Douglas Deaton

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Retired Plano Police Lieutenant with more than 25 years of full-time law enforcement experience and command-level leadership in criminal investigations, SWAT and tactical operations, police training, use of force, and patrol supervision. Supervised crimes against persons investigations in Plano, Texas, including homicides, robberies, assaults, sex offenses, and officer-involved shootings. Founder and managing principal of a licensed private investigations and consulting firm. Retained as a consulting and testifying expert in criminal and civil cases involving self-defense, use of force, criminal investigations, police procedure, and firearms. Testified as an expert witness in Texas, Oregon, Washington, and Virginia.

EDUCATION

Master of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Dallas (2011)

Graduate Certificate, Local Government Management, University of Texas at Dallas (2008)

Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice Administration, University of North Texas (1995)

EXPERIENCE

RDR Investigations & Crisis Mgmt. (06/2021 – Present)

Licensed private investigations firm specializing in case reviews, post-incident analyses, and quality assurance. Serves as a consulting and testifying expert.

Plano Police Department, Plano, Texas (01/1998 – 06/2021)

Police Lieutenant (04/2013 – 06/2021)

Criminal Investigative Services Division (12/2016 – 06/2021) – Directed investigations of crimes against persons (homicides, robberies, assaults, sex offenses, etc.). Supervised sergeants in Crimes Against Persons, Sex Crimes, and the Family Violence Unit. Managed investigations of multiple officer-involved shootings, including the murder of Richardson Police Officer David Sherrard. Conducted an audit of cold case investigations revealing substantial deficits in procedures and case filing. Developed a new Cold Case Investigations SOP resulting in arrests for offenses previously reported to be unsolvable.

Emergency Services Unit (07/2015 – 06/2021) – Served as a Tactical Operations Commander on SWAT callouts, barricaded persons, and incidents involving noncompliant suspects. Reviewed and approved tactical plans, threat assessments, and SWAT team search and arrest warrant requests. Assessed "no knock" warrant affidavits for accuracy and reasonableness prior to presentation before a magistrate.

Administrative Lieutenant for the Chief of Police (07/2015 – 12/2016) – Completed special projects, research, analysis, and quality assurance as directed by the Chief of Police. Supervised sergeants in the School Resource Officer Unit, Crime Prevention Unit, and the Warrants Unit. Served as liaison to external local governments and private sector organizations.

Patrol Watch Commander (04/2013 – 07/2015) – Managed, supervised, and mentored uniformed personnel serving a population of approximately 300,000 across a 72 square mile city. Recognized as the Plano Police Department's 2014 Sworn Supervisor of the Year.

Police Sergeant (09/2004 – 04/2013)

Patrol Services Division (10/2011 – 04/2013) – Supervised, led, and developed uniformed officers assigned to one of four major patrol sectors. Coordinated and administered the Department's patrol rifle program (150+ officers). Achieved a measurable reduction in nighttime business burglaries and organized criminal activity through team building and restructuring of patrol patterns.

Training Unit (08/2009 – 10/2011) – Full-time leadership and administrative role at the Plano Police Academy with a training budget of approximately $1 million. Developed and implemented training programs for recruit and veteran officers. Selected, supervised, and evaluated police instructors. Ensured compliance with state and department training mandates. Created enhanced competency verification procedures for the patrol rifle program resulting in demonstrable improvement in officer professionalism when deploying rifles in public spaces. Participated in the analysis and overhaul of firearms policies and training procedures following a controversial shooting of an unarmed suspect. Drafted new firearms handling protocols that were incorporated into use of force policy and the firearms training program.

Family Violence Unit Sergeant (02/2007 – 08/2009) – Managed investigations of assaults, sex offenses, child abuse, child pornography, and Internet crimes against children. Assisted the U.S. Secret Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation with investigations of child pornography and Internet crimes against children. Partnered with prosecutors, Child Protective Services, therapists, and nonprofit organizations to serve victims of child abuse and family violence.

SWAT Team Sergeant (09/2004 – 02/2007) – Supervised and led SWAT officers responding to barricaded persons, hostage situations, suicidal persons, and high-risk warrant service. Conducted surveillance and provided executive protection. Coordinated multi-unit operations involving sensitive investigations. Developed lesson plans and SWAT training doctrine. Created a professional SWAT reading program.

