

IADLEST
National Certified Instructor

Instructional Bio
Lt. Thomas Lahay, Indiana Law Enforcement Academy

Lt. Thomas Lahay served thirty-one years with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division as an Indiana Conservation Officer prior to joining the training staff at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in November of 2016 as a Law Enforcement Training specialist, where he works currently.

As an Indiana Conservation Officer for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Lt. Lahay was heavily involved as an underwater Search and Rescue Diver, a field training officer, a K-9 handler, and a sonar operator. Serving his entire career as a field officer, Lt. Lahay also served a role in their Investigations Section (covert and overt) as a full-time investigator, as a certified Evidence Technician and Photographer, and as a Public Information Officer. During this time, he assisted in establishing and writing policy changes, several of them pursuant to CALEA accreditation, in evidence handling/storage, public information policies, and in the use of wildlife decoys. During his years of service with the DNR, he received numerous awards, including District Officer of the Year, Division Officer of the Year, Hunter Education Instructor of the Year, and several commendations for heroism and lifesaving.

At the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, Lt. Lahay is a certified Master Instructor, Firearms Instructor (handgun, shotgun, and patrol rifle), STOPS Instructor, Active Shooter Instructor, Report Writing instructor, Instructor in De-escalation techniques, First Responder, and Use of Force instructor. At the present time, he coordinates the basic Instructor Development training and certification program for the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board, as well as other in-service training courses. He is also in charge of the Tier 3 basic training program and the Senior Instructor program. Lt. Lahay completely re-structured and created NEW curriculums for both training programs when he was assigned them in 2016. He is currently completing a curriculum review of the state instructor development program.

Graduating as class president with the eighty-second (82nd) Basic Session of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, Lt. Lahay received degrees from Vincennes University, after studying Law Enforcement and Conservation Law Enforcement. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Homeland Security. Lt. Lahay became an adjunct instructor at Vincennes

University in the Law Enforcement and Conservation Law Enforcement programs in 2005, where he taught Survey of Criminal Justice, Criminal Investigations, Police Operations and Wildlife Criminal Investigations. During his tenure at Vincennes University, Lt. Lahay created a new course of study entitled Wildlife Criminal Investigations. This course was used to supplement the 2-yr. Conservation Law Enforcement program already established at Vincennes University. Lt. Lahay created the new course curriculum and received university approval. Once approved, Lt. Lahay authored a manual that was eventually used as the textbook for this course. This course relied heavily on research and reality-based training exercises.

Away from academy life, Lt. Lahay likes to hunt and fish, as well as spend time with his wife, Ann, and daughter, Emily.