

Justin Atherton

Master Instructor

Blueshieldtactical.com

BSTS LLC



Seasoned law enforcement leader with 20 years of progressive service spanning patrol, investigations, tactical operations, and command-level supervision. Recognized for bridging operational expertise with instructional innovation, creating nationally adopted training frameworks, and elevating officer performance, wellness, and communication. Trusted nationwide instructor and strategist with proven ability to transform complex human performance science into actionable training for law enforcement, corporate teams, and higher education.

Core Competencies

- **Law Enforcement Leadership:** Master Peace Officer, SWAT Breacher & Assistant Team Commander, Detective, Training Lieutenant, Field Supervisor
- **Instruction & Curriculum Design:** Advanced Instructor (Cognitive Interview, Detecting Deception, Emotional Intelligence), Architect of modernized FTO programs, Creator of the WAVE Method
- **Human Performance & Decision-Making:** Graduate of Force Science Institute, FBI-LEEDA Trilogy, LEMIT CSLS, Degree in Organizational Leadership
- **National & Global Training Reach:** Nationwide instructor for law enforcement agencies, corporate compliance divisions, and higher education administrators

Career Highlights

- **Operational Excellence:** Led high-risk tactical operations requiring precision, coordination, and resilience under extreme stress.
- **Innovative Training Design:** Developed scenario-based, multi-agency training events that improved crisis readiness and inter-agency collaboration.
- **Strategic Leadership:** Advanced command-level leadership through FBI-LEEDA and LEMIT CSLS, applying organizational theory to real-world policing challenges.
- **Instructional Impact:** Delivered training nationwide, converting field-tested experience into structured, teachable frameworks that improve retention, communication, and officer wellness.

Signature Contributions

- **WAVE Method:** A proprietary communication framework that enhances intentional dialogue in high-stakes environments.
- **Field Training Officer Program Revamp:** Elevated evaluation standards, communication clarity, and retention across multiple agencies.
- **Human Performance Integration:** Applied cutting-edge science of perception, memory, and decision-making to officer training, improving outcomes in critical incidents.