Patrol Services Division (09/2004 – 02/2007) – Supervised police officers assigned to uniformed patrol. Developed, trained, evaluated, and counseled patrol officers under my direct command.

Police Officer (01/1998 – 09/2004)

SWAT Team Officer (10/1998 – 09/2004) – Served on a nationally recognized tactical unit responding to critical incidents requiring specialized skills, weapons, and tactics.

Patrol Services Division (01/1998 – 09/2004) – Performed uniformed patrol and served as a Field Training Officer (FTO).

Highland Park Department of Public Safety, Highland Park, Texas (10/1995 – 01/1998)

Public Safety Officer – Served as a full-time, sworn police officer, firefighter, and emergency medical technician for the Town of Highland Park, Texas.

CERTIFICATIONS

Advanced Firearms Instructor, Rangemaster Firearms Training Services (2025)
Deadly Force Instructor, Massad Ayoob Group (2023)
United States Concealed Carry Association Firearms Instructor (2023)
Force Science® Analyst (2022)
NRA Tactical Shooting Instructor (2009)
Master Peace Officer, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (2007)
Mediation and Dispute Resolution, Southern Methodist University (2006)
NRA Patrol Rifle Instructor (2005)
NRA Precision Rifle Instructor (2005)

Live-Fire Shoot House Instructor, Combat Shooting & Tactics - Paul Howe (2004)
Field Training Officer, Plano Police Department (2002)
Police Firearms Instructor, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (2001)
Police Instructor, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (2001)

LEADERSHIP and SUPERVISION COURSES

50th School of Executive Leadership, Institute for Law Enforcement Administration (2014)
Leadership in Police Organizations Program, International Association of Chiefs of Police (2008)
92nd School of Police Supervision, Institute for Law Enforcement Administration (2007)
SWAT Supervision and Command Decision Making, National Tactical Officers Association (2005)
Effective Police Supervision and Leadership, Sam Houston State University (2004)

AWARDS and HONORS

Sworn Supervisor of the Year (2014)
Professionalism Award - 50th School of Executive Leadership (2014)
Meritorious Service Award - Finalist for Sworn Supervisor of the Year (2013)
Lifesaving Award (2013)
5th Place, World SWAT Challenge (2006)
Texas SWAT Competition: 1st Place (2000, 2005); 2nd Place (2002, 2004); 3rd Place (2003, 2006)

OTHER RELEVANT TRAINING COURSES

Gunsite Academy, 350 Intermediate Pistol (2026) and 250 Defensive Pistol (2025)
Tactical Anatomy Summit (2026)
Reactive and Proactive Shotgun, Cougar Mountain Solutions – Erick Gelhaus (2025)
The Reid Technique of Investigative Interviewing & Advanced Interrogation (2025)
Intermediate/Advanced Pistol Class, Rogers Shooting School (2024)
Applied Defensive Handgun Skills, Heiho Consulting Group – John Holschen (2024)
Rangemaster Tactical Conference (2026, 2024, 2023, 2021)
Moment of Truth Pistol Class, Justin Dyal (2023)
Cognitive Pistol & Tactical Anatomy, Two Pillars Training – John Hearne (2023)
Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why, Two Pillars Training – John Hearne (2023)
Combat Pistol Skills Course, Rangemaster Firearms Training Services (2023)
Thunder Ranch Defensive Handgun (2023)
Actual Innocence for Lawyers Seminar, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (2021)
Cognitive Interview Proficiency Course, Dr. R. Edward Geiselman (2021)
Advanced Criminal Interview & Interrogation, Wicklander-Zulawski (2021)
Pekiti-Tirsia Kali Knife Defense Seminar (2021)
Counter Custody and Improvised Weapons Course, Ed Calderon (2019)
Police-Media Relations, Institute for Law Enforcement Administration (ILEA) (2019)
Conference on Crimes Against Women (2018)
Officer Involved Shooting Investigations, TX Dept. of Public Safety – Texas Ranger Brad Oliver (2017)
30th Annual Col. Henry F. Williams Homicide Seminar, New York State Police (2017)
Practical Homicide Investigation, PHI Investigative Consultants (2017)

