ABOUT NTOA

Founded in 1983, the National Tactical Officers Association is a non-profit association representing nearly 40,000 public safety professionals across multiple disciplines in various assignments, including special operations within local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

The NTOA offers the law enforcement community across the US, Canada, and abroad, a vast array of training courses providing officers with knowledge, best practices and the most successful techniques for bringing violent, or potentially violent situations, to a safe and secure closure. Since its inception, the NTOA has steadily adapted to an ever-changing environment and trained more than 100,000 officers worldwide in tactics, leadership, operations, negotiations, and legal issues impacting officers engaged in public safety operations.

The mission of the NTOA is to enhance the performance and professional status of law enforcement personnel by providing a credible and proven training resource as well as a forum for the development of tactics and information exchange.

The Association’s ultimate goal is to improve public safety and domestic security through training, education and tactical excellence.

The National Tactical Officers Association operates with Veritas in our relationships.
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Across three regions, all 50 states and 25 countries, the National Tactical Officers Association provides training to federal, state, county, municipal, and international law enforcement agencies and other first responders. Our training programs are the heart of the NTOA. It is at this level where our members, students, instructors, and partners professionally, socially, and personally link to each other and the broader law enforcement community.

THE WORLD’S STRONGEST LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS TRAINING NETWORK
NATIONAL TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

37 YEAR HISTORY

17,700+ AGENCIES

NTOA’S GLOBAL NETWORK

REPRESENTING 25 COUNTRIES ON 5 CONTINENTS

UNITED STATES

ITALY

GERMANY

NETHERLANDS

BELGIUM

SWITZERLAND

POLAND

GERMANY

SWEDEN

FINLAND

SWEDEN

LATVIA

POLAND

SWITZERLAND

ITALY

GREECE

JORDAN

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

NEPAL

AFGHANISTAN

BHUTAN

NATIONAL TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

TACTICAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

57% SWAT

24% PATROL

4% OTHER

5% CRISIS NEGOTIATORS

OTHER*

* Other: Explosive Ordinance Disposal, Fire/EMS Command, Corrections, K9, Narcotics, Sniper, Training, Investigations, Military

37 YEAR HISTORY

17,700+ AGENCIES

NATIONAL TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

3
In light of the national pandemic, the NTOA had no alternative but to move the in-person Law Enforcement Operations Conference & Trade Show to a virtual format. Understanding the annual conference is extremely popular, by not canceling the conference altogether and bringing it online, we eliminated concerns about travel, lodging and other COVID-19 restrictions that could have impacted attendees, their families or their team.

By going virtual, attendees still had access to leading presenters in the field who were previously scheduled to speak at the in-person event in Kansas City.

The first Virtual Law Enforcement Operations Conference provided attendees access to 30 courses, seminars, and incident debriefs on topics ranging from explosive breaching, excited delirium, leadership, decision-making and much more.

In many ways, the virtual conference created more opportunities, as more officers were able to attend who would have otherwise been unable to join us in-person due to agency budgetary restrictions.

I want to thank and commend the NTOA on the tremendous success of the 2020 Virtual Training Conference. Every aspect of this unprecedented training conference was outstanding. From the online registration process and the course selection on the member dashboard, to the hosting and instructor presentations, the execution was truly exceptional. Job well done by all!

- Commander | FL
VIRTUAL CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS CONFERENCE

Due to the ongoing pandemic and the overwhelming success of the Virtual Law Enforcement Operations Conference, the NTOA also moved the Crisis Negotiations Conference online.

By going virtual, the Crisis Negotiations Conference experienced unprecedented attendance and nearly doubled in size. Almost 700 officers from across the world were presented with a dynamic learning experience based upon a mix of lessons learned from debriefs and new concepts introduced by experts in crisis negotiations. Over two days, negotiators gained insight from six incident debriefs and enhanced their skills via eight developmental courses.

