

Eddy Cartaya
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Eddy is co-owner of Direct Action Vertical Inc., and Chief of Operations. Since 1987, Eddy has demonstrated a concurrent passion for military and law enforcement special operations, Tactical Tracking / mountain operations, specialty firearms training, and extreme-venue technical rope operations. With his combined experience in live mission operations and teaching for a multitude of tactical, SAR, cave, mountain, and rope industries, Eddy is uniquely qualified to develop and provide tactical “light and fast” high-consequence vertical situational responses.

As lead tactical instructor, Eddy teaches international audiences on tactical rope operations, with a special emphasis on vertical protester and aerial blockade interventions, alpine / wilderness tactical tracking operations, subterranean operations, and specialized firearms techniques for such venues. Always looking for new ways to advance the industry and support rope technicians, he designed the new Tactical Mobility harness specifically for law enforcement, and co-authored the book *Small Party Assisted Rescue*. Eddy has taught technical rope and /or tactical operations in Columbia, Canada, Croatia, Poland, France, Spain, and Germany.

Military / Law Enforcement

Eddy graduated the United States Military Academy at **West Point** in 1990 with a B.S. degree in Aerospace Engineering. He graduated Army airborne school, U.S. Army SAPPER school, and commanded combat units in the Republic of Korea and Ft. Stewart, Georgia.

After leaving the military, Eddy spent 26 years as an agent / officer for state and federal law enforcement. Eddy served on law enforcement special operations teams from 1995 to 2021. He served as patrol officer, Field Training Officer (FTO), police academy instructor, and SWAT (ERT) from 1993-1998 for **Savannah Police Department**, Georgia. State certified firearms instructor and tactical shotgun instructor. ERT functioned as city’s vertical intervention team for suicide jumpers and tactical waterborne operations. Eddy competed in the SWAT Olympics, Orlando Florida 1995-1997.

During his 10 years as **National Park Service (NPS)** law enforcement officer, Eddy was team leader for the NPS tactical tracking / mountain operations team in North Carolina. While there, he was awarded the **Medal of Valor** by Secretary of Department of Interior for a double motor vehicle extrication fully involved with flame. Eddy also served as a national coordinator / lead instructor for **NPS Technical Rope Rescue academy (BTRT)** – tasked with training federal law enforcement and military special operations – and he was the **SAR coordinator** for the Blue Ridge Parkway unit of NPS covering over 40 counties.

For 11 years, Eddy was a law enforcement officer with the **U.S. Forest Service (USFS)**. He was team leader for the Pacific Northwest tactical team, tasked with man tracking, rural surveillance of criminal back country facilities, alpine operations, Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) interdiction, and vertical protester interventions. He was awarded the **Unsung Hero Award** by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DOA). Additional experience and credentials include: graduate of the Law Enforcement Mountain Operations School (LEMOS); Federal firearms instructor; Use of Force instructor; NLTA instructor; FTO; drug enforcement operations (DETP) instructor; instructor and curriculum developer for tactical tracking operations and mountain operations. Eddy developed the alpine tactical tracking operations program in North Carolina, which he’s continued to teach annually. He added to his extensive experience with subterranean law enforcement operations in the caves of the Pacific Northwest, teaching tactical units how to deal with this unique threat, and presented night vision operations training for advanced swift water rescue units.



Technical Rescue and Civilian SAR

Eddy brings over 30 years of command and control / **Incident Command System (ICS)** career experience, starting with small unit leadership at West Point, through tactical teams in Savannah Georgia, National Park Service, and US Forest Service teams. He's a federally carded Type II planning section chief and Type III operations section chief (all hazard) and graduate of multiple military and national SAR academies in ground search operations management, mountain rescue, and cave rescue management. Eddy is a leader, author, and teacher nationwide in Incident Command System utilization and CUSTOMIZATION for specific types of missions – be they mountain, cave, water, tactical, military, etc., as every venue has its ICS specificity.

Eddy has over 30 years of **technical search and rescue** experience specializing in mountain, cave, and arbor-rescue – and he brings his extensive skills and background to many volunteer non-profit organizations. Recently, Eddy became the current president of the **International Technical Rescue Association (ITRA)** and is convener for the ITRA tactical working group, which develops and assesses tactical rope rescue certifications.

Eddy's been SAR mission manager for innumerable missions since 1997. Eddy is a rescue leader for **Portland Mountain Rescue** on Mt Hood, Oregon, and is a current **wilderness NREMT**. He developed the **Mountain Small Party Assisted Rescue (MSPAR) program** for helicopter borne / hasty mountain rescue units, now the most popular course DAV offers.

A vertical caver for 34 years, Eddy has led and participated in work groups and projects with the **National Speleological Society (NSS)**, and is a certified instructor and Small Party Assisted Rescue (SPAR) lead for the **National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC)**. He serves as the Pacific Northwest regional coordinator for the National Speleological Society (NSS) Vertical Training Commission. Eddy also coordinates the NSS group **Glacier Cave Explorers**, which has explored and developed rescue pre-plans for the glacier cave systems of the Pacific Northwest and Mt Meager, Canada. In this role, Eddy organizes and leads ambitious large-scale research expeditions, often involving over 100 personnel and extensive helicopter operations.

