

Officer Mental Health: The Hard Truth



- **Currently:**
- **U.S. Department of Energy**
Senior Federal Polygraph Examiner
- **New Mexico State Law Enforcement Academy**
Certified Police Instructor in the following areas:
Health and Wellness, Interactions with Persons
with Mental Impairment, Use of Force, Master
Instructor Firearms, Master Instructor Shotgun,
Master Instructor Defensive Tactics.
- **New Mexico Mounted Patrol**
Retired Captain - Instructor Officer Mental Health:
The Hard Truth

- Sonny was recruited into the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Department where he found mentorship from the local SWAT team leader who kept him motivated and helped him graduate from the Law Enforcement Academy Basic Police Officer Certification.
- He now has nearly 30 years of experience in law enforcement as a Bomb Squad Technician, Police Academy Coordinator, Sheriff's Deputy, Federal Special Agent, Federal Section Chief, and is now currently a New Mexico Mounted Patrol (NMMP) Troop Captain, and a PNNL/DOE Senior Polygraph Examiner.
- He acquired his polygraph certification through the National Center for Credibility Assessment (NCCA) working with Homeland Security, and attended Argosy University where he earned his Master's in Forensic Psychology.
- In the last three years, he has ranked the highest in obtaining critical admissions of examinees and has been assigned some of the most difficult exams in his unit.
- As a Captain in the NMMP, he has become an individual whose focus is officer's mental wellness/suicide prevention. Sonny has created a curriculum in the state of New Mexico which he has taught for free since February 2019.