The online experience featured some of the most contemporary knowledge to increase negotiators’ skill sets, enhance their professional knowledge base, and promote education.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!
Both conferences would not have been possible without some key sponsorships from generous companies who supported NTOA’s first virtual conferences. We are very grateful for the support from: AT&T, BRINC Drones, First Tactical, FirstNet, Justice Federal Credit Union, Point Blank and Verizon.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE GREW BY 47% IN 2020

34 TRAINING HOURS
14 COURSES & INCIDENT DEBRIEFS
671 ATTENDEES
296 AGENCIES REPRESENTED
FROM 44 STATES
4 COUNTRIES
The NTOA provides premier education, training, and networking opportunities connecting nearly 40,000 members worldwide. More than 140 subject matter experts shared their knowledge across the continental US and abroad. The NTOA trained over 2,600 law enforcement officers and first responders. In 2020, the NTOA delivered 119 individual training courses, seminars and hands-on exercises.

“The level of professionalism that the instructors displayed is what should be expected of any law enforcement instructor.”

- Detective | AZ

TOTAL TRAINED 2,604

OVER 30 TRAINING TOPICS

119 TOTAL TRAINING COURSES
SPECIALTY TRAINING COURSES

OVER 30 TRAINING COURSE TOPICS

Advanced Response Police Officer
Armored Rescue Vehicle Tactics
Ballistic Shield
Basic Crisis Negotiations
Basic SWAT
High-Risk Warrant Service
Hostage Rescue
Law Enforcement Response to Suicidal Subjects - Legal Realities and Options
Less-Lethal / FSDD / Chemical Agent Instructor Certification
Managing an Incident Command Post and Tactical Operations Center
Manual and Shotgun Breaching
Police Counter Ambush Tactics
Police Response to Active Shooter Instructor Certification
Rescue Task Force
Resolution of Barricaded Suspect
Scenario Based Tactical Operations
School and Workplace Violence: Preparation and Response
Shotgun Breaching Techniques
Single Officer Assailant Response (SOAR)
Sniper 1
Supervising Patrol Critical Incidents
SWAT Command Decision-Making and Leadership I & II
SWAT Team Leader Development
Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS)
Tactical Mission Planning & Briefing
Tactical Scouting
Tactical Team Workshop
Technology in Tactical Operations
Training Management and Risk Mitigation for SWAT

LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO SUICIDAL SUBJECTS

The instructors are obviously passionate about this topic and very knowledgeable. I don’t believe this information can be shared too much. As law enforcement we have been conditioned to react to individuals with mental illness in certain ways, and while our intentions may have been good, the tactics used may not have been appropriate.

The instructors did an excellent job providing historical context, both from a law enforcement perspective as well as a legal perspective (case law). Excellent training class!

- Officer | TX

ARMORED RESCUE VEHICLE TACTICS

This whole course was extremely useful to me. I am in the process of setting up an ARV program and everything had value. The instructors brought insight, practical use, and presented a variety of options for using ARVs with our agencies.

They also did an incredible job at tailoring the course to students who had a diverse level of experience with ARVs and on SWAT. Fantastic job all the way around and I will be looking to host one next year when we get our ARV delivered.

- Lieutenant | VA

SWAT COMMAND DECISION-MAKING AND LEADERSHIP I

Both instructors were very knowledgeable and had a way of relating their knowledge base and experiences to the class. I have attended numerous training courses throughout my career and I can honestly say this is one of, if not the best. I would highly recommend this to any existing or potential team commander, regardless of experience.

- Lieutenant | NJ
ONLINE TRAINING

The NTOA training program is one of the most credible and cost-effective in the country. Our instructor cadre includes an impressive array of subject matter experts and police leaders who provide our students with the vital education they need, especially during these challenging times.

In 2020, we announced an online training program that included many of our most sought-after classes, offered in real time. We also introduced a variety of live and on-demand webinars covering the most relevant and timely topics of our day. By creating an online training program, we eliminated concerns about travel, lodging and other COVID-19 restrictions.

