



# Larimer County Sheriff's Office (Fort Collins, CO)

Will be Hosting

## THE VIGILANCE PROJECT

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



“Narco Shrine” at the Fishers Police Dept. in Indiana June 2019

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/factors/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 course, a heavy emphasis will be placed on the “Narco Cultura” (Mexican Drug Cartel Culture), including but not limited to: Mexican identification documents, “Narco” fashions, 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”, other tools and actual hands-on practical exercises; which now includes a how-to skill in reading and/or interpreting a multitude of different religious shrines.

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”, the current Fentanyl crisis, effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on drug trafficking, growth of Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generation (CJNG) and more.

This will benefit ANY investigator, as well as many others in any field of assignment (i.e. CID, Patrol, K9, Interdiction, Detentions, Gangs, Narcotics, Crime Prevention, SRO, Intelligence, Fire Marshall, etc. ) who 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, and from burglaries and arson investigations to a double homicide/assassination.

For additional information please go to

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



This course has been presented since 2014, and is ever evolving with current information, including new visits to sites in México such as: “Tepito”, in México City (which is the heart of the Santa Muerte following); Mercado de Sonora, known as the *México City witch market*; San Hipólito, the National shrine for San Judas Tadeo; and La Virgen de Guadalupe’s shrine, as well as interviews with healers or “curanderos,” trips into “the Red Triangle” and the Oaxacan Coast.

Thousands of Officers and Government Officials in the United States have attended, including Federal, Tribal, Local, and Municipal agencies; members of the United States Congress and their staff. And it is currently certified in Colorado, Illinois, and New Mexico; with pending status in Missouri.



United States Congress Washington D.C.

## About Lead Instructor Victor Manuel Galarza

Your instructor is considered a subject matter expert by the 22nd and 13th Judicial Districts in the State of Colorado, and has extensive experience and expertise in multiple subjects relating to the Mexican Transnational Criminal Organizations. Victor is currently in active service as a decorated POST Certified Law Enforcement officer in the Southwest Region of Colorado, as a Narcotics Detective who also specializes in Criminal Interdiction. He was a Mexican Diplomat in the United States, bearing both an A-1 and later a G-1 Diplomatic Status. Victor possesses first hand accounts in regards to the Mexican Cartels dating back to the Guadalajara Cartel, and has investigated members of Los Zetas, Sinaloa, La Familia Michuacana, and La Tersera Hermandad; he has trained with the Mexican Navy, Mexican Army, German Army, U.S. Army, Mexican Estate Major Presidential (Mexican Presidential Security, (now disbanded) and various other U.S. Law Enforcement Agencies.

For more information, search for [Victor Galarza](#) on: [LinkedIn](#)

## Testimonials



Santa Muerte Chapel Phoenix AZ 2017

“Very knowledgeable course, in-depth information that can help save law enforcement lives. I would highly recommend this course to L.E. Victor was an incredible instructor.”

Chief A. Flores, Milliken Police Dept. (CO)

“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

“As a law enforcement officer devoted to training and educating our future police professionals, I absolutely recommend and support agencies who include Galarza’s training in their regimen.”

Operations Lieutenant, Mountain Village P.D. (CO)

“The material presented regarding “Narco-Cultura” that Galarza has generously shared with us is second to none...gives an accurate and sobering view of the dangers that officers in all parts of the country may have to encounter at some point.”

Special Agent, Dept. Homeland Security

“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 off a PowerPoint, but Victor takes his experience and knowledge to a new level with a “no hold bars” approach to the information.”

Chief Rodney Paris  
Logan Police Dept. New Mexico

“This training is truly like none other I have attended while in Law Enforcement, even being from Mexico.....The material and experience that Victor Galarza taught in the class is second to none.”

CID Detective Cesar Rodriguez, Fishers Police Dept. Indiana

**Limited Space  
available... sign  
up ASAP!**



# THE VIGILANCE PROJECT

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

Will be Hosted by



**Larimer County Sheriff's Office  
(Fort Collins, CO)**

**This 4 day course includes a detailed presentation by subject  
matter expert Victor Manuel Galarza, and much more!!**

certified in the State of Colorado with Credential ID IV0167

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



### **Venue-**

Larimer County Sheriff's Office  
2501 Midpoint Dr.  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525

### **Cost-**

Only \$450 per person for the 4 day class;  
limited space available. (Discounts for  
Groups of 5 and more!)

**May 25th  
to May 28th, 2021  
0800 hours -1630 hours**

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, (no Credit Cards at this time) and sent to the following address:

The Vigilance Project LLC.

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

The final day to sign up for this course is *TBA* - the final day to cancel is May 15th, 2021 (please note, no refunds will be given after said date). Any questions, please email [vigilanceprojectcourse@gmail.com](mailto:vigilanceprojectcourse@gmail.com) or Training Coordinator Mallory Rutherford

[rutherml@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:rutherml@co.larimer.co.us)

**Please Note** - practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will be conducted throughout the course, which will include: social distancing, disinfecting protocol, and daily temperature readings