



ORLANDO, FL

2019 LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

Orlando was the ideal destination for the NTOA’s 36th Annual Law Enforcement Operations Conference and Trade Show. More than 1,000 attendees from 45 states, six countries and 356 agencies joined us at the Rosen Centre Hotel for a full week of intense training, seminars, incident

debriefs, and networking with leaders and innovators in the law enforcement community.

The Orange County Convention Center hosted our spectacular two-day trade show featuring over 230 companies showcasing the latest technologies and products. More than

75 were first-time exhibitors. Attendees had an opportunity to see many of the products first hand that are entered into our Member Tested Program throughout the year. With food, drinks and networking opportunities, the trade show floor offered a little something for everyone.

At the heart of the trade show was the Hub, offering several events and services to conference attendees. One section of The Hub featured general NTOA Q&A with conversations about membership, the Member Tested Program and other services offered by the association. An





**MORE THAN 1,000
ATTENDEES FROM 45
STATES, SIX COUNTRIES
AND 356 AGENCIES
WERE REPRESENTED**

NTOA Academy representative was on hand to answer questions and provide insight into the program’s curriculum. The Hub also hosted several “Tac Talks,” 20-minute discussions on topics including officer wellness, mental health, tactical operations and lessons learned from history. This year, the Hub also featured a graphic timeline of NTOA milestones and an Academy graduate wall listing the future leaders in law enforcement who have successfully completed Command College modules. Elsewhere on



AWARDS



John Kolman Award of Excellence:
Commander Jeffrey Selleg, Port
of Seattle Police Department

For his leadership and dedication to the tactical law enforcement profession.



K9 SWAT Deployment Award:
Officer Sean Malia, Las Vegas
Metro Police Department

For his dedication to the protection of his fellow officers during an incident on Aug. 3, 2018.



Spirit of NTOA Award:
Dr. Mitch Javidi, International
Academy of Public Safety

For his continued efforts to support the mission and standards of the NTOA.



Unit Citation for Valor:
Cobb County (GA) Police Department
SWAT team: (l-r) Officers Brett
Gossett, Caleb Reid, David
Cavender, J.C. Tranquille Jr.
and Zachery Day.

For demonstrating selfless bravery in the face of danger during a hostage barricade incident on Oct. 2, 2018.



NTOA ice sculpture at Mango's Tropical Cafe welcome reception.

the trade show floor, members had the opportunity to attend expert-led seminars.

The conference opened Monday morning with a warm welcome from NTOA Executive Director Thor Eells, who introduced co-hosts Sheriff John Mina of the Orange County Sheriff's Office, Chief Orlando Rolón of the Orlando Police Department, and Sgt. Chris Eklund, president of the Florida SWAT Association. Also recognized for their enormous contributions to our conference were Lt. Dennis Ela (Orange County Sheriff's Office), Patti Russell (Florida SWAT Association), and Lt. Scott Smith and Officer Shawn Hayden (Orlando Police Department).

Our keynote speaker was Rodney Bullard, vice president of Corporate Social Responsibility for Chick-fil-A Inc. and executive director of the Chick-fil-A Foundation. Bullard encouraged attendees to be everyday heroes, changing lives by reaching out to people where they are, and helping them overcome challenges and difficulties they may face.

The annual presentation of the NTOA Awards recognized outstanding individuals and significant achievements that have occurred throughout the law enforcement special operations community over the past year. The NTOA is proud to have such accomplished and dedicated members who contribute to our field in so many ways, and we were gratified to be able to acknowledge and award some of these exceptional individuals. (See award winners, opposite page).

Each year, the NTOA provides conference scholarships for many of our members who may not otherwise have the ability to attend. Funding for these scholarships was provided by BLACKHAWK and Federal Premium Ammunition. This year, 25 students were able to attend the conference because of these generous donations. (See list of scholarship recipients on page 22)

Sunday night's SWAT Callout Dinners provided a chance for attendees to network with other law enforcement officers from around the country, trade stories and share a good meal at a local restaurant. These dinners were generously hosted by BLACKHAWK, Federal Premium Ammunition and Sons of Liberty Gun Works.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONFERENCE SPONSORS:

5.11 Tactical
 Action Targets
 Armor Express
 Benelli
 BLACKHAWK
 Combined Tactical Systems
 Federal Premium Ammunition
 First Tactical
 Justice Federal Credit Union
 Lenco Armored Vehicles
 Liberty Dynamics
 The Target Shop
 Point Blank Enterprises Inc.
 Proper International
 Sage Ordnance Systems Group
 Sons of Liberty Gun Works
 SDI
 Terradyne Armored Vehicles
 The Safariland Group
 Tier 1 Targets
 Tru-Spec
 Verizon Wireless
 Vertx
 Winchester Ammunition

RAFFLE PRIZES

Thank you to the over 100 companies who donated prizes to be raffled off at our conference to help raise funds for various scholarships offered by the NTOA.



