

Progressive F.O.R.C.E. Concepts

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Instructor Spotlight: Mike Barnhart – PFC Director of Training

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In this installment of **Instructor Spotlight**, we get to know PFC's Director of Training, Mike Barnhart.

In his four-plus decades of government service, Mike has amassed one of the most extensive training backgrounds on record. He is recognized as a pre-eminent expert on the deployment and utilization of small arms in a variety of unique environments.

Prior to joining PFC in a full-time role, Mike retired in 2011 from the Federal Air Marshal Service, an organization he served with for eight years. Mike had been responsible for the development and delivery of law enforcement skills training in support of his agency to Federal Air Marshals, law enforcement officers outside the agency, and certain other employees involved with the civil aviation industry.

Prior to joining the Federal Air Marshal Service, Mike served 14 years with the National Nuclear Security Administration; (a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy responsible for enhancing national security through the military application of nuclear security). He held various positions within the Safeguards and Security community including departmental headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Office of Transportation Security Training Center in Albuquerque, N.M. and at the Nevada Test Site near Las Vegas, NV.

Mike is a Viet Nam veteran of the United States Marine Corps, serving from 1965 to 1977. His military service included duties as an instructor at the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School and Staff Non-Commissioned Officer's Academies at Quantico, VA and MCB Camp LeJeune, NC.

When asked how teaching as a staff instructor in the federal system differs from his role teaching with PFC, Mike had this to say: "With government agencies, training programs are subject to many variables that go beyond whether or not

the material itself is worthwhile. Issues like budgets, time constraints and the caliber of student all affect whether a training program can be ramped up or if it needs to be scaled down. So organizational training standards end up being impacted by things which have nothing specifically to do with training. Here at PFC, the situation is quite different. Here we have the luxury of designing curriculum that focuses solely on its effectiveness in the field...”