This year, we delivered five online training courses, which would normally be taught in-person, 15 webinars through our TacTalks program and educated over 6,000 first responders. Students also received a Certificate of Attendance to fulfill continuing education requirements.

Regardless of what 2021 brings, the NTOA is committed to continuing and building upon our efforts of educating our first responder community by harnessing the power of virtual learning.

SWAT COMMAND DECISION-MAKING AND LEADERSHIP II

The SWAT Command Decision-Making and Leadership II class has been great. I was worried about the online platform, however, the instructors and the NTOA have done a great job making the course engaging and overcoming the virtual experience difficulties.

I completed my Masters from a nationally-recognized university and they did not come close to the engagement, instruction and quality that this course has been.

- Lieutenant | AZ
MIRACLE™, an acronym for Mental Illness Response Alternative Center for Law Enforcement is a tailored system that directly addresses our nation’s current mental health crisis. The system enables first responders to not only better handle the immediate concerns of ensuring community safety when encountering a person with serious mental illness, but also focuses on long-term solutions to reduce the burden on hospitals, transport, call centers and more.

Designed not to be a “one size fits all” system, MIRACLE’s services can be customized to meet each organization’s needs based on their current resources and capabilities.

**PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

- Communication Skills
- Crisis Intervention Training
- Law Enforcement Response Alternatives to Suicidal Subjects
- Law Enforcement Response and Interaction with the Intellectual & Developmental Disability (IDD) Community
- Mental Health First Aid
- Officer Wellness & Resiliency
- Policy Development Assistance
- School and Workplace Violence: Preparation and Response

MIRACLE was conceptualized by the NTOA, the only organization to create a multi-faceted resource providing our nation’s communities with the blueprint, training, best practices and expert resources for implementing effective and compassionate tactics for first responders interacting with those struggling with mental illness during times of crisis.

MIRACLE aims to help reduce the use of force and the incarceration rate of people experiencing a mental health emergency, while simultaneously enhancing the safety of first responders.

miraclesaves.org
The NTOA Academy was created in partnership with the International Academy of Public Safety (IAPS). The NTOA Academy, “An Investment in Innovation, Education and the Future,” is an internationally blended and comprehensive educational program designed to prepare today’s tactical officers and policing leaders to succeed in a high-risk, ever-changing professional environment and to effectively meet the challenges of the future.

The NTOA Academy is a dynamic learning experience using online, resident and experience-based tactical learning modules to introduce new concepts, refine tactical team members’ understanding of application, and then use those skills to resolve some of the most complex, challenging and high-risk incidents involving their communities. The curriculum is based on best practices and designed to ensure that graduates are prepared to meet the dynamic challenges of modern policing.

In 2020, we announced that Command College graduates may receive College Credit through The American Council on Education’s (ACE) College Credit Recommendation Service (CREDIT) which connects workplace learning with colleges and universities by helping students gain access to academic credit for formal courses and examinations taken outside the traditional classroom.

Also in 2020, and due to the national pandemic, the Academy leadership converted some of the in-person residency courses to a virtual format. By doing so, this allowed students to continue with their required learning modules by attending courses online.

The NTOA prides itself in providing quality training and focused education to the tactical law enforcement community. NTOA is acutely aware of the challenges facing our profession today and believe that we have a moral obligation to expand our training and educational opportunities to meet the growing demand for contemporary knowledge and skills. The NTOA Academy will provide all law enforcement personnel access to a learning environment designed to ensure they receive the most contemporary information and skills necessary for applying the gained knowledge. It is the most robust education and certification program available to law enforcement today. This program is in keeping with the NTOA’s goal of providing an avenue for a continuum of training and education of the highest quality.

Every officer is a leader!
MEMBER TESTED & RECOMMENDED PROGRAM

OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE VALUABLE FEEDBACK ABOUT TACTICAL OPERATORS’ PRODUCT USE IN REAL-WORLD SITUATIONS.

