Douglas R. Deaton

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Current as of November 1, 2026

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Retired Plano Police Lieutenant with more than 25 years of full-time law enforcement experience and command-level leadership in criminal investigations, tactical operations, police training, and patrol supervision. Supervised crimes against persons investigations, including homicides, robberies, assaults, sex offenses, and officer-involved shootings. Founder and managing principal of a licensed private investigations and consulting firm. Retained since 2021 as a consulting and testifying expert in criminal and civil cases involving criminal investigations, police procedure, use of force, self-defense, and firearms. Testified as an expert at trial in state courts in Texas, Oregon, Washington, and Virginia. Testified by deposition in federal civil cases in the Southern District of Texas and the District of Columbia.

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., McKinney, Texas (06/2021 – Present)

Licensed private investigations and consulting firm specializing in case reviews, post-incident analyses, and quality assurance. Retained as a consulting and testifying expert in criminal and civil matters by defense counsel representing private citizens and police officers, and by plaintiffs' counsel in federal civil litigation.

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, including homicides, robberies, assaults, and sex offenses. 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 deficiencies in procedures and case filing. Developed a new Cold Case Investigations SOP leading to arrests for offenses previously reported to be unsolvable.

Emergency Services Unit (07/2015 – 06/2021). Served as a Tactical Operations Commander during SWAT callouts, barricaded persons, and incidents involving noncompliant suspects. Reviewed and approved tactical plans, threat assessments, and SWAT requests for high-risk operations. Evaluated the accuracy and reasonableness of affidavits prior to presentation to 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. Assisted Crimes Against Persons detectives with investigations of homicides and sexual assaults.

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.

Police Officer (01/1998 – 09/2004)

SWAT Team Officer (10/1998 – 09/2004). Served on a 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 (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.

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Texas Department of Public Safety

Owner and Company Representative, Investigations Company License A16845401 (2021)
Private Investigator License 100660501 (2021)

Texas Commission on Law Enforcement

Master Peace Officer Proficiency Certificate (2007)
Firearms Instructor Proficiency Certificate (2001)
Instructor Proficiency Certificate (2001)

Instructor Certifications

Advanced Firearms Instructor, Rangemaster Firearms Training Services (2025)
Deadly Force Instructor, Massad Ayoob Group (2023)
Firearms Instructor, United States Concealed Carry Association (2023)
NRA Tactical Shooting Instructor (2009)
NRA Precision Rifle Instructor (2007)
NRA Patrol Rifle Instructor (2005)
Live-Fire Shoot House Instructor, Combat Shooting & Tactics (Paul Howe) (2004)
Field Training Officer, Plano Police Department (2000)

Other Credentials

Force Science Analyst Certification, Force Science Institute (2022)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Leadership and Supervision

Police-Media Relations, Institute for Law Enforcement Administration (2019)
50th School of Executive Leadership, Institute for Law Enforcement Administration (2014)
Managing the Training Function, International Association of Chiefs of Police (2009)
Leadership in Police Organizations Program, International Association of Chiefs of Police (2008)
92nd School of Police Supervision, Institute for Law Enforcement Administration (2007)
Mediation and Dispute Resolution, Southern Methodist University and City of Plano (2006)
SWAT Supervision and Command Decision Making, National Tactical Officers Association (2005)
Effective Police Supervision and Leadership, Sam Houston State University (2004)

Criminal Investigation and Interviewing

The Reid Technique of Investigative Interviewing & Advanced Interrogation (2025)
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)
Conference on Crimes Against Women (2018)
Officer Involved Shooting Investigations, Texas Department 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, Institute for Law Enforcement Administration (2017)
Child Death and Homicide Investigation, Public Agency Training Council (2016)
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, Institute for Law Enforcement Administration (2008)
Advanced Homicide Investigations, Randolph McAfee, Inc. (2008)
Officer Involved Shooting Investigations, Public Agency Training Council (2007)
Burglary & Robbery Investigations, Public Agency Training Council (2007)
Detective and New Criminal Investigator Course, Public Agency Training Council (2007)