FEATURE

Our Welcome Reception was held on Monday night at Mango's Tropical Cafe, and was sponsored by First Tactical and Point Blank Enterprises. Attendees, vendors and staff enjoyed a live interactive show, games, dinner buffet and drinks. Rumor has it that there was a conga line and several encounters with a "gator" from Gatorland!

Beginning Tuesday, attendees participated in seminars at the Rosen Centre Hotel and practical tracks at locations throughout the Orlando area. This year, students had access to more than 80 courses and seminars, and more incident debriefs than ever before, including the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School mass shooting and the Austin bombing spree, among many others. We thank our presenters for sharing the harrowing stories about incidents that will affect their lives forever.

We are excited to announce that next year's conference will take place in Kansas City, Missouri, on Sept. 13-18, 2020. Get ready for a week of outstanding training and excellent barbecue! Watch our website for updates on the conference and online registration.

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Donell Austin, Kankakee PD
Derek Bos, Brush PD
Eric Burburan, Hernando County SO
Joseph Cherry, Brunswick County SO
Robert Coliskey, North Palm Beach PD
Brian Crowley, Titusville PD
Shilo Garner, Union County SO
Adam Hanna, Leadville PD
Jacob Harlow, Cayce DPS
Joseph Hawes, USC Upstate PD
Jaunita "Jay" Hazelett, Melbourne PD
William Hilliard, Wilson's Mills PD
Lucas Hunt, Wheat Ridge PD
Robert Kilgo, Darlington County SO
David Lis, Hometown PD
Michael Ogrodnick, Palm Beach PD
Travis Olsen, Sioux Falls PD
Erik Pruitt, Lyon County SO
Kenneth Robinson II, Des Moines PD
Cory Schalinske, Eau Claire SO
Darrin Smith, Calhoun PD
Alfonso Tejeira, Univ of Central FL PD
Scott Van Roekel, Sioux Falls PD
Bret Willey, Lyon County SO
Ryan Yee, Gardena PD

MESSAGE FROM 2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

I want to thank the NTOA, BLACKHAWK and Federal Premium Ammunition for the generous scholarship to the NTOA conference in Orlando. I knew that it was going to be an exceptional learning experience, but it exceeded my expectations in every way.

Rodney Bullard's keynote address was particularly inspiring, with a message that I hope to take back to each and every officer in my department. He truly captured how we as law enforcement officers have the opportunity to impact lives every day.

I am working to prepare my department and community for the ever-changing challenge of active threats, and was able to learn what others are doing and benefit from their experiences. The debriefs were educational and eye opening, clearing up misinformation from the media, and full of lessons learned that could be applied to other agencies.

There were several outstanding updates on active shooters/threats that provided me with great information that I am bringing back to share with my officers and incorporate in our planning and preparation efforts. I am already working on training evolutions and equipment updates as a result of things I learned at the conference.

The opportunity to meet fellow officers and learn what others are doing as well as build a network of resources for problem-solving and idea generation is something that I will always be grateful for. It will leverage our efforts and allow us to help each other come up with the best possible solutions to problems we have in common.



Lt. William Hilliard
Wilson's Mills PD



THANK YOU

Co-hosts (Left to Right):
Lt. Dennis Ela, Orange County Sheriff's Office
Sgt. Chris Eklund, President Florida SWAT Association
Lt. Scott Smith, Orlando Police Department



Chief Orlando Rolón
Orlando Police Department
(Left)



Sheriff John Mina
Orange County Sheriff's Office
(Right)



Executive Director Thor Eells recognizes NTOA Director of Training Don Kester for his 20th anniversary as an instructor for the NTOA (Left)



Executive Director Thor Eells recognizes keynote speaker Rodney Bullard (Right)

