

Instructor Mark Sands

Mark Sands is a retired police officer with 38 years of law enforcement experience with agencies such as the University of Kentucky Police, the Lexington-Fayette Urban Co. Police, and the United States Marshal's Service Court Security Program. During his career, Mark was continuously involved in teaching basic to advanced firearms training to police, military, and the civilian population. Over his career, he also attended a variety of national and regional firearms training courses to advance his skill.

With the Lexington Police Department, Mark was a member of the highly trained Emergency Response Unit (SWAT Team) for 20 years and handled over 350 high risk callouts. As the team's coordinator and primary sniper, he was responsible for training all team members in the various Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) disciplines. His firearm instruction included tactical handgun, shotgun, submachine gun, and precision rifle. Mark also developed and instructed both the Police Sniper Training and Emergency Response Unit Tactics Courses. These were attended by police and military snipers and SWAT team members from around the nation.

As a competitive shooter, Mark has accumulated over 75 awards participating in Police Pistol Combat, Department of Criminal Justice Training, International Defensive Pistol Association, and Glock Sport Shooting Foundation matches.

Mark is a husband, father and Eastern Kentucky University alumni who enjoys shooting, photography, and teaching firearms during his retirement.