Use of Force and Human Performance

Tactical Anatomy Summit (2026)
Cognitive Pistol & Tactical Anatomy, Two Pillars Training (John Hearne) (2023)
Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why, Two Pillars Training (John Hearne) (2023)
Police Use of Force Conference, Institute for Law Enforcement Administration (2010)

Firearms and Tactics

Gunsite Academy, 350 Intermediate Pistol (2026) and 250 Defensive Pistol (2025)
Rangemaster Tactical Conference (2026, 2024, 2023, 2021)
Reactive and Proactive Shotgun, Cougar Mountain Solutions (Erick Gelhaus) (2025)
Intermediate/Advanced Pistol Class, Rogers Shooting School (2024)
Applied Defensive Handgun Skills, Heiho Consulting Group (John Holschen) (2024)
Moment of Truth Pistol Class, Justin Dyal (2023)
Combat Pistol Skills Course, Rangemaster Firearms Training Services (2023)
Thunder Ranch Defensive Handgun (2023)
Apprehending Fleeing Suspects, Jack Schonely (2012)
Advanced SWAT School, Texas Tactical Police Officers Association (2003)
Mid-South Institute of Self-Defense Shooting, multiple courses (2000 – 2004)
Simunition Scenario Safety Officer Course (2001)

Defensive Tactics and Combatives

Pekiti-Tirsia Kali Knife Defense Seminar (2020)
Counter Custody and Improvised Weapons, Ed Calderon (2019)
Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (blue belt), Shin-Toshi Karate (brown belt), Mixed Martial Arts (1990 – 2015)
Private instruction in Pekiti-Tirsia Kali edged-weapon defense, Tim Waid (2012)
Police Baton and Edged Weapon Defense, Pekiti-Tirsia Kali Global Organization (2011)

AWARDS AND HONORS

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

PRESENTATIONS

Investigations: Thinking Outside the Box. Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association 23rd Annual Forensics Seminar, Austin, Texas, October 15, 2026.

Conflict, Ego, and the Law: Staying Out of Court. Rangemaster Tactical Conference, Dallas, Texas, March 27, 2026.

Self-Defense and Limits of Human Performance. Presented for CLE credit at the Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association 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.

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

Guns, Mental Illness, and Danger: Emotion vs. Reality in the Search for Practical Solutions. Mental Health America of Greater Dallas conference "Challenging the Myths of Mental Illness and Violence," November 11, 2022.

PUBLICATIONS

A Christmas Message for First Responders. American Cop Magazine, December 19, 2023.

Police Militarization and the Argument for Armored Vehicles. PoliceOne.com (now Police1), August 22, 2013. Quoted in *Us vs. Them: The Militarization of American Law Enforcement and the Psychological Effect on Police Officers and Civilians*, Southern California Interdisciplinary Law Journal (2016).

Police Militarization and One Cop's Humble Opinion. PoliceOne.com (now Police1), August 15, 2013. Cited in *Local Democratic Oversight of Police Militarization*, Harvard Law & Policy Review (2016); in the American Civil Liberties Union report *War Comes Home: The Excessive Militarization of American Policing* (2014); and in a 2016 master's thesis written at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Assigned as required reading in "Policing, Imprisonment, and Politics," an upper-level political science course at Emory University (2018).

SELECTED MEDIA

American Cop Magazine. *Managing Personal Risk* (feature by Erick Gelhaus). April 7, 2026.

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.

Police1. *The thin line between safety and tragedy: Muzzle control in policing* (Warren Wilson). August 21, 2024.

WFAA Dallas. *After she was knocked unconscious during her arrest, Fort Worth 'First Amendment auditor' plans to sue.* June 25, 2024.

WFAA Dallas (Daybreak). *DOJ to release report on Uvalde shooting.* January 18, 2024.

