



# Mt. Vernon Illinois



Illinois State Police  
(in cooperation with the Illinois National Guard)



## “UNDERSTANDING THE MEXICAN CARTELS & 'NARCO' CULTURE”



August 12th - 15th, 2025



This course covers the complexities of the Mexican Culture in regards to its history, religion, politics, law, traditions, folklore and much more. The Course provides law enforcement professionals, and other investigators the tools to recognize “indicators” of factors and items of interest of non-criminal activity versus those of criminal activity. Participants will develop a more thorough understanding of the Mexican culture, and as such be able to provide better service to their ever-changing communities. The beginning of the course has been described as a “cultural awareness class on steroids”, as it relates to both criminal and non-criminal behaviors.

During the one of a kind nationally known course, a heavy emphasis will be placed on the “Narco Cultura” (Mexican Drug Cartel Culture), including but not limited to: “Narco” fashions, up to date symbols used, and individual information on the most powerful groups, their splinter groups and their tactics. Officers will also be taught on the difference between “Folk Saints” and “Patron Saints”; and detailed, extensive instruction on the “Narco Saints” will be presented with the use of a large “Narco shrine” (over one thousand items), other tools and actual hands-on practical exercises. The class will also cover the rise of Narco Satanism practice by various groups and their sicario enforcement groups.

It also focuses on current trends and drug trafficking in the U.S., additional subjects including Anti-Bias Policing, Community Policing, Officer Safety, Marijuana issues, Reclassification of the Cartels into Foreign Terrorist Organizations, the “Plaza” system, the “King Pin Approach”, “El Culiacanazo 1.0 and 2.0”, Civil War in Culiacan, the current Fentanyl crisis, growth of Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generation (CJNG), the splintering of the Sinaloa Organization, the Nueva Familia Michuacana involvement with fentanyl production, China and the Cartels, US/Mexico Diplomatic Environment, various geographical areas of interest, case law US. vs. Medina Copete 10th US Appellate Court District of New Mexico, info on the 13 major Transnational Criminal Organizations, case studies of federal and state investigations and much more.

This will benefit ANY federal/state/tribal/local investigator, as well as many others in any field of assignment (i.e. CID, Patrol, K9, Interdiction, Detentions, Gangs, Narcotics, Violent Offender Task Forces, Crime Prevention, SRO, Intelligence, Fire Marshall, etc), that may encounter signs of innocent cultural beliefs or warning signs of illicit activity. Furthermore, this training has been a valuable asset in investigations ranging from simple interactions with the public to traffic stops, from burglaries and arson investigations, to obtaining T3 wire tapping warrants, to double homicide/assassinations investigations and auto theft to a separate murder investigation with seven victims involving the “highjacking” of Santa Muerte. This training **is a must** for all Law Enforcement deployed in our southern border CA, AZ, NM, and TX and/or about to be deployed to MX and/or Latin America.



Detective Sgt. Victor Manual Galarza Abizaid, considered a subject matter expert by the 22nd and 13th Judicial Districts in the State of Colorado in narcotics investigations, the Mexican Cartels, their “Narco Culture” and Criminal Interdiction. Victor has been in active service as a Law Enforcement officer since 2011. He is currently a decorated active Detective Sgt., TFO and supervisor of a Drug Investigations Unit in the SW region of Colorado, proudly displaying three Distinguished Service Awards, and a Meritorious Service Award for bravery. He has been recognized as lead Detective in the two largest narcotics investigations in his AOR. He possesses an extensive history; being a Mexican diplomat in the U.S., bearing an A-1, and later G-1 diplomatic status; first-hand, and personal accounts of the Mexican Cartels, dating back to the Guadalajara Cartel; and has investigated members of the Los Zetas, Sinaloa, Golfo, La Familia Michoacana, and Tercera Hermandad Cartels. His previous experience as a diplomat allowed him to train with the Mexican Navy, Mexican Army, Mexican Estado Major Presidencial (or, Mexican Presidential Security Service), and various other Law Enforcement agencies. As Victor “wears many hats” he only teaches approximately 7 times a year, PLAN ACCORDINGLY and don’t miss out!



United States Congress Washington D.C.

