



High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Gulf Coast Training Alert

Financial Investigations

WHEN: April 14 and 15, 2026 (Tuesday and Wednesday)

TIME: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

WHERE: Louisiana State Police Training Academy
7901 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Attendance: Open to all certified law enforcement officers and Intel Analysts.

CO-SPONSOR: Louisiana State Police

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to equip law enforcement officers with essential skills to detect, investigate, and dismantle money laundering operations involving traditional money laundering tactics as well as activities involving digital financial services like Cash App.

Topics Covered:

- Money Laundering Overview
- Financial Institutions & Bank Secrecy Act
- FINCEN Oversight & Compliance
- Traditional Money Laundering Activities
- Establishing Shell Companies
- Smurfing Activities
- Trade-based Money Laundering
- Digital Financial Services
- Cryptocurrency Regulations
- Investigative Analysis Tools
- In-depth Case Studies

Course Overview: This Money Laundering & Digital Payment Methods course is designed to equip law enforcement officers with essential skills to detect, investigate, and dismantle money laundering operations tied to drug trafficking. Participants will gain an in-depth understanding of the financial processes that support criminal organizations, and the methods used to launder illicit proceeds. Through a combination of theoretical insights and practical exercises, officers will explore how to identify fraudulent business practices and conduct financial interviews aimed at uncovering hidden assets. The course will cover the different stages of money laundering, from placement to integration, as well as various techniques employed by drug trafficking organizations to conceal proceeds from illegal activities. Officers will learn about indirect methods of accounting to trace illicit funds and how to apply financial search warrants to



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seize criminal assets. Additionally, participants will examine case studies of notable money laundering operations, both domestic and international, with a special focus on modern-day digital payment systems like Venmo, PayPal, Cash App, and Zelle, which are increasingly used by criminals to evade detection. By the end of the course, law enforcement officers will have practical knowledge of how to conduct financial investigations, work with multi-agency teams, and employ tactical methods for gathering and analyzing financial evidence. The interactive exercises and case studies will ensure that participants leave with real-world skills to counter the sophisticated money laundering operations that fuel drug trafficking organizations.

INSTRUCTOR:

Byron Boston served 20 years with Dallas Police Department before retiring in May 2017. He spent over 14 years in the Narcotics Division as an undercover officer. For five years, Byron was assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a Task Force Officer (TFO) to investigate Mexican Drug Cartels impacting the Southwest border of the United States. These investigations involved drug trafficking, extortion, kidnappings, and homicides. Byron is co-owner of PLET and has been a national training instructor for over 15 years. During that time, he has created a variety of courses and has successfully trained thousands of law enforcement officers across the United States and Canada with exceptional reviews.

- **ENROLLMENT:**
- Open your web browser and log into the following link <https://www.nhac.org/hidtatrainingcalendar/events/1> or go to the Gulf Coast HIDTA website at <http://www.gchidta.org>. Click on the training tab and find the event on the calendar.
- Select "Financial Investigations" class **April 14 and 15, 2026**
- Fill in the Online Application
- Select Complete Registration
- You will receive an email indicating your online registration has been received

ATTENDANCE:

Open to all certified law enforcement officers and Intel Analysts

CONTACT:

Please enroll online. If you have any questions or issues with the online process, contact Ronnie Hoefeld at (504) 616-8673 or hoefeldr@gchidta.org.

ALL STUDENTS Please use **Gulf Coast HIDTA** as your HIDTA category when registering.