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 156,000 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.

Greetings!

It is with equal part gratitude and pride that I welcome you to our 2022 Impact Report. As you will see, there are many reasons for my pride. The NTOA now has members representing over 18,000 different agencies, including 30 countries. I am grateful that our staff has worked so hard to develop and implement our online training capabilities allowing us to reach so many members across the country and around the world. The NTOA’s mission to improve public safety through training, education and tactical excellence continues to be our guiding principle.

This past year was one for the record books. The NTOA trained over 14,000 students through a combination of conferences, webinars, online and stand-alone courses. Over half of those attending NTOA training did so virtually. Thankfully, we were able to return to in-person training for the Crisis Negotiations Conference in Scottsdale. We set a new record with a 26% increase in attendance. Recognizing the demand for both virtual access and in-person training, our annual conference was a combination of both, with over 1,200 attendees.

Unfortunately, mass casualty incidents continue to occur, and the NTOA is working to address the needs of the law enforcement/public safety community to respond effectively. In 2022, the NTOA hosted its first Active Assailant conference to share lessons learned and promote collaboration among agencies. We also partnered with C3 Pathways, a leader in public safety training, to develop and release the most comprehensive Active Shooter Incident Management Checklist. This checklist will now be the national standard.

The NTOA is confident that this checklist will improve public safety and save lives.

In addition, the new “Hero Workouts” program was developed and released in 2022. This program is intended to honor fallen law enforcement officers and provide a means to maintain/improve physical fitness. These workouts have been designed to be challenging while helping the operators meet the NTOA Physical Fitness Standard.

While 2022 was an overwhelming success as a whole, we also suffered a tremendous loss with the unexpected passing of a true tactical giant, Sid Heal. Sid’s contributions to the NTOA and tactical community are too numerous to list but suffice it to say he left a lasting mark on all who knew him. He was a true gentleman and consummate professional! His passing reminds us that our most precious commodity is our people. Sid will continue to serve as our example here at the NTOA of how we will continue to strive for excellence.

These are just some of the highlights from 2022. Please take some time to look further into the accomplishments of our members, instructors, staff and board members, whose collective efforts are improving public safety and this noble profession.

As your Executive Director, I look forward to continuing to serve our members and build upon the NTOA’s proud history. Thank you all for your support and service. God Speed.

K. Thor Eells, Executive Director
Across four regions, all 50 states and 30 countries, the National Tactical Officers Association provides training to federal, state, county, municipal, 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 public safety community.
ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCES

39TH ANNUAL
LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS
CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW
MILWAUKEE, WI • SEPT. 25 - 30, 2022

LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW
During the 39th Annual Law Enforcement Operations Training Conference & Trade Show, delegates, 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 85 courses, incident debriefs and networking opportunities with leaders and innovators in the law enforcement community.

The two-day trade show was exceptional this year, as we welcomed more than 30 first time exhibitors. Our sponsors, along with 220+ 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 - the Association of SWAT Personnel – Wisconsin. Their dedication to this conference, endless hours of preparation and organization of the event were key reasons the conference was a success.

299 TRAINING HOURS
86 COURSES & INCIDENT DEBRIEFS
1007 ATTENDEES
220+ EXHIBITORS
388 AGENCIES REPRESENTED
47 STATES
5 COUNTRIES
The role of a crisis negotiator is vital to the successful resolution of critical incidents. The 22nd Annual Crisis Negotiations Conference featured over 50 training hours, taught by experts in crisis negotiations. More than 500 negotiators representing 189 agencies were in attendance. Presentations included several thought provoking seminars and timely incident debriefs that featured some of the most contemporary knowledge to increase negotiators’ skill sets, enhance their professional knowledge base, and promote education.
ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCES

VIRTUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

The NTOA’s 2022 Virtual Law Enforcement Operations Conference brought hundreds of officers from across the United States, Canada, Greece, Mexico and Brazil together for a two-day online learning experience. The mix of incident debriefs and presentations by our phenomenal instructors provided attendees insights into new concepts and lessons learned from real-life events.

