



**SPECTOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE
TRAINING NETWORK, INC.**

GANGS & GANG VIOLENCE: IDENTIFICATION & INVESTIGATION

Hosted by: Western CT State University Police Department, Danbury CT

Dates: August 17, 2026 - August 21, 2026

Cost: \$ 625.00 per officer

This Gang Identification training course will arm new detectives and experienced patrol officers with the tools they need to conduct successful gang-related investigations and operations. It will provide an overview of current motorcycle gangs & street gangs and their identifiers, rituals, terminology, structure and model. Officers will learn the fundamental duties and responsibilities of investigators assigned to gang, organized crime, urban violence, and related task forces. An emphasis will be placed on identification, documentation, and cataloguing of gangs that pose a threat to your community, specifically; and are present globally.

Officers will be shown proper case documentation and the importance of creating and maintaining valid, vetted case files and databases, in line with national standards. They will receive in-depth training on the history and etymology of: common street gangs (national, neighborhood and hybrid); outlaw motorcycle gangs; international organized crime groups; ties to extremist groups (including sovereign citizen groups, extremists and terrorism); and drug cartels.

**** This 5-day course includes guest speakers and can include a train-the-trainer component!**



QUESTIONS? CALL 860-593-6550

See full information at:

[spectortraining.org/investhttps://spectortraining.org/investigative-programs/](https://spectortraining.org/investigative-programs/)

Providing Quality Training For Those Who Protect Since 1974

TRAIN THE TRAINER INFORMATION

Students will be provided with a 1.5 - 2-hour PowerPoint presentation framework for their use to instruct / inform officers at their respective agencies for roll call and / or in service training purposes.

A recertification requirement will be in place requiring a four-hour refresher every two years. The students will be provided with updated material and information to present annually.

If a major change occurs and deems the material outdated (a law, a court case, etc.) the students holding certification will be notified if any slide is to be removed or updated with an explanation as to why.

The Gangs Update Instructor course and all related materials are the intellectual property of the authors and The Spector Criminal Justice Training Network, Inc. Student instructors certified through this program are authorized to teach the course exclusively to employees within their own organization. The course and its materials may not be taught, reproduced, or utilized for private instruction or any form of proprietary gain outside of the certified instructor's organization without prior written consent from the authors and the nonprofit organization.

Students will be asked to provide a teach-back experience on the last day of the five-day course. For student trainers to issue CT POST credits to any officer they provide the training to, the officer must follow the current rules of CT POST Council. Currently this includes holding POST Instructor Certification in Area 624 and attendance at an acceptable Methods of Instruction Course.

The presentation provided for the officer's use will include the following:

- The lesson will provide the officer with information and techniques that will improve officer safety and assist in the investigation and prosecution of gang related crimes and violence.
- A quick review of the history of gangs, and identification of the reason that people join gangs. Identification of current National Gangs, Connecticut Gangs, Hybrid and Neighborhood Based Gangs, Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, classifications, organization, and structure. A review of current symbolic gang indicators including graffiti, colors, clothing, tattoos, jewelry and signing. Travel characteristics of gangs. How identify and determine and investigate a gang related incident, the motivation for them including inter-gang violence, retaliation, intimidation, financial and recruitment. Officer safety issues including first responding officers, follow-up actions, strategies, and tactics that officers should be involved in to prevent, suppress, and combat gangs and gang related problems. We will also cover training opportunities, formal and informal sources of gang-related information, and statistics and current reporting procedures in the State of Connecticut.
- The PowerPoint will include an outline of where the student may adjust their material to suit the area of the State in which they are teaching.

MEET YOUR TRAINER



MARK STICCA

Register Here



Mark Sticca retired as a Captain Connecticut State Police after nearly 27 years. Mark served as a patrol trooper and Academy Instructor; and both as a patrol and administrative sergeant. He held several commands as a lieutenant to include commands at several Troops, Major Crime Squad, Internal Affairs, Criminal Justice Information Systems, Traffic Services, State Police Academy and was an area commander for SNTF 2013-2016. Upon promotion to captain, Captain Sticca was assigned as the Deputy Commander of Central District; the Bureau Commander of Selections, Training and Investigative Support Services; the Commanding Officer of Statewide Narcotics Task Force (SNTF) and was the Acting District Commander of the Western District before his retirement in August 2019.

He continues to provide contemporary training and consultation services to police departments throughout Connecticut and New England. He has served on several panels regarding contemporary issues facing law enforcement relative to drug use and abuse. This includes ongoing collaboration with the National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies (NASDEA), where he is a Member Emeritus, and has presented at their national conference on Police Reform. He has provided expert testimony relative to use of force and internal affairs. He is a POSTC Certified Instructor in several disciplines to include Use of Force, Police Ethics, Narcotics Identification, Gang Identification and Organized Crime. He recognized as a subject matter expert (SME) for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC), as well as the IACP's Elevate Blue Project, specifically in the areas of Use of Force and Managing Mass Demonstrations.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Westfield State College; a graduate Certificate in Law Enforcement Education from the University of Virginia; and a Master's Degree from Columbia College, SC. He earned several department awards and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy Session 260. Mark Currently serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Bridgeport.