

## Defensive Tactics Training Program Active Participation Waiver

-If an officer is on limited/light duty or leave status when an agency conducts DT training but there is an opportunity for the officer to receive the training later in the year when no longer on limited/light duty or leave status, the officer should attend the later training and show proficiency in the covered categories. There is no need for the officer to attend and observe the training or submit a waiver request since the training will be completed later in the same calendar year. Agencies should plan to conduct a make-up DT training toward the end of the year.

-If an officer is on limited/light duty or leave status when the agency conducts DT training and there will be no opportunity for the officer to receive the training later in the year, due to extended limited/light duty or leave status, the unavailability of training, or other reason, the chief executive officer or training coordinator for the agency must apply to the Executive Director of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy for a waiver of active participation for the officer. The waiver request should be made with ample advance notice for a determination to be made prior to the training. The waiver request must contain sufficient detail to determine if the officer on limited/light duty or leave status should receive a waiver of active participation for the year.

-If an officer receives a waiver of active participation from the Executive Director of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, the officer must still attend the DT training and observe the full training (minimum four (4) hours). The DT Instructor should document on the DT Inservice Form that the officer received a waiver from active participation in the categories trained.

-A waiver of active participation is valid only for the calendar year. If an officer remains on limited/light duty or leave status into another calendar year, a second request for waiver of active participation must be submitted to the Executive Director of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy for consideration.

-An officer receiving a waiver of active participation is not required by the Statewide Defensive Tactics Training Program to make up the categories missed; however, the agency may determine the officer should show proficiency in those missed categories. All categories in the DT Program must be covered within a two (2) year period.

-Waivers of active participation will only be considered for officers on limited/light duty or leave status. All other full-time, part-time, and reserve officers, regardless of age, rank, title, gender, or assignment, must participate and show proficiency in the instructed categories.

-A waiver of active participation for the annual DT requirement does not excuse an officer from fulfilling all other state mandated training. The officer must complete the minimum 24-hours of annual training, including all other mandates and psychomotor skill trainings.

-If an officer requests a waiver of active participation for DT training for two (2) consecutive years, the Executive Director may open an investigation into the active-duty status of the officer. Missing an entire two-year cycle of active participation in the DT Training Program may entail submitting a fitness for duty exam, at the expense of the agency or officer, to explain why the officer missed active participation training and to certify the officer should maintain active-duty status.

## Other DT Training Program FAQ's

-Do we need to complete a DT Inservice Training Form for each officer?

Each officer should have an individual DT Inservice Training Form to record the date of training, the categories instructed, and the proficiency level of the techniques.

-Can the DT Inservice Training Form be electronically generated?

The instructor may prefill the DT Inservice Training Form with the techniques instructed in each category and other information. An electronic signature is acceptable for the instructor.

-Do the DT Inservice Training Forms need to be submitted to ILEA with training records?

The agency should determine how to store the training forms. ILEA will not accept the DT Inservice Training Forms and will not process the forms for agencies or officers. The recommendation is for agencies to store the forms during the two-year training cycle and then archive the forms once completed. ILEA reserves the right to audit agencies and officers to ensure compliance with the DT Training Program.

-Does a DT Instructor have to sign the DT Inservice Form?

The form must be signed by an LETB certified DT Instructor verifying an officer is proficient in at least one technique in each category over the course of two years. The DT instructor should not sign the form if an officer does not attend or complete the training. By signing the form, the DT instructor legally swears/affirms the training was completed to the indicated level.

-Does an agency need to instruct the Vascular Neck Restraint (VNR) if it is not in agency policy?

All agencies must train the VNR regardless of whether it is in policy. For agencies who do not authorize the VNR, training should be at an educational level – recognizing the VNR, differentiating the VNR from a chokehold, escaping from the VNR if applied to the officer or another person, defending against the VNR, and similar topics. Officers do not need to be rendered unconscious when showing proficiency in the VNR.

-Who must complete the DT Training Program categories?

All full-time, part-time, and reserve officers, regardless of rank or assignment, who fall under the annual training mandate in IC 5-2-1-9 must attend four (4) hours of DT training and show proficiency in the instructed categories and techniques each year. Correctional officers and special deputies are not required by state statute to complete mandated training and therefore do not have to complete the DT Training Program; however, the agency may require these officers to attend as part of agency policy.

-Which categories must be completed in what years?

It is the discretion of each agency as to which categories and how many categories are covered each year, so long as all 14 categories are completed in a two-year cycle.

-Are there required techniques in each category?

Techniques for each category are listed in the appendices of the DT Training Program. A DT instructor may only teach those categories which he or she is currently certified to instruct through a DT Instructor Course. There is no single required or preferred technique in any category, the instructor should teach the techniques that are most beneficial to the agency and officer. If a DT instructor is certified to instruct multiple techniques, the instructor may choose which to teach.

-How does an officer become a DT instructor?