Establishing Innocence or Guilt: Causes of and Solutions to Wrongful Convictions (ILEA) (2017)
Child Death and Homicide Investigation, Public Agency Training Council (2016)
Apprehending Fleeing Suspects, Jack Schonely (2012)
Police Baton and Edged Weapon Defense, Pekiti-Tirsia Kali Global Organization (2011)
Police Use of Force Conference, Institute for Law Enforcement Administration (ILEA) (2010)
Managing the Training Function, International Association of Chiefs of Police (2009)
Internet Crimes Against Children Unit Supervisor Program (2009)
Analytical Techniques for Criminal Investigations, Regional Organized Crime Information Center (2009)
Actual Innocence: Establishing Innocence or Guilt, ILEA (2008)
Advanced Homicide Investigations, Randolph McAfee, Inc. (2008)
Officer Involved Shooting Investigations, Public Agency Training Council (PATC) (2007)
Burglary & Robbery Investigations, PATC (2007)
Detective and New Criminal Investigator Course, PATC (2007)
Advanced SWAT School, Texas Tactical Police Officers Association (TTPOA) (2003)
Simunition® Scenario Safety Officer Course (2001)
Mid-South Institute of Self-Defense Shooting, Multiple Courses (2000 – 2004)

PRESENTATIONS

Conflict, Ego, and the Law: Staying Out of Court. Presented at the 2026 Rangemaster Tactical Conference in Dallas, Texas. https://taccon.info/

Self-Defense and Limits of Human Performance. Presented for CLE credit at the Tarrant County Defense Bar monthly luncheon. March 13, 2025.

Law Enforcement Perspective on Use of Force. Presented for CLE credit at the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association seminar, "Murder Was the Case They Gave Me." January 17, 2025. https://tinyurl.com/y37b276b

Effective Verbiage for Records Requests & Subpoenas: How to Obtain Files Related to Training, Discipline, & Hiring. Presented at the Denton County Defense Bar Association monthly luncheon. October 11, 2023.

Guns, Mental Illness, and Danger: Emotion vs. Reality in the Search for Practical Solutions. Presented at the Mental Health America of Greater Dallas conference entitled "Challenging the Myths of Mental Illness and Violence." November 11, 2022. https://tinyurl.com/45mxcrkv

PUBLICATIONS

A Christmas Message for First Responders. American Cop Magazine. December 19, 2023. https://americancop.com/a-christmas-message-for-first-responders/

Police Militarization and the Argument for Armored Vehicles. Police1.com. August 22, 2013. The concluding paragraph is quoted in the Southern California Interdisciplinary Law Journal as an example of "the original core values of American civilian policing." https://tinyurl.com/3uup62a4

Police Militarization and One Cop's Humble Opinion. Police1.com. August 15, 2013. Cited by the ACLU, the Harvard Law and Policy Review, and a U.S. Army Command and General Staff College master's thesis; assigned as required reading in an upper-level political science class at Emory University. https://tinyurl.com/5xkm2b68

INTERVIEWS and MEDIA APPEARANCES

American Cop Magazine. *Managing Personal Risk*. Author: Erick Gelhaus. April 7, 2026. https://americancop.com/managing-personal-risk/

Primary & Secondary Podcast. Multiple appearances discussing policing and public safety, 2023 - 2026. https://www.spreaker.com/podcast/primary-secondary-podcast--2585240

That Weems Guy Podcast. *Stuff You Should Know with Doug Deaton*. February 2, 2026. https://youtu.be/rrnX-H09saw

CBS News Texas. *Stolen suitcase, GPS tracker, and weeks of waiting on police: inside a North Texas couple's search for answers.* December 10, 2025. https://www.cbsnews.com/texas/news/stolen-suitcase-gps-tracker-north-texas-couple-search-for-answers/

CCW Safe In Self-Defense Podcast 138: *Educating the Judge and Jury in a Self-Defense Case.* July 15, 2025. https://tinyurl.com/mphr4dzd

CCW Safe In Self-Defense Podcast 131: *The Point of No Return.* January 8, 2025. https://tinyurl.com/mrrw9wsp

WFAA Dallas. Multiple appearances discussing police procedure, use of force, and high-profile law enforcement incidents, 2022 - 2024.

