



West Central Illinois Criminal Justice Council | 303 West Exchange Street | Jerseyville, IL 62052

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*Funded in Partnership with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board*

Director: Penny Abbott  
Chairman: Deputy Chief Adam Yates  
Vice-Chairman: Deputy Chief Rodney Cox  
Secretary/Treasurer: Sergeant Travis Wiemelt

*(Serving the Counties of Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Morgan, Pike, Schuyler, and Scott)*

## SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (DRONES) IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

**DATE:** August 11 – 14, 2025

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Jacksonville Regional Training Facility

940 Hoagland Road, Jacksonville, IL

**INSTRUCTOR:** Chris Edwards – Owner – Dark Star Drones, LLC

**BRING LAPTOP AND LAWN CHAIRS**

**MUST HAVE 15/MAXIMUM: 20**

**Meets IL Mandates: Civil Rights (1 hr.), Constitutional Use of LE Authority (4 hrs.), Legal Updates (1 hr.), Procedural Justice (1 hr.), Officer Safety techniques, including cover, concealment, and time (1 hr.)**

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is focused on unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), for law enforcement. The course is designed to equip officers with the knowledge, skills, and legal understanding needed to operate drones effectively and responsibly within their roles. Ultimately, this course is meant to enable law enforcement to harness UAS technology in ways that support public safety, enhance operational effectiveness, and protect civil liberties.

**GOALS:** The Goals of the Course are as follows:

- **Operational Training:** Teach officers the technical skills required for safe and effective drone operations, including flight controls, navigation, emergency response, and maintenance. This training also covers best practices for managing drones in various environmental and situational conditions.
- **Legal and Ethical Considerations:** Educate officers on federal, state, and local laws, including the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and privacy laws, which are essential to prevent misuse and maintain public trust. This includes understanding policies around data collection, retention, and respecting citizens' privacy rights.
- **Tactical and Mission-Specific Applications:** Explore how drones can assist with specific law enforcement missions, such as surveillance, search and rescue, accident scene reconstruction, crowd monitoring, and disaster response. Drones can provide real-time intelligence in dangerous or hard-to-reach areas, improving safety and efficiency.
- **Ethics and Community Relations:** Provide guidance on the ethical implications of drone usage and how to communicate these practices to the public to foster transparency and trust. This aspect emphasizes responsible use, limits on data usage, and procedures for community engagement and accountability.
- **Risk Management and Safety Protocols:** Develop officers' understanding of risk assessment, safety protocols, and incident response, both to avoid accidents and to manage any unplanned events or malfunctions in populated or sensitive areas.

**Funding provided in whole or in part by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Illinois Terrorism Task Force**

**Non-Member Tuition:**

**\$0.00.** Non-member tuition shall apply to State/Federal agencies and Local Law Enforcement agencies which are not members of MTU #9. Tuition will be invoiced to departments upon course completion. If a pre-registered student from a Non-Member agency fails to attend training, and the agency fails to provide advance notice within 7 days of the start date of that class, the agency will be invoiced the entire amount of the student's tuition. [See Tuition Policy Here](#)

**No Shows/Cancellation Policy**

West Central IL Criminal Justice Council-MTU #9 has instituted a No Show/Cancellation fee of \$50.00 to be invoiced to member/non-member agencies who do not provide sufficient notice of cancellations seven (7) days before start of class. This Fee will be invoiced within a week of an officer's absence from a training course in which he/she was registered. If an agency is unable to provide advance notice of its intent to cancel course registration because of circumstances beyond its control, the Director will have the discretion to waive this payment. Any requests to waive No Show/Cancellation Fee must be made to the Director in writing. (View Full Policy [HERE](#))

**To Register:** Follow this link to Register: <https://mtu9.org/page/3/register-now> If you experience problems or issues with registration, please email [register@mtu9.org](mailto:register@mtu9.org). ALL registrations must go through your Sheriff, Chief, or Training Officer.

**This Course is certified and approved by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board**