41 hours of training was delivered and attendees gained insight from six incident debriefs and enhanced their skills via nine developmental courses. The virtual training experience provided attendees the opportunity to enhance their tactics and sharpen their leadership skills.

I’ve attended several NTOA training sessions and have always been impressed. You guys do an amazing job and this conference is no exception.

Sergeant – Greeley (CO) Police Department

VIRTUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

41 TRAINING HOURS
15 COURSES & INCIDENT DEBRIEFS
220 ATTENDEES
181 AGENCIES REPRESENTED
43 STATES
5 COUNTRIES
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 2022, 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 and travel restrictions.

This year we delivered 28 online training courses, 13 webinars through our TacTalks program and educated over 7,300 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.

**ONLINE COURSES**
- Basic Crisis Negotiations
- Crisis Negotiations Skills for First Responders
- 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

**TAC TALK WEBINARS**
- Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM)
- Checklist: What is it, how to use it, and how can it help you?
- Asset Protection for Law Enforcement
- Breaking Down the NTOA’s Position Paper on No-Knock Warrants
- Building Tactical Command Competency: Preparing to Function Effectively in Chaos
- Drone Programs and SWAT Capabilities - Why Your Team Needs Drones
- Enhancing and Sustaining Physical, Physiological and Cognitive Performance for the Tactical Operator
- Incident Debrief: Multi-Jurisdictional Response to Manhunt Operations - Lower District Integrated ERT (Vancouver, BC)
- Leadership Principles for the Next Generation
- Operating at the Speed of Trust: Angles, Allies, and Advantages of Elite Units
- Rescue Task Force: Public Safety’s Current Jedi Mind Trick
- Tactical Mission Planning
- The Wichita Model: Using Best Practices as a Blueprint to Build (or Rebuild) Your Crisis Negotiation Team
- What is an NTOA Team Review?
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 2022, the NTOA trained over 5,000 law enforcement officers and first responders by delivering 240 individual training courses, seminars and hands-on exercises.

The tenure and experience of instructor was obvious. His in-depth knowledge was easily translated into the flow of the course and provided students with valuable insight to a wide variety of scenarios, theories and options. The instructor was candid about his past mistakes, allowing us the opportunity to learn. He was clear in his instruction and presented the material in a manner that was easily understood by lesser experienced students while at the same time kept the more advanced students engaged.

As a supervisor, I received numerous comments of the course success and there was an overwhelming positive feel from the class. The course was excellent and of incredible value to me and my team. Outstanding job!

- Major | Texas Department of Public Safety

TOTAL TRAINED 5,035

OVER 30 TRAINING TOPICS

PROVEN|RESPECTED|PROFESSIONAL|CUTTING-EDGE

TOTAL TRAINING COURSES 240
OVER 30 TRAINING COURSE TOPICS

Advanced Crisis Negotiations
Advanced Response Police Officer
Armored Rescue Vehicle Tactics
Ballistic Shield
Basic Crisis Negotiations
Basic SWAT
High-Risk Warrant Service
Hostage Rescue Tactics
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
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

TRAINING MANAGEMENT AND RISK MITIGATION FOR SWAT

The course was extremely useful in the management, documentation, and liability associated with the SWAT element. It brought about important conversation about some positive things we are doing and some things that we definitely need to work on.

This is the only training of this sort that I have seen. I really appreciate NTOA providing this training and the caliber of instructors.

- Sergeant | Boca Raton (FL) Police Department

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 | Irving (TX) Police Department

HOSTAGE RESCUE TACTICS

Debriefs, especially debriefs from local agencies, were particularly valuable. When making contingency plans for an incident, one is always trying to think of hypothetical situations that may present themselves. After hearing so many debriefs, I think I will be able to come up with more contingency plans because I am now aware of possible situations that may occur. I also liked how there was not too much focus on specific movement. Instead, we were able to focus more on priorities and how to act accordingly.