Since 2003, members have tested more than 3,000 products in real-world situations through the NTOA’s Member Tested and Recommended Program (MTRP). Results of these tests are shared with the law enforcement community in The Tactical Edge magazine, our online database, our eNewsletters and the product manufacturers themselves. The MTRP logo is widely displayed on product packaging, ads and websites, and is regarded by many law enforcement agencies as paramount to their product purchasing decisions.

The Member Tested logo is valid for two years. After two years, the manufacturer must either resubmit the product for new testing or pay the renewal fee if the product has not changed in any way. Products that score lower than 3.0 will not receive approval. Test results will be sent to the manufacturer in hopes that improvements can be made to the product. Products can be resubmitted to the program. There is no guarantee of a particular rating upon submission – NTOA does not control the comments of the field testers. The NTOA, as an organization, makes no representation as to the product submitted to the program or its use, effectiveness or safety. The only representations and warranties applicable to any particular product are those of the manufacturer.

The NTOA selects members to serve as field testers. MTRP field test results do not constitute an endorsement of any product on the part of the NTOA as an organization or entity. The NTOA does not independently verify the information submitted by field testers nor does the NTOA verify the representations and warranties or product manufacturers.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

1. A manufacturer MUST provide the NTOA with 2 to 8 samples of a product. (Four product samples is preferred.)
2. Products MUST BE THE SAME version as those sold/available to the law enforcement community.
3. The NTOA selects members to test the product samples.
4. Field testers are required to test the product sample and complete an online review.
5. Products will be tested and scored on a scale of 0.0 to 5.0 in 13 possible categories (not all categories are applicable). Scores will be averaged both individually and cumulatively.

A product must have the ability to be rated in at least six categories. In addition to the numerical rating, a short written description identifying the advantages and disadvantages of the product must be submitted with the ratings from the field testers. Products will be tested by at least two field testers to ensure a fair test.
In 2020, the NTOA introduced the SWAT Physical Fitness Qualification (PFQ) Test to create a recommended fitness standard with universal applications for all SWAT operators. This standard implements functional movement, regulation and recovery, and capacity of training and performance using skills that are constantly varied and of high intensity. The goal of this standard is to holistically improve the longevity, safety and effectiveness of SWAT operators, therefore influencing use of force, lessening injury, and increasing operational readiness for mission accomplishment.

The NTOA SWAT PFQ Test was significantly influenced by the proven SWAT assessment and selection test of the Los Angeles Police Department, and the Santa Monica Police Department. The SME team utilized the structure of the original test with unique modifications to the allotted amount of time each operator would have to achieve maximum repetitions. This type of evolution is referred to as an AMRAP (As Many Repetitions As Possible) and encourages maximum effort and a clear system of scoring.

The goal is that SWAT teams would find greater cohesion and unity through the collective national standard on operational levels of physical fitness. The intent is that all sworn members of the respective department would be inspired to increase their physical fitness abilities and expectations, thus effectively creating an atmosphere of fitness excellence and greater community relations. This test is intentionally very challenging and may require a gradual (six months to a year) of on-ramping, evolution-specific training and preparation in order for operators to be successful.

The NTOA is dedicated to the safety, effectiveness, and well-being of all operators around the United States. Fitness is a key component to this overall mission. Personal physical fitness (regardless of age, gender, or rank) can ensure that all operators maintain their best self which lessens their chances of injury or sickness, and helps to control both agency-funded health care costs and Worker’s Compensation expense claims. All of these benefits, plus increased operator safety, are reasons for creating a fitness standard. The NTOA SWAT PFQ Test is intended to be that standard.

