TRAINED.

PROVEN.

PROFESSIONAL.
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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 130,000 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.
I am extremely proud to share the NTOA’s 2021 Annual Report. Despite a global pandemic, our staff shattered all expectations and took the NTOA to a new level. While COVID-19 had a terrible effect on many, it forced us to be innovative and to find new ways to meet the needs of law enforcement. Through dedication, ingenuity and perseverance, the NTOA was able to achieve impressive new milestones.

In 2021, our membership grew over 16 percent. Not only do we have members from throughout the United States and Canada, representing over 18,000 agencies, we have members from more than 20 countries in Asia, South America, Europe and the Middle East. The implementation of online courses has allowed many of these international members to attend NTOA classes on a regular basis. The NTOA offered 10 webinars and 21 online classes in 2021, resulting in over 6,000 trained personnel. This is unprecedented for the NTOA and we are excited to increase access to our world-class training.

In addition to online training, the NTOA set a new record by providing well over 200 standalone courses to more than 5,000 students. As part of our innovation, the NTOA hosted its first-ever Correctional Operations and Leadership Conference. This virtual conference was well attended with representatives from 123 different agencies, including officers from Singapore. We also implemented our first Physical Fitness Qualification (PFQ) Challenge, which enjoyed great participation and enthusiasm, and will continue in 2022.

If that isn’t enough to impress, the NTOA also returned to Kansas City for our annual Law Enforcement Operations Conference and Trade Show. It was great to be back together in person and have an opportunity to interact with new and old friends. We hope to see everyone again in Milwaukee in September.

These are just a few of the accomplishments by your NTOA in 2021. Please take some time to review the report and note the positive impact made by students, instructors and staff.

As your executive director, I look forward to continuing to serve you in these trying times. I am confident that through the efforts of the NTOA and all of you, we will be successful in ensuring the highest degree of professionalism in our noble work. Thank you for your continued support and service!

God Speed,

K. Thor Eells, Executive Director
Across three regions, all 50 states and 23 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

38 YEAR HISTORY

REPRESENTING 23 COUNTRIES ON 5 CONTINENTS

18,200+ AGENCIES

NTOA’S GLOBAL NETWORK

16% INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP

U.S. MEMBERS BY REGION

- EASTERN REGION: 43%
- WESTERN REGION: 27%
- CENTRAL REGION: 30%

30% INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP

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

18,200+ AGENCIES

TACTICAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
CRISIS NEGOTIATORS
CORRECTIONS
OTHER*

60% SWAT
27% PATROL
6% 4% 1% 2%

NATIONAL TACTICAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
During the 38th Annual Law Enforcement Operations Training Conference & Trade Show, attendees, guests, law enforcement professionals, trainers and sponsors from numerous law enforcement organizations came together, to learn, train and network.

This conference provided delegates access to over 100 courses, seminars, incident debriefs and networking opportunities with leaders and innovators in the law enforcement community. Even as the pandemic continued into 2021, coming back together in person at the annual conference was one step toward normalcy.

The two-day trade show was exceptional, as we welcomed more than 24 first time exhibitors. Our sponsors, along with 185 exhibitors, made the exhibit hall a dynamic place to connect with other delegates and vendors. Vendor participation in the law enforcement exhibition significantly surpassed all expectations and provided new cutting-edge technologies, products and solutions to our delegates.

We would like to acknowledge and thank our co-hosts — Heartland Tactical Officers Association and Kansas City (MO) Police Department. Their dedication to this conference spanned over two years due to the pandemic. Their endless hours of preparation and organization of the event were key reasons the conference was safe, secure and a success.
The NTOA’s 2021 Crisis Negotiations Virtual Conference brought hundreds of officers from across the United States, Canada and Australia together for a two-day online learning experience. The mix of incident debriefs and presentations by experts in crisis negotiations provided negotiators insights into new concepts and lessons learned from real-life events.

Thirty-two hours of training was delivered and negotiators gained insight from four incident debriefs and enhanced their skills via ten developmental courses.

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

“...The scenarios were an amazing experience and real world. The instructors were top-notch and outstanding.

Officer – University of South Dakota Police Department
This year signified NTOA’s long awaited expansion into the field of Corrections. In light of NTOA’s commitment to our profession, in 2021 we introduced our first-ever Correctional Operations and Leadership Conference.