Victor’s teachings are POST certified in various states which have been presented since 2014; the courses are ever evolving with current information and intelligence regarding activities, tactics, and trends. The vast information provided is currently being utilized in many active investigations from the boarder to middle America. Th information has assisted law enforcement officers in criminal interdiction traffic stops, federal and local narcotics investigations, arson investigations, in homicide and even mass murder investigations which also involved the distribution and trafficking of narcotics, as well as auto theft crimes. Victor is Vice President Region 2 Colorado Drug Investigators Association and has presented in a plethora of other Associations Conferences, including the DOJ’s 31st Annual Four Corners Indian Country Conference on August 2024.

Courses have been presented to thousands of federal, tribal, local, and municipal officers, and government officials around the United States; including, former members of the U.S. Congress and their staff, and the information provided has helped change national policy. Victor’s one-day course has been simulcasted to 71 countries around the world. This information is constantly used by HSI Fusion Center and other federal intelligence organizations.

**Our course is constantly being updated with relevant information.**



**Just some of the investigations in which this material was used**



**The rise of new logos, symbols, information and tactics**

## Testimonials

“I was visiting with a colleague about your class and how valuable the information is for the current modern day police professional. I came out of the course with a sense of passion for wanting to learn more! So proud to see that someone was finally able to put something like this together - you should be proud of the work you put into the curriculum, and the way you connect everything together. It was truly the best interdiction training I have ever attended in nearly 30 years!! Keep fighting the good fight brother!

Sgt. Lee Coronado, Texas DPS - North Texas Region

“Victor’s knowledge of the culture of Mexican Cartels surpasses any other. I have been to many interdiction and cartel classes that teach on a flat level when it comes to “Narco Religious Culture”, but Victor breaks down the history of the religious culture and how it is incorporated into today’s cartel world for one of the best teaching techniques I’ve seen.”

Undersheriff Dennis Garcia  
Quay County Sheriff’s Office New Mexico

“Just wanted to let you know about a drug case that we just assisted the DEA with in Aurora. We found large amounts of heroin and cash. I was the only one on scene that had any idea of what the majority of the items found at the residence were because of your class!!!! Which was hosted by the CATI on 2021. Thank you for the wealth of information”

Deputy Thomas L Sandoval, Arapahoe County Narcotics Team

“The information you presented went above and beyond what I expected and I came out with a better understanding of the situation that affects not only Colorado, but the nation as a whole.”

(Former) Congressman Scott Tipton, U.S. Congress Third District (CO)

“Victor’s personal and professional experience is one of a kind. It is one thing for someone to read information of a PowerPoint, but Victor takes his experience and knowledge to a new level with a “no hold bars.”

Chief Rodney Paris  
Logan Police Dept. New Mexico

**For more reviews check out our 99% recommended rating at**

[leo-network.com](http://leo-network.com)





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## “UNDERSTANDING THE MEXICAN CARTELS & ‘NARCO’ CULTURE”



**This is the Cartel Class you must attend!**

*This 4 day course by subject matter expert Victor Galarza. Learn from an active highly successful decorated investigator*

[www.thevigilanceproject.net](http://www.thevigilanceproject.net)



**As off 5/23, an impressive 76 Temples to the Occult of the Santa Muerte visited**



**Places you will not see anywhere else!**



**Continuous updates**



### Venue-

Illinois State Police

(in cooperation with the Illinois National Guard)

Illinois National Guard Armory

600 Shiloh Dr.

Mt. Vernon, IL 62862



@VIGILANCEPROJECT\_K1LO\_GRAMS

**Tuesday August 12th-  
Friday August 15th,  
2025**

### Cost-

\$600 per student 4 day class

**LIMITED SPACE**

Please send letter of intent with attendee’s information and venue of class attending in the form of an email to [vigilanceprojectcourse@gmail.com](mailto:vigilanceprojectcourse@gmail.com), in order to reserve your seat(s). Payment via check must be received (within 15 days of email) to confirm your reservation, and sent to the following address:

The Vigilance Project LLC.

35 S. Beech St. Unit #836, Cortez, Colorado 81321

Credit Cards are accepted, please contact us directly. Final day to sign up for this course is TBA - the final day to cancel is August 5th, 2025. (please note, no refunds will be given after said date).

Any questions, please email [vigilanceprojectcourse@gmail.com](mailto:vigilanceprojectcourse@gmail.com)

or Illinois State Police Trooper Micheal P. Hof at [michael.hof@illinois.gov](mailto:michael.hof@illinois.gov)