Qualifications and Certifications

Military

- Abet accredited B.S. Degree in aerospace engineering, United States Military Academy at West Point 1990.
- U.S. Army Master Fitness Trainer certified 1990
- Graduate U.S. Army Sapper School (Sapper Leader Course) 1989. (Explosives, helicopter insertion / extraction techniques—rappel air assault, STABO, helocast, etc.- waterborne & mountain operations)
- U.S. Army Airborne school / qualified 1988.
- Open water SCUBA (NAUI) 1989
- U.S. Army Armor Officer's Course, Ft Knox, Kentucky 1990
- US Army officer, 1986-1993, 2/72 Armor, Korea and 1/64 Armor Ft Stewart, GA

Law Enforcement

- Certified Type 1 Federal Law Enforcement Officer (2000-2021)
- Team leader for USFS Regional Reconnaissance Team (RRT) (tactical tracking, DTO interdiction, rural surveillance, vertical protester interventions)
- Federal Firearms instructor (since 2004).
- Federal Field Training Officer (since 2006)
- Federal Use of Force Instructor (NLTA / Reality Based Training / Use of force review panels) since 2008.
- Federal Survival Shooting Training Program (SSTP) instructor (since 2006). (traveled nationally delivering programs)
- Multiple Tactical Shotgun Instructor schools since 1995 (Georgia POST, H&K, etc.)
- Federal helicopter hoist qualified, 2012
- Federal external sling load qualified, 2016
- Federal helicopter operations (A100) 2014

Law Enforcement (continued)

- Tactical Tracking Operations School (TTOS) instructor for 10 years. Teaching same for 21 years)
- Law Enforcement Mountain Operations School graduate (LEMOS) ,2012
- Snowmobile Operations Law Enforcement Course (SOLEC) 2017
- Federal snowmobile operations certified since 2010
- Drug Enforcement Training Program, FLETC, 2012
- Former National Park Service tactical team leader in North Carolina (NCTTT), 2005-2010
- Savannah Police Department (SPD) Emergency Response Team (ERT) / high angle interventions 1993-1997)
- Numerous Rappel master courses through military, private, and Florida SWAT Association
- Numerous active shooter schools since 2007
- Waterborne Operations School, Key West, Florida. Florida SWAT Association
- Ballistic Shield Certification, Florida SWAT Association, 1997
- SWAT School, 1996
- High Risk Warrant Service, 1996
- Presenter / Instructor at National Tactical Officer's Association (NTOA) and Oregon Tactical Officer Association (OTOA).

Technical Search and Rescue

- International Technical Rescue Association (ITRA) certified Rope rescue and Tactical Rescue instructor / assessor
- Current President of International Technical Rescue Association (ITRA) <https://itra.international/>
- Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) / Portland Mountain Rescue (PMR) Rescue leader 2010 to current.
- Deschutes County Mountain Rescue Unit Rescue leader, and cave team coordinator for 9 years (2010-2019)
- AIARE (American Institute of Avalanche Research & Education) level 2 (2012)
- Graduate NPS Command and General Staff academy 2007
- Inland SAR Planning Certificate—2008
- International Society of Arboriculture Certified arborist (TX-1194) 1999)
- Federal USFS chainsaw class B feller (2015)
- Multiple tree climber & Precision felling certs from ArborMasters
- National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator & Glacier Cave Explorers coordinator
- NCRC Instructor certified (current)
- NCRC Small Party Assisted Rescue (SPAR) certified (1 of only 9 in US)
- NCRC level 3 technician certified (1 of 12 in the US)
- NCRC Certification Coordinator 2014—2021
- Current Wilderness EMT (NREMT # E1768903)
- Former Chattanooga Hamilton County Rescue Cave Cliff Rescue Service (1995-2005)
- Linville Central Rescue Squad / Grandfather Mountain North Carolina 2005-2011 (ice, rock, bridge rescue)
- North Carolina State High Angle Rescue Technician Certified (2007)
- Terrestrial delegate and technical presenter at International Commission of Alpine Rescue (ICAR) / head of international cave rescue work group (2018 to current)
- Terrestrial delegate and technical presenter at European Cave Rescue Association (ECRA) (2018 to current)
- Georgia Fire Academy (GPSTC-Forsyth) state High Angle Rescue Technician Certified (1995)
- Presenter at International Technical Rescue Symposium (ITRS) 2018 to current
- Technical presenter at multiple Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) annual conferences. (2015 to current)
- Keynote speaker at multiple mountain and glacier research conferences.
- TED Talk speaker on glacier cave rescue expeditions in New Orleans, LA, 2014.
- Crevasse Rescue / Mountain Rescue 9 day program Swiss alps, Mark Houston, 2008.
- Lead Ice Climbing / Improved Ice Rescue, Chauvin Guides International, New Hampshire, 2010.
- Co-author of SPAR: Small Party Self Rescue Techniques (published 2019)
- Co-author of Cave Rescue Management Using ICS Filed Guide