

Certified Firearm Specialist

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BY THE INTERNATIONAL FIREARM SPECIALIST ACADEMY

This training seminar is being hosted by the **Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office**, in Santa Cruz, California.

Training Goals: This is an intense course designed to make you a competent Specialist, and put you on the pathway to becoming a subject-matter expert. Post-seminar testing is included, which certifies the attendee as a **Firearm Specialist** upon successful completion.



Attendees will be able to encounter a varied collection of firearms and ammunition, and be able to safely clear, accurately identify, classify, and competently categorize any firearm or ammunition, even the oldest obscure foreign military examples, all within ATF and State guidelines. They will be confident in making determinations as to GCA and NFA status, and avoid overlooking violations and items which are illegal contraband. The issues of misidentification, unfamiliarity with obscure facets of the firearm field, and unsafe practices will be solved, avoiding the misinformation and lack of information which plagues law enforcement and the firearm industry.



The course is designed to enable professionals to immediately interpret what he/she sees, and to apply their knowledge in making an accurate determination as to an item's origin, its status under the law, and its method of mechanical operation. All areas of the field of firearms and ammunition will be examined and discussed thoroughly, and Federal law and ATF rulings will be cited to prove all points taught.



The latest firearm technology trends in the industry, as well as criminal-trends in firearms will be explained. These will help the professional become acquainted with technical concepts not familiar to the beginner, and which will help the firearm professional become acquainted with concepts such as clandestine silencers and full-auto conversions, Curios and Relics, home-built firearms, ATF Tracing, etc... There is an emphasis on understanding ammunition, the accurate identification of guns and ammunition, and the ability to competently explain methods of operation.



Audience: This course is intended for all law enforcement, licensed firearm dealers, collectors, and manufacturers, Attorneys, military personnel, licensed security, and private investigators.

Methods: The course is a 3-day session. The course-author is a former ATF National Academy firearm-staff member. Attendees will perform hands-on examinations of real firearms. Numerous handouts are also provided as instructional aids, and attendees will receive a certificate of attendance. This training is also recognized by the **IAI, ABMDI, NSSF, AFTE, Sonoran Desert Institute, CSI Academy of Florida, Brighton College** and numerous federal and large state and local law enforcement agencies.



Day One:

- **Firearm Safety and Clearing** (rules of safe handling, clearing procedures, safety precautions, active and passive safety devices, test-firing cautions, jammed firearms)
- **Firearm Classification** (5 categories of Gun Control Act firearms, definitions of “firearm” and “antique” [non-gun], forearm-braces, vertical fore-grips, 80% receiver blanks, dummy guns, home-made guns)
- **Markings** (manufacturer, importer, proof, obliterated serials, double serials, double importers, trademarks, ATF variances, hidden serials, Nazi codes, catalog guns, foreign military gun-ID, ATF Tracing)
- **Nomenclature** (ID of parts necessary for safety and/or location of markings)

Day Two:

- **Ammunition** (components, ID, technology, interstate nexus, chamber pressure, headspace, SAAMI)
- **Cycle of Operation** (the function of each step of mechanical operation)
- **Mechanical Types of Operation** (breech and muzzle-loaders, self and manually-loaded firearms, action types, open and closed-bolt, semi and full-auto)
- **Curios and Relics** (collector status granted by ATF, C&Rs vs. antiques)
- **NFA Rifles/Shotguns** (short-barreled, weapons made from rifle/shotgun, shoulder-stocked handguns, sub-caliber inserts)

Day Three:

- **Machineguns** (Ten most common clandestine conversions, field testing, bump-firing, Gatling guns, DEWATS, re-welds, fire-on-release, methods of destruction)
- **Silencers** (recognition, soda-bottle and oil-filter adapters, solvent traps, fakes)
- **Any Other Weapon [AOW]** (disguised firearms, smooth-bore handguns, handguns w/vertical fore-grip, Marble Game-getters)
- **Destructive Devices** (bombs, mines, grenades, bores over .50 caliber, Street-sweeper, USAS-12, Molotov cocktails, IEDs, exceptions)
- **Court Testimony** (15 points on preparation, writing a Curriculum Vitae, and the pitfalls of testimony)

Seminar location:

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office
5200 Soquel Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Date: March 5 through 7, 2017

Time: 8:00-4:30pm

Cost of the 3-day course is \$525, which includes online tests for certification.

To register, contact IFSA at (813) 422-4674 or email: Info@GunLearn.com. The registration form is here at <http://www.gunlearn.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/IFSA-registration-form-12.6.16.pdf>

To learn more about IFSA/GunLearn, go to www.GunLearn.com .

Attendees are cautioned that the course includes the handling of firearms, and as a result, no live ammunition is allowed in the classroom. Prior arrangements should be made for safe storage of duty weapons and ammunition. Due to the inherent handling of firearms in the class, attendance is restricted to those who are not prohibited from possession of a firearm or ammunition under Title 18 U.S. Code 922 (g).