

Benjamin Newman, Ph.D.

Professional Profile

Accomplished law enforcement executive with over 25 years of progressively responsible experience in police administration, campus safety, and criminal justice education. Demonstrated expertise in organizational leadership, emergency management, higher education instruction, and use-of-force analysis. Proven ability to lead complex organizations, implement evidence-based policing practices, and enhance community trust through professional communication, crisis management, and training programs.

Professional Experience

Southern Illinois University Carbondale — Carbondale, Illinois

Director of Public Safety / Chief of Police | 2013 – Present

- Provides executive leadership and strategic direction for a comprehensive public safety department of ~60 personnel, including sworn police officers, telecommunicators, parking staff, and administrative support.
- Oversees police, parking, and 9-1-1 dispatch center operations across multiple campuses, including the SIU School of Medicine.
- Develops and implements policies, procedures, and emergency operations plans to enhance campus safety and compliance.
- Leads accreditation and compliance initiatives, ensuring department operations meet state, federal, and professional standards.
- Coordinates with university leadership, student organizations, and community stakeholders to maintain a safe and inclusive environment.
- Manages budgets, staffing, recruitment, and professional development programs.
- Serves as Public Information Officer, managing media relations, crisis communication, and community engagement.
- Directs specialized training programs, including firearms, defensive tactics, rapid deployment, and use-of-force instruction.

The Riseling Group — Madison, Wisconsin

Consultant & Subject Matter Expert | 2020 – Present

- Provides expert consulting services to universities, law enforcement agencies, and governmental entities, focusing on leadership, organizational assessment, and operational improvements.
- Conducts independent reviews and assessments of public safety policies, training programs, and emergency preparedness.
- Advises on accreditation processes, best practices, and risk management strategies.

John A. Logan College — Carterville, Illinois

Adjunct Instructor, Criminal Justice Department | 2016 – 2022

- Designed and delivered undergraduate coursework in criminal justice, emphasizing law enforcement operations, ethics, and professional standards.
- Prepared lesson plans, administered assessments, and evaluated student performance.
- Mentored students in professional development and career readiness.

University of Wisconsin–Madison Police Department — Madison, Wisconsin

Lieutenant / Sergeant / Officer / FTO / Evidence Technician | 1999 – 2013

- Supervised personnel and managed operational policies, training, and recruitment programs.
- Managed major scenes, including crises, events, and dignitary operations
- Conducted investigations, fire inspections, and evidence collection/analysis.
- Provided instruction in firearms, defensive tactics, professional communications, and scenario-based use-of-force training.
- Served as Field Training Officer (FTO) mentoring new recruits in law enforcement procedures, safety, and ethics.

Douglas Forest Protective Association — Roseburg, Oregon

Wildland Firefighter | 1997

- Performed fire suppression, prevention, and prescribed burns using specialized tools and techniques.

Friedman’s Jewelers — Murrells Inlet, South Carolina

Assistant Manager | 1997

- Supervised sales staff, assisted in store operations, and managed customer relations in the absence of the store manager.

Education

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) – Criminal Justice, Liberty University, Dec 2024

Master of Science – Criminal Justice, University of Wisconsin–Platteville, Aug 2008

Southern Police Institute – 113th Administrative Officer’s Course, University of Louisville, May 2005

Bachelor of Science – Political Science, Francis Marion University, May 1995

Publications

Pursuing Excellence in Policing: The Accreditation Movement (2009)

Identifying the Potential Mass Casualty Shooter: Policy Initiatives for Campus Law Enforcement (2008)

An Evaluation of Public Perceptions Regarding Strain and Workplace Violence (2024)

Certifications & Specialized Training

Firearms Instructor (Handgun & Rifle): Conducts classroom and live-fire training; maintains safety standards, curriculum, and qualifications. A Police firearms instructor is a specially trained law enforcement officer responsible for teaching, evaluating, and maintaining firearms proficiency and safety among police personnel. The role ensures that officers are competent, confident, and compliant with all laws and departmental policies regarding the use of firearms.

Defensive Tactics Instructor: Trains officers in physical control, subject management, and legal use-of-force compliance. Police defensive tactics instructors train law enforcement personnel in physical control tactics, arrest techniques, and subject management strategies designed to ensure officer safety, legal compliance, and minimal use of force. The role ensures instruction aligns with departmental policy, state standards, and current case law

Rapid Deployment Instructor Trainer: Provides advanced instruction in active threat response, critical incident tactics, and scenario-based exercises. The role focuses on immediate action strategies to save lives, neutralize threats, and coordinate multi-officer and multi-agency operations

in dynamic environments. Instructors develop and deliver classroom and scenario-based training on rapid deployment and active threat response tactics; instruct officers in team movement, building entry, room clearing, threat neutralization, and integration of casualty care; incorporate communication, command coordination, and decision-making under stress into training scenarios; design and supervise live-scenario drills simulating real-world conditions while ensuring strict safety protocols; mentor other instructors in instructional methodology, scenario design, and safety management; maintain documentation and certifications in compliance with departmental, state, and national standards; and, stay current with evolving best practices, case law, and tactical innovations.