Police1.com. *The thin line between safety and tragedy: Muzzle control in policing.* August 24, 2024. https://tinyurl.com/dkcpnumx

That Weems Guy Podcast. *The Way It Is with Doug Deaton*. December 18, 2023. https://youtu.be/RL6nIE6b_Gg

CCW Safe Podcast Episode 127: *Doug Deaton*. August 9, 2023. https://ccwsafe.com/resources/ccw-safe-podcast-episode-127doug-deaton/

Off-Duty On-Duty Podcast. *Episode 87 – Training and Culpability*. August 27, 2022. https://offdutyonduty.com/480/episode-87-training-and-culpability-with-doug-deaton/

EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY

State of Texas v. Robert Sterling Gray. Murder. 33rd District Court, Blanco County, TX. Testified at trial as an expert in use of force and self-defense. Jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty. Attorneys: Michelle Moore and Jared Williams (512-756-5441).

Burks v. City of Humble, et al. Case No. 4:24-cv-00756. U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas. Federal civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 alleging excessive force by a police officer firing into an occupied vehicle. Testified in a pre-trial deposition as an expert in police procedure and use of force. Following the deposition, the defense filed a motion to exclude my testimony, which the court denied. The case was resolved by settlement on February 11, 2026. Attorney: Jacques Leeds (713-492-2906).

State of Texas v. James Quinten Beene. Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. 2nd District Court, Cherokee County, TX. Retained by defense counsel after Cherokee County Constable James Beene was involved in a traffic crash at the termination of a police pursuit. Testified before the Cherokee County Grand Jury as an expert in police procedure, use of force, and vehicle pursuits. Testified at trial on January 23, 2026. Jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty. Attorneys: Kenneth Biggs and Annie Northcutt (903-405-2686).

State of Texas v. Joshua Jared Moore. Sexual Assault of a Child. 466th District Court, Comal County, TX. Testified as an expert in criminal investigations and police procedure during a pre-trial suppression hearing. Attorney: Megan Rue (512-991-0576).

State of Texas v. Macario Guzman. Murder. 485th District Court, Tarrant County, TX. Testified at trial as an expert in use of force and self-defense on November 4, 2025. Defendant was convicted. Attorneys: Monroe Solomon and Harry White (817-617-7500).

State of Washington v. Richard David Spoelstra. Assault in the First Degree and Harassment – Threat to Kill. Kitsap County Superior Court (Cause No. 23-1-00-359-18). Testified at trial as an expert in police procedure, criminal investigations, use of force, and self-defense. Defendant was convicted. Attorney: Edward Redmond (855-305-0909).

Commonwealth of Virginia v. Zachary Fadely. Murder and Malicious Wounding. Warren County Circuit Court (Case Nos. CR24000176-00 and CR23000379-00). Testified at trial for the defense of Warren County Sheriff's Deputy Zachary Fadely. Jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty. Attorney: William Bassler (540-450-3333).

State of Texas v. Joshua Calvert Blanks, Jr. Murder. 212th District Court, Galveston County, TX. Testified at trial as an expert in use of force and self-defense. Defendant was convicted. Attorney: Jyll Rekoff (409-770-9704).

State of Texas v. Lincoln Pearson. Sexual Assault. 483rd District Court, Hays County, TX. Testified at trial as an expert in best practices for investigations of sexual assaults. Defendant was convicted. Attorneys: Geoffrey Puryear and Liz Duggan (512-991-0576).

Mary Lawrence v. Renaissance Hotel Operating Company, Inc., et al. United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Civil Case No. 23-469 (RJL). Authored expert reports and testified in a pre-trial deposition as an expert in police procedure and best practices for investigations of sexual assaults. Case is pending. Attorneys: Mary Whittle and Mark Guerrero (512-610-2331).

State of Texas v. Pablo Eduardo Chavez. Capital Murder of Multiple Persons. 292nd Judicial District Court, Dallas County, TX. Criminal case related to shootings of multiple people by an individual being attacked in the parking lot of a nightclub. Testified at trial as an expert in use of force, self-defense, police procedure, and criminal investigations. Jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty. Attorneys: Greg Westfall and Frank Sellers (817-928-4222).

