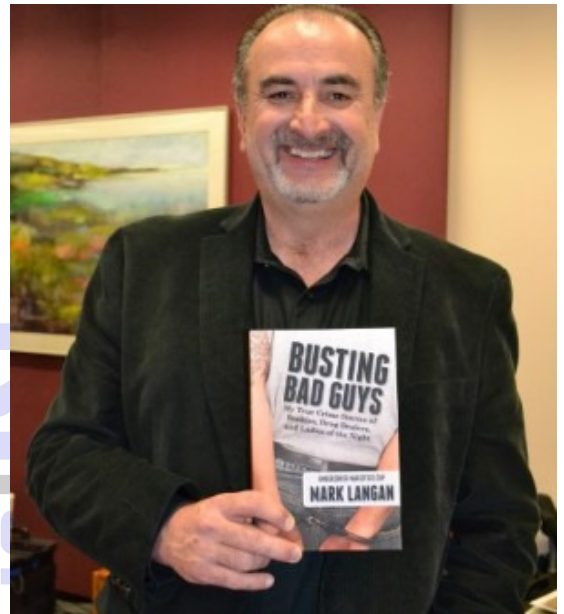
Sgt. Mark Langan retired after a twenty-six year career with the Omaha Police Department.

Mark was awarded the Medal of Valor, Distinguished Service Medal, and numerous commendations for his work in the Metro Area Drug Task Force.

During his career Mark testified as a court-authorized expert in the area of narcotics trafficking, and taught seminars throughout the country.

Mark is the author of **BUSTING BAD GUYS, MY TRUE CRIME STORIES OF BOOKIES, DRUG DEALERS, and LADIES OF THE NIGHT.**

This book is an Amazon Best Seller and was recently voted one of fifteen must reads for police officers world-wide by www.policeone.com. Mark's website is www.bustingbadguys.com



Course Topics: *Busting Drug Dealers 101*

**Christine Gabig
Forensic Chemist (MSFS, F-ABC)
Douglas County (Nebraska) Sheriff's Department Crime Laboratory**

Christine is a Forensic Chemist at the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory in Omaha, Nebraska; where she has worked for the past sixteen years. Her current professional experience includes forensic analysis of controlled substances, fire debris and blood for alcohol content. She has eight years of past experience in crime scene investigation as a certified Crime Scene Investigator/Analyst through the International Association for Identification.

Christine holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Nebraska and an M.S. in Forensic Science from the University of New Haven as well as professional certifications as a Fellow in both Drug Analysis and Criminalistics through the American Board of Criminalistics.



Christine has a well-established career in legal issues involving drugs including contributing to drafting local legislation and providing Senate testimony for the Nebraska Judiciary Committee. She has extensive experience developing, validating and performing analytical procedures for drug analysis in an ISO17025 accredited lab, and serves as a Technical Assessor for ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) assisting other forensic labs maintain their ISO17025 accreditation. She has stayed active in academia and currently teaches Forensic Crime Scene Investigation as an adjunct professor at Metropolitan Community College.

Most recently, Christine has been active with following and interpreting the quickly changing legislation regarding Cannabis. She and her team have been on the forefront of developing and validating laboratory procedures to accurately answer legal questions regarding Cannabis and she is often asked to provide education on these issues and other current topics in forensic science for professional groups across the Midwest.

Course Topics: *Understanding a Crime Lab, Crime Scene Investigation, Evidence Collection and Preservation, Crime Scene Awareness for First Responders, Fire Scene Evidence Collection, Marijuana and Hemp, Designer Drugs, Opioids and Naloxone.*

Chris Farris Lieutenant

Dickinson County (Kansas) Sheriff's Department

Chris has been a certified Law Enforcement Officer for thirty-five years, 24 of which were spent as a K-9 Handler. Chris has handled four dual-purpose K-9's in his career, working both highway and local criminal interdiction. Chris is currently a Patrol Lieutenant with the Dickinson County Sheriff's Department in Abilene, Kansas.

While working as a K-9 handler, Chris had numerous seizures and arrests to include over \$1,000,000 in U.S. Currency and 220 Kilos of Cocaine valued at \$40,000,000 on one K-9 deployment alone. Chris has located a large number of hidden compartments that were constructed to conceal drugs and drug proceeds.

Chris has trained and assisted many K-9 teams throughout his career. When not conducting administrative duties with the Dickinson County Sheriff's Office, Chris continues to work with K-9 teams throughout Kansas helping those teams to become more proficient and productive.



Course Topics: *Criminal Interdiction, Compartments and Concealment, K-9 Problem Solving*

Stay Tuned – More to be added soon!

CODE 2

K-9 SERVICES