A standard provides operators a threshold to measure capability and capacity. Operators work in an environment that can be unknown and unknowable. Fitness, which includes endurance, stamina, strength, flexibility, power, speed, coordination, agility, balance and accuracy, increases capability and capacity. Capability and capacity foster adaptability. With input taken from subject matter experts within various law enforcement agencies around the nation, the following Evolutions (which require nothing more than traditional SWAT gear and very limited equipment) have been developed to measure an operator’s fitness. These specific Evolutions, done in order of large to small muscle groups, and combined with the related scoring system, were designed to gauge both capacity and capability. Whether a team has 26+ members (Tier 1), 19 members (Tier 2), or even just one member, the test is applicable, measurable and standardized.
THE TACTICAL EDGE

Widely considered the leading authority in law enforcement operations information, The Tactical Edge reaches over 50,000 officers from more than 17,700 agencies and divisions. For more than 37 years, our award-winning journal has been on the forefront of law enforcement publications, featuring timely content from a legion of seasoned experts. Articles focus on serving SWAT, Crisis Negotiations, Patrol, Command, Canine, Fire/EMS, Corrections and variety of other specialties.

CIRCULATION

57% PRINT  43% DIGITAL

READERSHIP

50,000+ LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
17,700+ LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

SOCIAL MEDIA

Members and the first responder community can stay up to date with NTOA training opportunities, news, announcements, events and happenings with our social media footprint.

CHECK US OUT!

64,100+ FOLLOWERS
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & Linkedin

7% INCREASE IN FOLLOWERS

National Tactical Officers Association
17,048 Followers

@NTOAHQ
3,273 Followers

Linkedin
38,116 Followers

@NTOAHQ
5,665 Followers
NTOA’S HISTORY

HONORING OUR PAST
with an EYE TOWARD the FUTURE

1983

FOUNDED

The NTOA is founded by Capt. John Kolman of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

The first issue of The Tactical Edge, a leading authority in tactical operations information, is published. Today the journal reaches over 40,000 law enforcement officers from more than 17,500 agencies.

1984

The first Tactical Operations Conference is held in Albuquerque, N.M., with 93 attendees, representing 39 agencies, from 15 states.

1986

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The first John Kolman Award of Excellence is presented to Officer Steven Rodriquez of the Albuquerque Police Department.

1992

The NTOA membership expands to include not only SWAT teams, but all sworn law enforcement officers, corrections and our first responders.

2001

The first Crisis Negotiations Conference is held in Phoenix, AZ with 236 attendees, representing 87 agencies, from 28 states.

2002

The Member Tested and Recommended Program is launched, putting products to the test by practicing law enforcement officers.
2008
SWAT STANDARD
The NTOA SWAT Standard is created to establish a basic set of standards for law enforcement professionals.

2009
The James Torkar Educational Scholarship is established for dependent children of NTOA members. Over $150,000 has been awarded over the past 10 years.

2015
The NTOA SWAT Standard is revised to reflect contemporary issues.

2016
The NTOA Academy, an educational process designed to professionalize tactical operations personnel at all levels through applied education and training requirements leading to credentialization, is launched in partnership with IAPS.

2018
NEW LOGO
With an eye toward the future, but honoring our past, the NTOA debuts a new logo on its 35th anniversary.

The SWAT Standard is again updated, and renamed the NTOA Tactical Response and Operations Standard to better reflect its mission.

NTOA Headquarters move to Colorado Springs, CO.

2019
NTOA introduced a new training program called LEAD Week - Law Enforcement Leadership, Education and Development.

Announced a new initiative called MIRACLE™ - Mental Illness Response Alternative Center for Law Enforcement.

The NTOA expanded its membership eligibility to include the Fire/EMS community.

2020
Virtually hosted both Law Enforcement Operations and Crisis Negotiations Annual Conferences.

Introduced virtual instruction to include online training courses, and live and on-demand webinars.

Announced NTOA Command College graduates eligible to receive college credit through The American Council on Education’s (ACE) College Credit Recommendation Service (CREDIT).

