

Stephen Capellas

Stephen Capellas began his law enforcement career with the Clark County Sheriff's Office in Vancouver, Washington in August 1980. He attended and completed the Washington State Basic Law Enforcement Academy in November 1980 and began as a patrol Deputy Sheriff. In 1982 he was assigned to the Traffic Unit and began studying collision investigation. He also joined the Sheriff's Office SWAT team in 1982 and served with the regional SWAT team for 18 years as an assault team leader and sub-machine gun instructor. Stephen continued training as a collision investigator and reached the level of Collision Reconstructionist in 1988. He was promoted to Sergeant in the Sheriff's Office in 1989 and returned to the Patrol Division to supervise patrol shifts. His supervisory assignments included the Case Management and Training Units.

In 1991 Sergeant Capellas became an EVOG Instructor after receiving his initial training through the Washington State Patrol Academy EVOG Instructor program. He developed the EVOG program for the Sheriff's Office and helped to create a joint training program with the Vancouver Police Department that eventually led to a regional EVOG training team of instructors from 7 different agencies. Sgt. Capellas was instrumental in developing a regional EVOG training program, and departmental vehicle use policies for both CCSO and VPD. He created advanced training classes for instructors throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Oregon and Idaho. In 1998, Sergeant Capellas resigned from the Sheriff's Office and became an officer with the Vancouver Police Department. After joining VPD, Officer Capellas was assigned to the Traffic Unit as a collision investigator. He remained in the Traffic Unit for 10 ½ years before returning to the Patrol Division. While at VPD, he provided yearly training to officers throughout the region during annual and remedial training when requested.

Officer Capellas provided instruction throughout Washington State as a certified instructor in both Emergency Vehicle Operations (basic academy and instructor-level) and Collision Investigation (all levels). He is also a certified SKIDCAR and PIT Instructor.

Stephen retired from active service in 2010, but he continues to instruct for the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission as a Senior Instructor in both EVOG and Collision Investigation specialties. He has written and assisted with updating EVOG and collision investigation curriculums in both previous departments and also with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. He is a current member of ALERT International and WATAI (Washington Association of Technical Accident Investigators).