East Central Illinois Mobile Law Enforcement Training Team

MTU #13

Course Announcement

Drug Interdiction through Identifying Secret Compartments in Vehicles

September 16-17th, 2026

0830-1630 Hrs

Denny Stewart Training Center

3121 Dewitt Avenue

Mattoon, Il.

Submit enrollment to:

Registration form at

www.mtu13.com

PURPOSE OF COURSE:

This course provides officers with training to identify, locate, access, and articulate aftermarket hidden compartments in vehicles, residences, and structures used for narcotics, weapons, currency, and contraband concealment. Officers will develop interdiction skills and apply safe, systematic investigative methods.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This sixteen-hour, two-day course utilizes lecture, video demonstrations, case studies, and structured discussion. Students will learn concealment trends, search methodology, behavioral indicators, mechanical/electronic hide construction, and officer safety practices.

GOALS:

- Identify indicators of aftermarket hidden compartments.
- Apply systematic search techniques during interdiction.
- Recognize concealment methods including mechanical, electronic, and hydraulic systems.
- Improve articulation and documentation supporting probable cause.
- Strengthen officer safety knowledge during vehicle and structure searches.
- Demonstrate understanding through case-based evaluation.

Observed Mandates Include:

Civil Rights

Const. Use of LE Authority

Legal Updates

This course is funded by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board.

About Your Instructor

Kevin O'Neil is one of the foremost experts on mechanical and electronic aftermarket hides, which are being used daily to exacerbate the ongoing opioid epidemic. Over 100,000 individuals in the United States have been killed as result of ingesting or coming in contact with highly potent opioids in 2021.

Kevin has over 27 years as a Massachusetts State Police Officer and recently retired as the Detective Lieutenant in charge of the Narcotic Section that supervises the troopers that are assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) federal task forces. When the opioid epidemic was recognized to be the problem that it is, Kevin was assigned as the Commander of the Heroin Enforcement Action Team (HEAT).

Prior to the narcotic position, Kevin was partnered up with Shane a MSP K-9 that specialized in narcotics detection. It was during that time that Kevin found out that he had a niche in finding aftermarket hides.

Kevin has created a one-day Hidden Compartment Course for Law Enforcement. The course consists of classroom and practical hands-on experience. Students get to locate aftermarket hides in three different vehicles, that have a total of four hides. They will also get experience with a piece of construction equipment, that has a remote-controlled hide, that still functions as it is intended. They will see how everyday household furniture makes use of natural voids to hide narcotics, guns, and money, using magnets.

This course is funded by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.