



Our 32nd annual Tactical Conference concluded this September with an all-time record attendance of more than 850 students and 235 vendors.

Our dedicated co-hosts, the Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake and the Salt Lake City Police Department, helped us prepare for and conduct an amazing week of training, education, networking and

entertainment that drew law enforcement officers from all corners of the U.S., Canada and other parts of the world.

As you can see by our cover photo, this year's conference was unique. One of the most stirring moments took place with the introduction of our special guest, 8-year-old Timothy "Danger" Miles, a Salt Lake City resident who has endured tremendous hardship in his short life. Timmy's moving story is highlighted on page 17.

We were also thrilled to welcome two outstanding keynote speakers, Kristina Anderson, a Virginia Tech massacre survivor, and renowned Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr., both of whom are featured in our conference coverage.

We were also honored by the presence of you, our members. You don't require or ask for recognition or awards, but your character leads you to do the right thing for the right reason and at the right time — that's who you are. We recognize that and we applaud all that you do for our communities.

The NTOA Board of Directors met at the conference and voted on several new initiatives for the organization. Over the next few months there will be several announcements about NTOA online educational opportunities and certification for tactical officers and commanders. These initiatives will be the foundation for professionalizing tactical operations and policing in the United States. Stay tuned for updates on our website.

In other news:

On page 10 of this issue, we announce the release of our newly revised NTOA SWAT Standards. I thank Ed Allen and the committee that developed the standards with feedback from our membership and other stakeholders to make this revision more encompassing for all the law enforcement specialties.

Over a year ago, the NTOA hired the IACP to conduct a national SWAT survey to gather information on the use and capabilities of SWAT teams in the U.S. The survey is now complete and the report will be released in the near future. The results of the survey show that what you do every day is making a difference. Keep up the great work!

The NTOA and the IACP were recently granted a Department of Justice grant to develop general police standards and equipment standards for Presidential Executive Order 13688, which dictates the appropriations of funds and the transference of military equipment to law enforcement agencies. The NTOA is mindful of the importance of this equipment in the furtherance of police operations and will ensure that the existing government programs are still in place to assist local and state law enforcement agencies.

These endeavors mean that there will be many exciting opportunities for law enforcement in the near future that will influence the direction in which our profession is headed. Therefore, it is our mission to ensure that you have the right equipment, right training and right mindset to thrive in your careers and personal lives and make the most of these opportunities.

As I said earlier, we know that you don't ask for recognition, but we see you, we hear you, and we will not stop our efforts to make your jobs safer. ■

Be safe and God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Lomax". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Lomax