State of Oregon v. Christopher Salter. Manslaughter & Unlawful Use of Weapon. Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Washington County (Case No. 22CR24775). Criminal case related to a fatal shooting in the driveway of a private residence after two men struggled over a shotgun. Testified at trial as an expert in firearms. The Court returned a verdict of Not Guilty. Attorneys: Jason Short and Tucker Rossetto (503-747-7198).

State of Texas v. Kaitlin Marie Armstrong. Murder. 403rd District Court of Travis County, TX. Criminal case related to the shooting death of a female professional cyclist in Austin, TX. Testified in a pre-trial Franks hearing as an expert witness in police procedure and criminal investigations. Attorneys: Rick Cofer and Mark Pryor (512-991-0576).

OTHER SIGNIFICANT CASES of RECORD

State of Texas v. Francisco Reyes. Manslaughter. 424th District Court of Llano County, TX. Retained as a consulting expert in criminal investigations, use of force, and self-defense. The defendant was acquitted on November 14, 2025. Attorney: Austin Shell (830-798-1690).

State of Texas v. Noal Price Jr. Murder. 369th Judicial District Court, Cherokee County, TX. Retained as an expert in use of force and self-defense. Qualified as an expert following a Rule 702 hearing. Testimony excluded by trial judge due to potential jury confusion. Defendant was convicted. Attorney: Mitch Adams (903-805-1243).

State of Texas v. Jerrod Grant. Murder. Criminal District Court No. 7, Dallas County, TX. Retained as a consulting expert in self-defense, criminal investigation, and use of force analysis. The defendant was acquitted on August 27, 2025. Attorneys: Sheridan Lewis and Katherine Reed (214-468-8100).

State of Texas v. Scotty Goble. Murder. 241st District Court, Smith County, TX. Qualified as an expert in criminal investigations, use of force, and self-defense following a Rule 702 hearing. Testimony excluded by trial judge as not offering unique value beyond cross-examination. Served as a consulting expert during trial. Defendant was convicted. Attorneys: Matt Bingham (903-565-2084) and Greg Waldron (903-229-9153).

Brooke Pearce, et al. v. FBI Agent Doe, et al. United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division (Civil Action No. 4:18-cv-3196). Retained as an expert in SWAT tactics, use of force, and police procedure. Authored an expert report analyzing FBI SWAT team actions in the fatal shooting of a hostage, which served as the basis for plaintiffs' negligence arguments. Case resolved with a $2 million judgment for plaintiffs. Attorney: Randall L. Kallinen (713-320-3785).

State of Oregon v. Desmond Pitts. Attempted Murder and Attempted Assault with a Firearm. Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Washington County (Case No. 23CR56668). Retained as an expert in use of force, criminal investigations, and police procedure. Authored expert and supplementary reports, contributing to the District Attorney's decision to drop charges in February of 2025. Attorney: Jason Short (503-747-7198).

Cherokee County Sheriff's Office Use of Force Incident. Cherokee County, Texas. Retained as an expert in use of force following an incident in which a Sheriff's Deputy subdued a violent inmate armed with a pipe and makeshift weapon inside the county jail. Authored an expert report. Grand Jury returned a No Bill on November 20, 2023. Attorney: Kenneth Biggs (903-405-2686).

State of Texas v. Toby Chad Troquille. Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. 7th Judicial District Court, Smith County, TX. Retained as an expert in self-defense and criminal investigations. The Smith County District Attorney's office dismissed the case after receiving my expert report. Attorney: Kenneth Biggs (903-405-2686).

State of Texas v. Daniel Perry. Murder and Deadly Conduct. 147th Criminal District Court, Travis County, TX. Retained as an expert in use of force and firearms after the highly publicized shooting of an armed Black Lives Matter protestor by an Uber driver near the State Capitol in Austin, TX. Created defense exhibits by conducting video recorded test firing of AK-47 rifle into car door identical to that of the vehicle driven by the defendant. Defendant was convicted. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles reviewed my work product before recommending the defendant be pardoned. Governor Greg Abbott pardoned the defendant on May 16, 2024. Attorneys: Doug O'Connell (512-547-7265) and Clint Broden (214-720-9552).