The virtual conference featured a broad array of seminars and incident debriefs ranging from leadership to tactics and everything in between. The goal was to provide an educational resource for corrections personnel at all levels, on operational and leadership topics not currently being offered anywhere else in the industry.

This unique event showcased our phenomenal instructors and curriculum while providing critical training and educational hours to our colleagues in corrections.

“...The brief about understanding the mindset of your adversary was very helpful. All of your presenters have been amazing. Thank you for doing this for all of us in corrections.”

Sergeant – Minnesota Department of Corrections

- 66 TRAINING HOURS
- 30 COURSES & INCIDENT DEBRIEFS
- 123 AGENCIES REPRESENTED
- 41 STATES
- 260 ATTENDEES
- 3 COUNTRIES

LEADING THE WAY THROUGH EDUCATION
APRIL 20-22, 2021
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.

Our online training program includes many of our most sought-after classes, offered in real time. In 2021, we offered a variety of webinars and courses covering the most relevant and timely topics of our day. By offering an online training program we 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.

This year we delivered 21 online training courses, 10 webinars through our TacTalks program and educated over 6,500 first responders.

The NTOA is committed to continuing and building upon our efforts of educating our first responder community by harnessing the power of virtual learning.

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**ONLINE TRAINING**

**ONLINE COURSES**
- Basic Crisis Negotiations
- Law Enforcement Response to Suicidal Subjects: Legal Realities and Options
- Supervising Patrol Critical Incidents
- SWAT Command Decision-Making and Leadership I & II
- SWAT Team Leader Development
- Training Management and Risk Mitigation for SWAT
- Use of Force in a Corrections Environment: Principles and Decision-Making Considerations Certification Course

**TAC TALK WEBINARS**
- 5 Ways to Improve Your Sniper Team
- Building a Culture of Mental Preparedness in Tactical and Special Operations
- Concepts of Nonlethal Force and Policing in Today’s Environment
- Critical Incident Active Shooter Debrief (Bryan, TX)
- Lessons Learned from Protests Panel Discussion: Less Lethal Munitions in Crowd Control Operations
- Panel Discussion: Protester Tactics and Lessons Learned by Law Enforcement
- Sleep for First Responders
- Tactical EI for Law Enforcement
- Top 20 Tactical Concepts

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**ONLINE – SWAT TEAM LEADER DEVELOPMENT**

*It was a first for me going through an online course on Zoom and I wasn’t sure what to expect but I thoroughly enjoyed it. I’m looking forward in implementing many of the ideas for our team.*

*As important as all the information is that you guys provided I wanted you to know that one of my big takeaways will be the passion each of you have for SWAT and teaching this course. Great job and much appreciated.*

- Constable | Saint John (NB) Police Force, Canada

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**6,500+ TRAINED**

**HARNESSING the POWER of VIRTUAL LEARNING**
The NTOA recognizes the need for high-quality training and education for law enforcement, fire, medical, and corrections personnel. Providing training opportunities that lead to more effective and professional decision-making, leadership, and tactically sound personnel is at the core of our courses. Our programs are legally based and recognize the reality and impact of various societal issues on the law enforcement profession.

In 2021, the NTOA trained over 5,200 law enforcement officers and first responders by delivering 216 individual training courses, seminars and hands-on exercises.
OVER 30 TRAINING COURSE TOPICS

- Advanced Response Police Officer
- Armored Rescue Vehicle Tactics
- Ballistic Shield
- Basic Crisis Negotiations
- Basic SWAT
- High-Risk Manhunt Operations
- High-Risk Warrant Service
- Hostage Rescue
- Law Enforcement Response to Suicidal Subjects - Legal Realities and Options
- Less-Lethal / FSDD / Chemical Agent Instructor Certification
- Managing Critical Incidents
- Manual and Shotgun Breaching
- Police Counter Ambush Tactics
- Police Response to Active Shooter Instructor Certification
- Rescue Task Force Instructor Certification
- 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
- Strengthening, Leadership, Resilience and Well-Being
- 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

BASIC SWAT

The instructors brought real life experiences into the material they taught and were not afraid to let students know about their own mistakes. Various situations were presented that made us think about how we would react if it were a real-world scenario. The instructors make this course. They are legitimate, humble SWAT officers who connect well with the students. I was disappointed to see the course end!