An officer must first complete an Instructor Development course to become a DT instructor. Once this is complete, the officer must attend a Level I (Stand-Up) course and a Level II (Ground Combatant) course for two (2) courses or attend a combined class. ILEA Records must have copies of all certificates to issue the DT instructor certification. If attending a copyrighted program, the officer should pay close attention to the expiration date of each program.

<b>COLUMN A - STANDING</b>	<b>COLUMN B - GROUND</b>	<b>COLUMN C – STANDING AND GROUND</b>
ILEA Defensive Tactics Course – Level I	ILEA Defensive Tactics Ground Combatant Course – Level II	MARTAC Training Concepts
Protective Training Services Course I - Standing	Protective Training Services Course II – Ground Course	Effective Fitness Combatives - EFC
Officer Safety Academy	Gracie Survival Tactics	Krav Maga
Duhammel Physical Tactics System/D.P.T.S.		DNR (certifies DNR instructors only)
Kahn Do Kwan Control Tactics		ISP (certifies ISP instructors only)
SPEAR System		

-What happens once the expiration date passes for a copyrighted program?

DT instructors may only instruct techniques from DT instructor courses in which they are currently certified. If the officer fails to recertify in a copyrighted program and the expiration date passes, the DT instructor may not teach techniques from that copyrighted program until recertified. Instructing outside the copyrighted program’s certification may be considered a violation of the copyright.

-Is the previous ILEA PT Instructor Course still valid?

A Physical Tactics instructor who completed the PT Instructor Course in the past must completed a Level II (Ground Combatant) course if this was not previously completed. The PT Instructor Course is valid only as a Level I (Stand-Up) course and must be accompanied by either a Level II (Ground Combatant) course or a combined course.

-How does a Physical Tactics Instructor switch to a Defensive Tactics Instructor?

Sometime in 2024, a PT instructor desiring to switch to a DT instructor must submit an instructor application accompanied by instructor course certificate(s) to [ILEARecords@ilea.in.gov](mailto:ILEARecords@ilea.in.gov). The officer does not need to submit the usual hours log or recertification fee for 2024 only.

-What happens if an officer does not switch to DT instructor?

On January 1, 2025, any PT instructors who have not completed the requirements to become a DT instructor will lose their PT instructor certifications. The officer may remain a Primary Instructor, but will not be certified to instruct under the DT Training Program.

-How does a DT instructor recertify with ILEA after 2024?

After the 2024 switch to DT instructor, instructors should recertify as usual with ILEA. Approximately 20 days prior to expiration, the application, hours log, and recertification fee should be submitted. It is important to submit current proof of certification in both Level I and Level II with each recertification during each recertification cycle.

-Can PT instructors team teach if they don't have both Level I and Level II courses?

For 2024 only, PT instructors may team teach; however, the instructors may only teach those techniques they are currently certified to instruct. Beginning January 1, 2025, all DT instructors must be certified in both Level I and Level II courses.

-Is ILEA conducting DT instructor training?

The ILEA DT staff is hosting Level I and Level II classes throughout 2024 both at Plainfield and at sites around the state. Registration for classes at ILEA is through the webform on the Acadis Portal. Registration at other sites is through the host agency. A list of sites is available on the Inservice SharePoint site or through Lt. Weidner.

-Will other techniques be added to the DT Training Program?

The ILEA staff is continually reviewing new training programs and techniques for addition to the DT Training Program. If a DT instructor has a specific course or technique to add to the program, please contact Lt. Pollaro at ILEA.

-How does an agency review policy and law under the DT Training Program?

An agency may instruct classroom portions of DT training outside the required four (4) hours of active hands-on DT participation. There is no upper limit to the training hours.

-Does the four (4) hours of DT training need to be completed in one block?

Agencies have the discretion to conduct the training in whatever manner works best. The four hours of DT training can be completed in one session or over several sessions.

-Do officers completing Basic training need to attend annual DT training?

An officer attending Tier I or Tier II Basic training receives training in all 14 categories during DT training at the academy and does not need to attend other DT training unless required by the agency. Officers graduating from a Basic academy should plan to join with agency training in the next year and pick up the categories along with the rest of the agency. Similarly, officers completing Pre-Basic or Refresher Courses should receive DT training as part of the course. Waiver student must complete the annual DT training.

-Can a DT instructor sign off on his or her own DT Inservice Form?

The recommendation is for another DT instructor to sign the instructor's form, especially if team teaching. The DT instructor should consult the agency's legal counsel for guidance on signing his or her own form.

-What happens if an officer does not complete the DT training?

As in all cases of failure to complete mandated training, the employing agency must suspend the officer's law enforcement authority on January 1 of the year following the year of incomplete training. The failure to train should be documented and forwarded to the Executive Director at ILEA. Law enforcement authority must remain suspended until training is completed and verified through ILEA Records or until further information is received from the Executive Director. Allowing an officer to remain on active duty after failure to complete training could result in liability issues for the officer and agency due to illegal arrest or illegal search and seizure since the officer's authority should have been suspended. This applies to all full-time, part-time, and reserve officers, regardless of age, rank, title, or assignment, including chiefs, supervisors, detectives, and others.