Use of Force Instructor: Develops scenario-based training emphasizing proportionality, legal standards, and policy compliance. The role serves as the department's certified use of force instructor, responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating training programs consistent with state and federal standards. Use of force instructors provide instruction in defensive tactics, de-escalation, control holds, weapon retention, and less-lethal systems to sworn officers and security personnel; conduct scenario-based training emphasizing decision-making, proportionality, and policy compliance to ensure officers' readiness in real-world encounters; maintain comprehensive training records and ensure alignment with state certification and agency use-of-force policy; collaborate with command staff to analyze use-of-force incidents, identify training needs, and implement corrective measures or refresher programs; and, promote a culture of accountability and professionalism by reinforcing ethical standards, situational awareness, and communication skills.

Professional Communication Skills Instructor: Teaches crisis communication, verbal de-escalation, and officer-citizen interaction strategies. A police professional communications instructor provides law enforcement officers with advanced instruction in effective interpersonal communication, crisis intervention, and conflict resolution. The role focuses on enhancing officer safety, professionalism, and public trust through verbal de-escalation and emotional intelligence techniques.

Less Lethal Weapons & Munitions Instructor: Instructs in use of Taser, OC spray, batons, and other less-lethal systems. Less lethal instructors provide specialized instruction in the safe and effective deployment of less-lethal weapons and munitions, including Tasers, OC spray, impact munitions, and other non-lethal control devices; focuses on minimizing injuries while maintaining

officer and public safety, consistent with departmental policy, state law, and best practices; develop and deliver classroom and scenario-based training on less-lethal weapons, emphasizing proper use, deployment tactics, and legal considerations; conduct hands-on practical exercises to ensure proficiency and safety compliance; maintain, inspect, and manage less-lethal equipment and munitions to ensure operational readiness and accountability; integrate less-lethal systems training with defensive tactics, use-of-force scenarios, and rapid deployment exercises; evaluate officer performance, provide feedback, and ensure all certifications are up-to-date with departmental and state standards; and, update training curriculum in response to new technologies, case law, and evolving best practices.

Force Science Analyst – Force Science Institute: Applies human performance science to use-of-force analysis, training, and expert consultation. A Force Science Analyst is someone who has completed specialized training—most notably through the Force Science Institute (FSI)—to study how officers and suspects behave and react during rapidly evolving, high-stress incidents such as shootings, pursuits, or physical confrontations. Graduates earn the title Force Science Analyst and are recognized for their ability to interpret and apply research-based insights to: Use-of-force investigations, policy development, court testimony and expert consultation, and officer training and after-action reviews. A Force Science Analyst is a professional trained to understand, analyze, and apply scientific principles to human performance in high-stress, use-of-force encounters, especially in law enforcement and security contexts.

Police Evidence Technician: Collects, documents, and preserves evidence; manages chain-of-custody and forensic procedures. A Police Evidence Technician (also called an Evidence Technician, Crime Scene Technician, or Forensic Evidence Specialist) is a law enforcement professional responsible for collecting, processing, documenting, and preserving physical evidence from crime scenes. The work is critical to ensuring that evidence is handled properly and can be used effectively in criminal investigations and court cases.

Media Expeditior / Public Information Officer: Manages media relations, crisis communications, and public information strategies. The role serves as the department’s primary Public Information Officer, responsible for managing media relations, public communications, and community outreach. Media expeditors draft and distribute press releases, incident summaries, and official statements to ensure timely and accurate public information; act as departmental spokesperson during major incidents, coordinating with university communications staff and external media

outlets; develop and maintain the department's social media presence to promote transparency, safety initiatives, and positive community engagement; provide media training and guidance to command staff and officers on communication best practices and confidentiality protocol; support crisis communication planning, ensuring consistent messaging aligned with university policies and legal considerations; and, collaborate with university leadership and regional agencies to enhance public trust and reinforce institutional reputation through effective communication strategies.

Advanced Labor Relations: Advises on labor relations, negotiations, and personnel management strategies. This role provides expertise in labor relations, personnel management, and union negotiations within a law enforcement or public safety context; and, focuses on fostering collaborative workplace relationships, ensuring compliance with labor laws, and resolving workplace disputes efficiently and professionally.

Awards & Honors

Excellence in Partnership Award – Southern Illinois University (2021–2022)

Excellent Service Award – Southern Illinois University (Nov 2021)

Dean's Scholar – University of Louisville (May 2005)

Highest Academic Award – Police Academy (June 1999)

Core Competencies

Executive Leadership & Organizational Strategy, Police & Campus Safety Administration, Use of Force & Tactical Training, Emergency Management & Critical Incident Response, Policy Development & Accreditation, Crisis Communications & Media Relations, Higher Education & Public Safety Instruction, Evidence-Based Policing & Research Integration