WFAA Dallas. *Nashville school shooting: A look at the bodycam video released by police.* March 28, 2023.

WFAA Dallas. *Affidavit: Missing Collin Co. woman learned man she was dating was married; car found burned.* January 19, 2023.

WFAA Dallas. *It is not a free-for-all out there: North Texas police chase policies vary by department.* November 21, 2022.

MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Texas Association of Licensed Investigators

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

Plano Police Department Firearms Committee (2008 – 2021)

Collin County Council on Family Violence, Law and Order Committee (2007 – 2009)

EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY

This is a complete list of the matters in which I have testified as an expert, whether at trial, at a pretrial hearing, before a grand jury, or by deposition. Entries appear in reverse chronological order by date of most recent testimony.

State of Texas v. Sammy L. Rodriguez Jr. Murder. 377th District Court, Victoria County, Texas, Case No. 25-03-35788-D. Retained by defense counsel L. Jade Ortego and Brian Watson. Testified at a pretrial Rule 702/705 hearing on July 8, 2026. The court found me qualified as an expert in use of force and self-defense. The defendant pleaded guilty to manslaughter on August 14, 2026.

State of Texas v. Robert Sterling Gray. Murder. 33rd District Court, Blanco County, Texas, Case No. 2322. Retained by defense counsel Michelle Moore and Jared Williams. Testified at trial on May 1, 2026, as an expert in use of force and self-defense. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty on May 1, 2026.

State of Texas v. James Quinten Beene. Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Traffic crash at the termination of a police pursuit. 2nd District Court, Cherokee County, Texas, Case No. 22551. Retained by defense counsel Kenneth Biggs and Annie Northcutt for Cherokee County Constable James Beene. Testified before the Cherokee County grand jury on August 25, 2025, and at trial on January 22, 2026, as an expert in police procedure, use of force, and vehicle pursuits. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty on January 23, 2026.

State of Texas v. Joshua Jared Moore. Sexual Assault of a Child. 466th District Court, Comal County, Texas, Case No. CR2024-199E. Retained by defense counsel Megan Rue. Testified at a pretrial suppression hearing on November 25, 2025, as an expert in criminal investigations and police procedure.

State of Texas v. Macario Guzman. Murder. 485th District Court, Tarrant County, Texas, Case No. 1670105. Retained by defense counsel Monroe Solomon and Harry White. Testified at trial on November 4, 2025, as an expert in use of force and self-defense. The defendant was convicted.

Burks v. City of Humble, et al. Civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 alleging excessive force by a police officer firing into an occupied vehicle. U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, Case No. 4:24-cv-00756. Retained by plaintiff's counsel Jacques Leeds. Authored an expert report and testified by deposition on October 22, 2025, as an expert in police procedure and use of force. Opposing counsel's motion to exclude my testimony (Dkt. 34) was denied by the court (Dkt. 45). The case was settled on February 11, 2026.

State of Texas v. Noal Price Jr. Murder. 369th District Court, Cherokee County, Texas, Case No. 22447. Retained by defense counsel Mitch Adams. Testified at a pretrial Rule 702 hearing on October 15, 2025. The court found me qualified as an expert in use of force and self-defense, but excluded the proffered testimony, citing potential jury confusion. The defendant was convicted.

State of Texas v. Scotty Goble. Murder. 241st District Court, Smith County, Texas, Case No. 241-0145-25. Retained by defense counsel Matt Bingham and Greg Waldron. Testified at a pretrial Rule 702 hearing on August 28, 2025. The court found me qualified as an expert in criminal investigations, use of force, and self-defense, but excluded the proffered testimony as not offering unique value beyond cross-examination. I served as a consulting expert during the trial. The defendant was convicted.

State of Washington v. Richard David Spoelstra. Assault in the First Degree; Harassment (Threat to Kill). Kitsap County Superior Court, Washington, Case No. 23-1-00359-18. Retained by defense counsel Edward Redmond. Testified at trial on August 14, 2025, as an expert in police procedure, criminal investigations, use of force, and self-defense. The defendant was convicted.

