

NTOA welcomes new Executive Director Mark E. Lomax, who retired after 27 years as a major with the Pennsylvania State Police. He subsequently served as the training manager for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). He then was a program manager for the United Nations Mission in Liberia, where he oversaw the Liberian National Police Emergency Response Unit and the Police Support Unit. He has conducted strategic planning and management consultations for small and mid-sized businesses. Mr. Lomax holds master's degrees in both Higher Education and Business Administration and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy 200th Session.



In my new capacity as Executive Director, one sentiment I have heard time and again at various meetings throughout the country is that of profound respect for the NTOA. From local, state and federal agencies, to multimillion dollar corporations, to individual SWAT officers, to the international community — each has told me that the NTOA is *the* professional

organization for the tactical community and first responders. You know that, of course, because you are a member, so perhaps you can imagine what an honor it is for me to be a part of your association.

Many people deserve my gratitude for welcoming me and trusting me to oversee the NTOA. I thank NTOA Chairman Phil Hansen and the Board of Directors for this great opportunity to be part of such a well-regarded association. We are all indebted to Chairman Emeritus John Kolman for his vision, 30 years ago, of a professional association geared towards the development and professionalization of the law enforcement tactical community.

I thank former Executive Director John Gnagey for his many years of dedicated service to the NTOA. He came on board during a tumultuous time of financial distress, and with the assistance of a dedicated staff over the years, revived the NTOA. Now we are financially sound, internationally prominent and a major voice in the United States law enforcement tactical community. His dedication to the association has meant many long hours and personal sacrifices during the past decade of his career with NTOA. John has been a true mentor to me over the past several months, willingly sharing his knowledge and experience and ensuring that I understood the importance of the job I am undertaking. I look forward to furthering John's vision for the association and the men and women who are on the front lines every day.

With the help of our Training Director Rob Cartner, and our dedicated NTOA headquarters staff, we are on track to take NTOA to the next level. One of our greatest assets in this

endeavor is the professionalism, dedication and commitment of the NTOA headquarters staff. They are very supportive of our membership and take great pride in their work. Some have been with the NTOA for more than 20 years, which is quite a feat in the business sector! They are dedicated and hard-working and take personal pride in every member, instructor and partnership that we have. Kudos to the NTOA staff!

To our state tactical association partners: we appreciate your continued support and dedication to our common goal of educating and training law enforcement for reasonable prices with expertise and professionalism. We hope that more state associations will realize the value of joining forces with the NTOA and other associations to provide one strong and clear voice in support of law enforcement.

Finally, thank *you*, our members. Without your commitment and support, our voice would be silent. Your membership, participation in our training, contributions to our magazine, attendance at our conferences and valued input have sustained our association and serve as the foundation of our future. NTOA is the association that will be there for you, because it was formed by you. I take great pride and joy in creating the future of NTOA with you. We will be expanding and moving forward, with new technology, grant opportunities, training course expansion, just-in-time information, professional publications and many other opportunities.

With your support and assistance, together we will continue the legacy of our founder John Kolman by making NTOA the voice and protection of men and women who go above and beyond the call of duty, making life-or-death decisions, those who always keep the safety of our communities and fellow law enforcement officers at the forefront.

Be Safe and God Bless,

Mark Lomax
Executive Director

