

# East Central Illinois Mobile Law Enforcement Training Team

## MTU #13



## Course Announcement

### Media Relations for Law Enforcement in the Digital Age

November 23-24th, 2026

0830-1630 hrs

Denny Stewart Training Facility

3121 Dewitt Ave.

Mattoon, Il.

Submit enrollment to:

Registration form at

[www.mtu13.com](http://www.mtu13.com)

#### About the Class:

Gain practical experience in the preparation and delivery of departmental information at media events and press interviews. Discussions include subjects such as the importance of knowing your media market, development of media policies and media relations, rules of professional conduct, challenges of television news, crisis communications and pre-planning and bridging techniques for interview. Conduct location interviews and press releases on a variety of incidents. Learn how to communicate through the media on topics such as natural disaster, terrorist acts and major crimes, and gain experience interacting with TV and print journalists.

#### TOPICS INCLUDE:

- » National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) considerations
- » Freedom of Information Act and Illinois Open Records Act
- » Social media, messages and technology
- » Changing details in a crisis and getting out good news
- » Holding reporters accountable

**Please do not miss this valuable information. When the cameras roll into your town, you will wish you had signed up for this class! Think of this as career insurance.**

#### Observed Mandates Include:

Procedural Justice

Legal Updates

Const. Use of LE Authority

Civil Rights

Lead Homicide Investigator



About the Instructor: Ross Rice completed a distinguished career as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in December 2012. He spent nearly 20 years investigating a wide variety of criminal cases, primarily from the Orland Park and Tinley Park offices. From 1999 to 2011, he served as director and spokesman of Public Affairs for the FBI's Chicago office. As spokesman, Rice handled media inquiries and responses on several highly publicized cases, including the indictment and trial of former Illinois Gov. George Ryan, the "Family Secrets" organized crime investigation, the arrest and trial of then Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, and several international terrorism investigations. In addition, he helped manage the Community Outreach program and launched a Citizens Academy class. Rice also served as office liaison to the Illinois Congressional Delegation. He has provided instruction on media relations to FBI executives, the FBI National Academy, the Illinois State Police and the Chicago Police Department. He also serves as a safety and security consultant for CBS News in Chicago and does private media consulting.



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