- Detective | San Bernardino (CA) Sheriff’s Department
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!
I would strongly encourage NTOA members looking to develop their leadership skillset to seek out the Command College. The curriculum is based on sound leadership principles, and the material is presented professionally. There is a time commitment, and much of the course is self-led, so make sure you have a few hours a week that you can dedicate to your leadership journey.

- Chief Inspector | US Marshalls Service (VA)
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.
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
The NTOA conducted its second annual PFQ Challenge during the month of June 2022. Nearly 200 operators from around the country participated in the challenge. Over 120 operators achieved the gold standard of 50+ points and 13 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.

Special recognition is in order for Detective Adam Wilson of the Gastonia (NC) Police Department on the overall highest score of 170 points earning him the Fittest Operator Award and to Westchester County (NY) Department of Public Safety 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 May of 2023.
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 TACTICAL EDGE

Widely considered the leading authority in law enforcement operations information, The Tactical Edge reaches over 50,000 officers from more than 18,800 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
18,800+ 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!

67,600+ FOLLOWERS
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & Linkedin

National Tactical Officers Association
18,005 Followers

@NTOAHQ
3,395 Followers

Linkedin
38,696 Followers

@NTOAHQ
7,520 Followers
Congratulations to the accomplished students who were awarded our 2022 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 $168,000 in educational scholarships.

**EASTERN REGION**

Sierra Kuzak  
Canonsburg, PA

Noah Sorensen  
Montrose, PA

**CENTRAL REGION**

Emma Wolfenberger  
Weatherford, TX

Grace Milburn  
Cameron, MO

**WESTERN REGION**

Dominic Puglisi  
Santa Clarita, CA

Johanna Sterett  
Santa Ana, CA

$168,000 IN EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS
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.

**2022 Recipient of the K9 SWAT Deployment Award**
Officer Kyle Davis
Irvine (CA) Police Department

**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.

**2022 Recipient of the Negotiations Award**
Officer Hilda Lucero
Santa Monica (CA) Police Department

**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.

**2022 Recipient of the Unit Citation for Valor**
Gastonia Police Regional Response Team (NC)
(I-r) Sgt. Stephen Strickland, Capt. Brian Lawrence, Sgt. Eric Seagle, Officer Heath Stanley and Officer David Lutz

**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.

**2022 Recipient of the Spirit of NTOA Award**
Deputy Nathaniel Garza
Bexar County (TX) Sheriff’s Office
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.

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 Rodriguez 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 $168,000 has been awarded since its inception.

2008 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 18,800 agencies.

1984 The first Tactical Operations Conference is held in Albuquerque, N.M., with 93 attendees, representing 39 agencies, from 15 states.

1983 The NTOA is founded by Capt. John Kolman of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.
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.

2021

NTOA expands 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.

2022

Announced endorsement of the Active Shooter Incident Management Checklist as a national standard. Having a national standard means law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services responders across the country have an accepted way of managing active shooter events.

Released NTOA’s Position Statement on No-Knock Warrant Service.

Introduce the “Hero Workout” to honor operators who are killed in the line of duty while serving in a tactical capacity.

TRAINED 14,000+
PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL
LEADERSHIP

DIRECTORS AND EMERITUS

Chairman of the Board
Master Officer Steve Mescan
Pittsburgh Police Department | PA

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

Treasurer
Detective Jason Behun
Cape Coral Police Department | FL

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 (ret.)
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
Chief Phil Hansen (ret.)
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: Officer Christopher Periatt, (ret.) Saint Clair Shores Police Department | MI
Physical Fitness: Deputy Gregory Amundson, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) | GA
Public Order: Captain Spencer Fromby, Boise Police Department | ID
Sniper: Sergeant Gar Haugo, Fort Collins Police Department | CO
Tactical Command: Commander Jeffrey Selleg (ret.), 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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