



Iowa Law Enforcement Academy
Professionalism Through Training

ILEA NEWS

A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR CARNEY

February means sunshine and warmer weather are just around the corner!

The Basic Academy is closing out week 4. Both classes are putting forth great effort and are excited to implement class leadership. Remember, you can view progress reports and performance updates via the Acadis portal at any time. Additionally, you're welcome to reach out for updates and/or stop by any time to see the Basic Academy in action.

The legislative session is underway with many potential impacts to ILEA and the Academy Council. Governor Reynolds recommended \$3.5 million from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) to repurpose the existing S-11 Range on Camp Dodge into a law enforcement firearms range. ILEA, DPS and the National Guard will continue conversations to move this joint project forward.

Please contact your elected officials to express the importance of how this training space would positively impact the frequency of training opportunities and the quality of training.

Be well, be safe and take care of each other!

LIABILITY WAIVERS

While we appreciate the progress made with signing liability waivers prior to ILEA instructor courses and instructor renewals, we still have many training participants who show up to train without a signed liability waiver. Subsequently, our instructors and all other participants are negatively impacted by the loss of valuable training time while a solution is sought.

- **Effective February 2, 2026**, a person cannot register for an ILEA training opportunity that requires a liability waiver (i.e. firearms instructor course, precision driving instructor course, defensive tactics instructor renewal, etc.) until the correct liability waiver is received by the ILEA.
 - The correct liability waiver must be signed by the training participant and the agency head, agency administrator, or someone who has authority to sign on behalf of the employing agency/office.
 - The signed liability waiver will be attached to the training event registration in Acadis. This will prevent those without signed liability waivers from occupying a pending seat in a training event.
- Those currently enrolled in upcoming ILEA training opportunities that require a liability waiver will be contacted by ILEA staff throughout the month of February requesting a signed liability waiver.
 - Signed liability waivers need to be received prior to **Monday, March 2nd, 2026**.
 - If a signed liability waiver is not received prior to Monday, March 2nd, **the individual will be disenrolled in the respective training opportunity.**
 - Re-registering for the same training opportunity cannot take place until the signed liability waiver has been received by the ILEA.

ILEA STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Matt Wood

What are your duties at ILEA?

I'm a Law Enforcement Instructor at ILEA. I manage the rifle program, active threat response program, and assist with a variety of other use of force related topics.

How long have you worked at ILEA?

One year.

What is your favorite part of working at ILEA?

I enjoy watching students grow throughout their training, be it during the basic academy or an instructor level course. I also enjoy being a resource for officers in the field beyond their training at ILEA.

What is a hobby or interest that you enjoy outside of work?

Spending time with my family, hunting, camping, and backpacking.



UPCOMING ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING

February 5, 2026 at 9:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting:

[February 2026 Council Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 885 5215 8421

Passcode: February

Reminder

The Summer 2026 Basic Academy begins on May 4, 2026. Deadline for **Reports for Hire** is **April 6, 2026**. Physical Testing for this Basic Academy session is on **April 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM**. It will be held at:

LIED Recreation Athletics Center
Iowa State University
518 Beach Road
Ames, Iowa

UPCOMING JOB TASK ANALYSIS

The ILEA is partnering with the Iowa Department of Management to conduct a comprehensive Job Task Analysis (JTA) for the Basic Academy curriculum. To ensure our training remains current, relevant, and legally defensible, we need direct feedback from the professional stakeholders doing the work every day.

In the coming weeks, please watch for correspondence regarding opportunities to participate. Your expertise is vital to shaping the future of Iowa law enforcement training.



BASIC ACADEMY SNAPSHOTS



IOWA THRIVE RESILIENCY PROGRAM

The Iowa THRIVE Resiliency Program is a new, two-year statewide initiative focused on strengthening the mental health and resilience of Iowa's first responders and their families. The program - led by the Mount Vernon-Lisbon Police Department, supported by a DOJ COPS grant, and implemented with the Worldmaker Resilience Institute - will provide trauma-informed training and digital tools tailored to the unique needs of public safety personnel.

THRIVE training is scheduled for February 3rd and 4th in Mount Vernon. Please note that the first day of training is a prerequisite for the second day as the content builds on itself. Flyers are attached for additional information.

February 3, 2026: [THRIVE 101 registration](#)

February 4, 2026: [THRIVE 201 registration](#)

UPCOMING COURSES & TRAINING

AT ILEA (unless noted):

- Mar. 2 - Mar. 6: SFST Instructor Training
- Mar. 9 - 13: Precision Driving Instructor Course *(at Newton Speedway)*
- Mar. 19: Chemical Spray Instructor Course & Instructor Renewal
- Mar. 24: Defensive Tactics Instructor Renewal
- Mar. 30 - Apr. 3: Precision Driving Instructor Course *(at Newton Speedway)*
- Apr. 1: OWI/Implied Consent & SFST Refresher and SFST Instructor Renewal
(at SW Iowa Law Enforcement Training Facility)
- Apr. 2: Expandable Baton Instructor Renewal

FIREARM TRAINING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

- Feb. 5: Firearms Instructor Renewal *(at Des Moines Police Department)*
- Feb. 11: Firearms Night Vision Pistol & Rifle Operator Course *(at Altoona Police Department)*
- Mar. 16: Firearms Instructor Renewal *(at Altoona Police Department)*
- Apr. 3: Patrol Rifle Instructor Renewal *(at Camp Dodge)*
- Apr. 7: Firearms Instructor Renewal *(at Mason City Police Department)*
- Apr. 8: Patrol Rifle Instructor Renewal *(at Mason City Police Department)*

TELECOMMUNICATOR DATES AND LOCATIONS:

- Feb. 16 - 20: Telecommunicator Basic 40 Hour Course *(at Cherokee Emergency Management Office)*
- Mar. 9 - 13: Telecommunicator Basic 40 Hour Course *(at Scott Emergency Communications Center)*
- Mar. 18: Telecommunicator 8-Hr In-Service *(at ILEA)*

JAIL TRAINING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

- Feb. 16 - 20: Jail Basic 40 hour Course & Temporary Holding Facility Basic Course *(at Dallas County Sheriff's Office)*
- Mar. 23 - 27: Jail Basic 40 hour Course & Temporary Holding Facility Basic Course *(at Clinton County Sheriff's Office)*
- Apr. 13 - 17: Jail Basic 40 hour Course & Temporary Holding Facility Basic Course *(at Prairie Hills Training Center, Sergeant Bluff)*

ONLINE: ILEA offers many online courses continuously, including courses for Jail and LEO in-service, De-Escalation & Use of Force, and Officer Investigations.

Note: *Not all training is listed above. Go to the Acadis Portal to view and register for all training and courses, except where noted.*

Contact Info

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