Released the NTOA’s SWAT Physical Fitness Qualification (PFQ) Test, along with a four-week training plan.

Upgraded the Members-Only Dashboard to display upcoming registered training in their member portal.
LEADERSHIP

DIRECTORS AND EMERITUS

Chairman of the Board
Captain Luke Sherman
Tulsa Police Department | OK

Secretary
Lieutenant Matt Hardesty
Seminole County Sheriff’s Office | FL

Treasurer
Master Officer Steve Mescan
Pittsburgh Police Department | PA

Eastern Region Directors
Detective Jason Behun
Cape Coral Police Department | FL
Lieutenant Matt Hardesty
Seminole County Sheriff’s Office | FL
Master Officer Steve Mescan
Pittsburgh Police Department | PA

Central Region Directors
Chief Bart Branyon (ret.)
Kansas Alcoholic Beverage Control | KS
Sergeant Dan Wesolowski (ret.)
Milwaukee Police Department | WI
Captain Luke Sherman
Tulsa Police Department | OK

Western Region Directors
Undersheriff Wayne DuBois,
Flathead County Sheriff’s Office | MT
Sergeant Jason Mudrock (ret.)
Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake | UT
Commander Fred Meyer
Greeley Police Department | CO

Emeritus
Chief Mike Foreman (ret.)
Orange County Sheriff’s Office | FL
Captain Keith Frakes (ret.)
Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office | AZ
Chief Phil Hansen
Santa Maria Police Department | CA
Lieutenant Brock Simon (ret.)
Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Office | CA
Dr. Richard Carmona
17th US Surgeon General | AZ (TEMS Emeritus)

SECTION CHAIRS

NTOA Section Chairs act as the point of contact for association members seeking advice or information on matters related to a specific discipline. Section Chairs provide recommendations to the NTOA Board of Directors for its consideration/disposition.

Behavioral Sciences: Dr. LaMaurice Gardner, Psy. D., Oakland County Sheriff’s Office | MI
Canine: Corporal Brad Smith (ret.), West Covine Police Department | CA
Chaplaincy: Inspector Rick Iannucci (ret.), U.S. Marshal Service | NM
Corrections: Lieutenant Robert Sorensen, Federal Bureau of Prisons | PA
Crisis Negotiations: Lieutenant Patrick Doering, Lake Saint Louis Police Department | MO
Defensive Tactics: Officer George Ryan III, Los Angeles Police Department | CA
Explosives/EOD: Officer Thomas Lynch (ret.), Philadelphia Police Department | PA
Firearms: Lieutenant Jonathan Bigelow, Orlando Police Department | FL
Intelligence/Terrorism: Lieutenant Dan Colasanto, Garland Police Department | TX
Legal: Eric Daigle, Esq., Daigle Law Group | CT
Less Lethal: Lieutenant David Pearson, Fort Collins Police Department | CO
Multi-Jurisdictional SWAT: Sergeant Jason Pepper, Elko Police Department | NV
Patrol: Officer Christopher Periatt (ret.), Saint Clair Shores Police Department | MI
Physical Fitness: Deputy Gregory Amundson, Santa Cruz Harbor Control | CA
Sniper: Sergeant Gar Haugo, Fort Collins Police Department | CO
Strategy Development: Commander Charles (Sid) Heal (ret.), Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Office | CA
Tactical Command: Commander Jeffrey Selleg, Port of Seattle Police Department | WA
Technology: Captain Mark Pergola, Seminole County Sheriff’s Office | FL
TEMS: Dr. Jason R. Pickett, Austin – Travis County EMS | TX

LEADERSHIP
is the CAPACITY
to TRANSFORM
VISION into
REALITY
UPCOMING ANNUAL CONFERENCES

39TH ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW 2021
SEPT. 12-17
KANSAS CITY, MO

CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS CONFERENCE
NOV. 16-18, 2021

CORRECTIONAL OPERATIONS & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
APRIL 20-22, 2021