- Trooper | Iowa State Patrol

SUPERVISING PATROL CRITICAL INCIDENTS

This class was a good reminder of some basic information/some new ideas/fresh way of looking at age old police issues with the new era of societal restraints. The instructor was knowledgeable, consistent, energized, passionate and approachable. Provided relevant information without it being “story time”. I gained a lot of insight, new reading material ideas and reenergized passion about safety, leadership and caring for personnel.

- Lieutenant | Mesa (AZ) Police Department

SNIPER I

Overall, I think this was one of the best and most comprehensive courses I have attended in my career. The instructors covered a lot of information and every single topic was extremely important and useful in the deployment of sniper operations.

The instructors were phenomenal. All three were extremely knowledgeable and experienced. They all did a great job being able to translate their knowledge and experience into a way that made it easy to understand and learn from. I would definitely attend any course with any of these instructors.

- Trooper | South Dakota Highway Patrol
NTOA ACADEMY

A DYNAMIC LEARNING EXPERIENCE USING ONLINE, RESIDENCY AND EXPERIENCE-BASED TACTICAL LEARNING MODULES.

The NTOA Academy, 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.

Our Command College graduates may be eligible to 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.

TACTICAL COMMAND CERTIFICATION
The blended learning program incorporates leadership concepts, theories and models and applies them to the role of the Tactical Commander and Team Leader. This intensive three-tier certification program prepares students to anticipate and manage current and future challenges facing their team, agencies and communities.

LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES
The comprehensive Learning Modules focus on contemporary leadership principles and concepts such as Transformational, Servant and Tactical Leadership; Motivation, Strategic Planning and Change Management; Communication and Ethical Decision-Making.

DECISION-MAKING
The intensive three-phase program directs and challenges students to plan and learn to make decisions at the Tactical, Operational and Strategic level. They will engage in the analysis and planning of dynamic tactical situations and apply current leadership principles considering the effects on all stakeholders.

A 562-HOUR TACTICAL, OPERATIONAL AND STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION

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!
Leadership training should be mandatory for officers in all aspects of the police profession, especially for those serving in a SWAT leadership capacity. The courses in the Command College curriculum provide officers and leaders the opportunity to stay abreast of the current tactics and best practices and how to implement them into their teams. Continuing education for senior team members pushes them to stay innovative and constantly strive to better their teams. I have taken several tactics and principles learned during Module I and implemented them into our SWAT program.

- Sergeant | Arlington (TX) Police Department
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 of 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.
The NTOA’s SWAT Physical Fitness Qualification (PFQ) Test was created as a recommended fitness standard with universal applications for all SWAT operators. The 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 is dedicated to the safety, effectiveness, and well-being of all operators around the world. Fitness is a key component to the 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.

THE CHALLENGE
During the month of April 2021, the NTOA introduced the first PFQ Challenge. 370 operators from around the country participated in the challenge. 180 operators achieved the gold standard of 50+ points and 21 operators achieved over 100 points. There were five timed tests in the challenge that included a 800 Meter Run, a 400 Meter Run, Burpees, Squats and Pull-Ups.

Congratulations to Officer Jason Payne of the Westchester County (NY) Department of Public Safety on the overall highest PFQ score of 150 total points – earning him the Fittest Operator Award and to the Malden (MA) Police Department ERT on their Fittest SWAT Team Award.

The NTOA’s Physical Fitness section acknowledges and commends the best-of-the-best within our nation’s ranks of ERT and SWAT operations for their remarkable achievements on the NTOA PFQ Challenge. These individuals stood out from the rest by exhibiting their high-levels of strength, endurance, speed and resilience.

Next year’s Challenge is scheduled for June of 2022.

CONTINUE to TRAIN as if your life DEPENDS on it — Because it DOES!
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

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1 in 5 Americans Lives with a Mental Illness and each year, 2 million people experiencing a mental health emergency are jailed.

Very few law enforcement officers receive training to prepare them to respond to the mentally ill.
THE TACTICAL EDGE

Widely considered the leading authority in law enforcement operations information, The Tactical Edge reaches over 50,000 officers from more than 18,200 agencies and divisions. Since 1983, our award-winning journal has been on the forefront of law enforcement publications, featuring timely content from a legion of seasoned subject matter experts. Articles focus on serving SWAT, Crisis Negotiations, Patrol, Command, Canine, Fire/EMS, Corrections and variety of other specialties.

CIRCULATION

56% PRINT

44% DIGITAL

READERSHIP

50,000+ OFFICERS

18,200+ 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!