Commonwealth of Virginia v. Zachary Fadely. Murder; Malicious Wounding. Warren County Circuit Court, Virginia, Case Nos. CR24000176-00 and CR23000379-00. Retained by defense counsel William (Beau) Bassler for Warren County Sheriff's Deputy Zachary Fadely. Authored an expert report and testified at trial on February 7, 2025, as an expert in use of force and police procedure. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty on February 11, 2025.

State of Texas v. Joshua Calvert Blanks Jr. Murder. 212th District Court, Galveston County, Texas, Case No. 23-CR-2397. Retained by defense counsel Jyll Rekoff. Testified at trial on January 9, 2025, as an expert in use of force and self-defense. The defendant was convicted.

State of Texas v. Lincoln Pearson. Sexual Assault. 483rd District Court, Hays County, Texas, Case No. CR-20-1044-C. Retained by defense counsel Geoffrey Puryear and Liz Duggan. Testified at trial on September 25, 2024, as an expert in best practices for investigations of sexual assaults. The defendant was convicted.

Lawrence v. Renaissance Hotel Operating Company, Inc., et al. Civil action arising from an alleged sexual assault. U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Case No. 1:23-cv-00469. Retained by plaintiff's counsel Mary Whittle and Mark Guerrero. Authored two expert reports. Testified at a deposition on March 19, 2024, as an expert in police procedure and sexual assault investigations. On September 28, 2026, the court excluded my testimony and a defense expert's testimony in the same order (Dkt. 154). The case was settled and dismissed on October 2, 2026.

State of Oregon v. Christopher Salter. Manslaughter; Unlawful Use of a Weapon. Fatal shooting in a residential driveway after a struggle over a shotgun. Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Washington County, Case No. 22CR24775. Retained by defense counsel Jason Short and Tucker Rossetto. Authored an expert report and testified at trial on November 16, 2023, as an expert in firearms. The court found the defendant not guilty (bench trial) on November 20, 2023.

State of Texas v. Pablo Eduardo Chavez. Capital Murder of Multiple Persons. Shooting of multiple persons in a nightclub parking lot. 292nd District Court, Dallas County, Texas, Case No. F-20-76975. Retained by defense counsel Greg Westfall and Frank Sellers. Testified at trial on August 25, 2023, as an expert in use of force, self-defense, police procedure, and criminal investigations. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty on August 25, 2023.

State of Texas v. Kaitlin Marie Armstrong. Murder. Shooting death of a professional cyclist in Austin, Texas. 403rd District Court, Travis County, Texas, Case No. D-1-DC-22-301129. Retained by defense counsel Rick Cofer and Mark Pryor. Authored an expert report and testified at a pretrial Franks hearing on October 24, 2022, as an expert in police procedure and criminal investigations.

OTHER CASES OF RECORD

I was retained as an expert in the following cases but did not testify.

Pearce, et al. v. FBI Agent Doe, et al. Civil action arising from the fatal shooting of a hostage by an FBI SWAT team member. U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, Case No. 4:18-cv-3196. Retained by plaintiffs' counsel as an expert in SWAT tactics, use of force, and police procedure. Authored an expert report on the SWAT team's actions and operational protocols. The plaintiffs obtained a $2 million judgment on March 3, 2025.

State of Texas v. Daniel Perry. Murder and Deadly Conduct. Shooting of an armed protester by a rideshare driver during a demonstration near the Texas Capitol in Austin. 147th District Court, Travis County, Texas, Case No. D-1-DC-21-900007. Retained by defense counsel Doug O'Connell and Clint Broden as an expert in use of force and firearms. Prepared defense exhibits, including video-recorded test firing of an AK-47 rifle into a car door identical to that of the defendant's vehicle. The defendant was convicted. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles reviewed my work product before recommending a pardon, and the Governor of Texas pardoned the defendant on May 16, 2024.