Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

★ Northern Kentucky ★ Ohio ★ Western Pennsylvania ★

Physical Surveillance Course

WHEN	WHERE	COST
8/2/2027 – 8/6/2027	Allegheny County, PA	Free

Course Description

Physical Surveillance is a necessary extension of undercover operations and a special skill set used to identify and record illegal activity to assist investigators in gathering pertinent information and building their case. Unexperienced surveillance operators can inadvertently expose their teams and investigations by failing to use the necessary skills required of a surveillance team. This course is founded in practical scenario-based training with an emphasis on the fundamentals of physical surveillance, surveillance terminology, equipment, and operator skills (tradecraft).

The course focuses on surveillance of narcotics trafficking, and many other types of criminal activity, counter-surveillance, tactical operation plans, investigative reports, and surveillance preparation and operational reports (scratch reports).

The class emphasizes being adaptable and documenting of pertinent activity. After the first day of lecture students will understand the terminology and tactics which will prepare them for 'real-world' surveillance operations. The Physical Surveillance course is designed for law enforcement officers involved in the monitoring of illegal activity in all types of environments for the purpose of documenting said activity for the furtherance of criminal investigations.

Topics Covered

- **Types of Physical Surveillance Operations**
- **Vehicle vs. Foot Surveillance**
- **Different Surveillance Environments**
- **Counter-Surveillance Activity**
- **Ability to Blend In**
- **Nighttime Surveillance**
- **Proper Vehicle and Equipment**
- **Physical Surveillance Tactics**
- **Proper Documentation – Pertinent or Non-Pertinent Activity**

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Instructor Bio



Matt Cresta was a sworn law enforcement officer for over twenty years. After serving as an Infantryman (Surveillance) with the 101st Airborne Division and 8th Infantry Division, he was hired by the Lower Merion Police Department, where he spent sixteen years. While with the LMPD, he had extended assignments in the Patrol Division, Special Investigations Unit (Narcotics), Special Operations Unit and Emergency Response Team (E.R.T.). He was also a sworn Special Detective with the Montgomery County Drug Task Force. In 2011 Matt joined the Delaware County District Attorney's Office, Criminal Investigations Division as a Major Case Detective.

Matt has managed and participated in numerous street and mid-level narcotics investigations throughout the county in both urban and suburban environments. He has also worked in an undercover (U.C.) capacity during 'buy/bust' and extended multi- purchase investigations. Matt Cresta was subsequently sworn onto the D.E.A.'s Regional Diversion Investigations Task Force, where he used his expertise in Physical Surveillance to further investigations of organized prescription/narcotics burglary groups operating in the Northeast United States. Matt also served on several state and local task-forces responsible for gathering intelligence and conducting surveillance of organized groups operating up and down the east coast. Matt's hard work and accomplishments earned him recognition from his own agency and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Career Highlights

- ★ Lower Merion Officer of the Year
- ★ ASIS Officer of the Year LMPD Heroism Award
- ★ DEA Investigative Recognition Award
- ★ Lower Merion Officer of the Quarter
- ★ Humanitarian Service Medal
- ★ LMPD Unit Citation (3)
- ★ Outside Agency Recognition Award
- ★ U.S. Army Commendation Meal
- ★ Southwest Asia Service Ribbon
- ★ U.S. Army Achievement Medal (2)

How to Register

Interested students can register for this course directly on the Ohio HIDTA Training website. To do so, please click or scan the QR code and submit the online registration form.

A confirmation email will be sent to confirm your enrollment in the class.