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & Linkedin

65,180+
FOLLOWERS

7% INCREASE IN FOLLOWERS

National Tactical Officers Association
17,290 Followers

@NTOAHQ
3,305 Followers

Linkedin
38,035 Followers

@NTOAHQ
6,559 Followers
Congratulations to the accomplished students who were awarded our 2021 James Torkar Educational Scholarship. Each winner demonstrated outstanding scholastic achievement and community service. Each student received a $1,500 educational scholarship.

The NTOA established The James Torkar Educational Scholarship Program for dependent children of members. This program benefits the children of members of the association and provides scholarships for tuition and other eligible expenses through an IRS 529 College Savings Plan or a direct payment to the educational institution. Members may also sponsor a child of a deceased member for the scholarship.

Since the scholarship program’s inception in 2010, the NTOA has awarded $159,000 in educational scholarships.

**2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

**EASTERN REGION**

Gianna Bucs
Swedesboro, NJ

Sadi Griffin
Orlando, FL

**CENTRAL REGION**

Kinleigh Rhodd
Mayetta, KS

Gavin Price
Waynesville, OH

**WESTERN REGION**

Ty Mortensen
Longmont, CO

Emma Stephen
Keizer, OR
2021 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year the NTOA honors worthy law enforcement officers and organizations with several prestigious awards. Awards are formally presented to the recipients at our annual conferences.

K9 SWAT DEPLOYMENT AWARD
The K9 SWAT Deployment Award is presented to the canine handler who successfully utilizes a police dog during a SWAT operation and whose actions demonstrate extraordinary courage and dedication to the protection of the fellow officers and the public.

2021 Recipient of the K9 SWAT Deployment Award
Officer Michael Miller, Goodyear (AZ) Police Department

SPIRIT OF NTOA AWARD
This award honors an individual, corporation or organization whose work epitomizes the ultimate vision of the NTOA — to save lives. Consideration is given to those who have a long-term commitment to promote officer safety, collegiality, sound tactics and professionalism.

2021 Recipient of the Spirit of NTOA Award
Len Light, President and CEO of Lenco Armored Vehicles

TEMS AWARD
This award is presented each year to the person whose contributions result in the significant advancement of Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS). These contributions include but are not limited to research and academic endeavors, direct medical care and other clinical activities, and system advancement.

2021 Recipient of the TEMS Award
Dr. Michael Kremkau, Saint Patrick Hospital, Missoula County (MT) Sheriff’s Office, and Missoula County SRT

UNIT CITATION FOR VALOR
This award is presented to a SWAT/tactical unit whose members distinguished themselves through valorous actions during a tactical operation. A selection committee reviews a situation in which members of the nominated unit clearly act without regard for the safety of their own lives in order to neutralize a suspect, thus protecting fellow officers and/or innocent victims and bystanders.

2021 Recipient of the Unit Citation for Valor
Jersey City (NJ) Police Department Emergency Services Unit (l-r) Lt. Anibal Rosario and Lt. John Friend

NEGOTIATIONS AWARD
NTOA is honored to introduce the Negotiations Award to our roster of prestigious honors. This award is presented to the person(s) who significantly contributed to the crisis negotiations field by exemplifying in a real-life situation the skills and techniques needed to defuse a critical incident; by instructing nationally recognized negotiation concepts; or by advancing the negotiations/tactical team concept.

2021 Recipient of the Negotiations Award
D/Sgt Michael Mann (Not Pictured)
Maryland Department of State Police (MD)
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 50,000 law enforcement officers from more than 18,200 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.
The James Torkar Educational Scholarship is established for dependent children of NTOA members. Over $159,000 has been awarded since its inception.

The NTOA SWAT Standard is revised to reflect contemporary issues.

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.

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.

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.

NTOA expanded into the field of Corrections by hosting the first virtual Correctional Operations and Leadership Conference with 259 attendees from 41 states, representing 123 agencies, and from as far away as Singapore.

NTOA introduced the first PFQ Challenge. 370 operators from around the country participated in the challenge. 180 operators achieved the gold standard of 50+ points and 21 operators achieved over 100 points.

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.

NTOA trained 12,500+ public safety personnel.
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 (ret.), Fort Collins Police Department | CO
Multi-Jurisdictional SWAT: Sergeant Jason Pepper, Elko Police Department | NV
Patrol: Director Christopher Periatt, Kirtland Community Criminal Justice Programs | 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

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