

2015 CONFERENCE – SLC

BY ED ALLEN

Salt Lake City's location, diverse history and mix of cultures once earned it the nickname "The Crossroads of the West." This is a fitting description for this year's Tactical Operations Conference and Trade Show. Salt Lake City drew the largest group of attendees from across the country in NTOA's history.

The opening ceremonies began with a heartfelt welcome from Sheriff James M. Winder of the Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake, and Mike Brown, interim police chief of the Salt Lake City Police Department. Attendees also welcomed honorary SWAT member Timothy "Danger" Miles, an 8-year-old Salt Lake City boy fighting a terminal illness. Mike Foreman, NTOA board member emeritus and executive vice president of Point Blank Enterprises, presented Tim with his own custom-made entry vest, as well as challenge coins and patches from many of the teams present.

Attendees were fortunate to hear an incident debrief from Kristina Anderson of the Koshka Foundation for Safe Schools. Kristina shared her story as one of the most critically injured survivors of the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre, and her role today as founder of a non-profit organization dedicated to helping local communities and schools work together to prevent, respond to and heal in the aftermath of school violence.

On Sunday, attendees enjoyed the annual 5K Fun Run and barbecue hosted by Point Blank Enterprises. All proceeds from the 5K directly benefit the NTOA's James Torkar Educational Scholarship Fund. This year, the fund awarded six \$2,500 scholarships to the dependent children of our members.

Beginning on Tuesday, attendees participated in seminars at the host hotel and practical tracks at locations throughout the Greater Salt Lake area. Both the Team Leader Development and SWAT Command Decision-Making and Leadership II seminars filled up early and were highly rated by those in attendance. Several new practical tracks were added to the selection list this year, including the Passenger Rail Tactics course taught by members of the Amtrak Police

Kristina Anderson,
Koshka Foundation
for Safe Schools



Sheriff James M. Winder



Interim Chief Mike Brown



Scholarship winners, Eastern Region: (l-r), Terry Crews, Jean-Paul Lara, Charles Bracken, Adam Kraft and Dave Garner



Central Region: (l-r), Ryan Skinner, Eric Totel, Jon Lewis, Rich Miller and Jameson Ritter



Western Region: (l-r), Jennifer Foreman, Joshua Bryant, Lance Enholm, Tyler Langmack and John Zumwalt



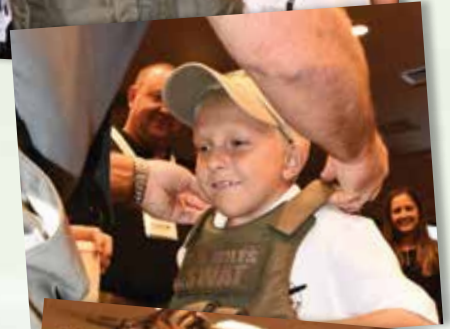
HEROES COME IN ALL SIZES



Timothy "Danger" Miles was born with Hirschsprung's disease, a genetic, developmental intestinal disorder. Tim has endured 28 different surgeries in his eight years of life. He is TPN-dependent, which means that without constant and permanent IVs, he would die from dehydration or malnutrition within a month.

One of Tim's greatest wishes was to spend time with a real SWAT team. His wish was granted when he was welcomed as the NTOA's newest honorary member at the conference in front of hundreds of law enforcement officers. Among the many gifts Tim received that day was a custom-made Point Blank Enterprises tactical vest and courage award. He proudly wore his vest throughout the day as he visited the trade show and spent time with SWAT officers from around the world.

During this era when law enforcement is being constantly bombarded with criticism, each attendee that day was reminded of the true joy of being a member of this profession that inspires young people like Timothy "Danger" Miles. Hopefully he knows that he was the young hero who has inspired us. ■



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SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

EASTERN REGION

Terry Crews, Alachua County SO (SWAT LIFE)
Jean-Paul Lara, Town of Greenburgh PD (VISTA OUTDOORS)
Charles Bracken, Maryland State Police (VISTA OUTDOORS)
Adam Kraft, Clearwater PD (VISTA OUTDOORS)
Dave Garner, Baltimore County PD (NTOA)

CENTRAL REGION

Ryan Skinner, Shawnee PD (TACTICAL ELECTRONICS)
Eric Totel, Englewood PD (TACTICAL ELECTRONICS)
Jon Lewis, New Albany PD (VISTA OUTDOORS)
Rich Miller, Mansfield City PD (VISTA OUTDOORS)
Jameson Ritter, Burnsville PD (VISTA OUTDOORS)

WESTERN REGION

Jennifer Foreman, Chelan County SO (TACTICAL ELECTRONICS)
Joshua Bryant, Dona Ana County SD (VISTA OUTDOORS)
Lance Enholm, Boulder County SO (VISTA OUTDOORS)
Tyler Langmack, Sedona PD (VISTA OUTDOORS)
John Zumwalt, Covina PD (VISTA OUTDOORS)

Department and the Tactical Tracking and Wooded Terrain Operations course.

During the annual banquet on Thursday evening, attendees were honored to hear from keynote speaker Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office. Clarke reminded everyone to tune out the criticism of law enforcement, stay focused on the mission and remember why we got into this job. The banquet also served as our opportunity to recognize significant achievements that have occurred throughout the law enforcement special operations community with a number of NTOA awards. (See award winners on page 21.)

Also recognized during the event for their contributions to the conference were the members of both the Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake and the Salt Lake City Police Department. Special recognition was given to Sgt. Jason Mudrock and Officer Jason Gavin of the Unified PD for the months of preplanning and hard work leading up to the event serving as conference host coordinators.

We look forward to another outstanding event in Louisville, Kentucky, on Aug. 14-20, 2016. Watch our website for updates on the conference and online registration. ■

For more photos visit ntoa.org/photos

Thank you to our photographers:

Laura Fogarty – laurafogartyphotography.com
Patrick Lanham – patricklanhamphoto.com

Trade Show



On Sunday, attendees enjoyed the annual 5K Fun Run and barbecue hosted by Point Blank Enterprises. All proceeds from the 5K directly benefit the NTOA's Educational Scholarship Fund.



First Place: Sgt. Norman Jacks, Rock Island (IL) PD (r) with NTOA Executive Director Mark Lomax



Second Place: Officer Curtis Weber, Lenexa (KS) PD



Third Place: Insp. Clint Redmond, U.S. Marshals Service (FL)



First Place Female: Katie Moravek, Defense Logistics Agency



SWAT Call Out Dinners



Co-host Night at The Depot, hosted by Lenco Armored Vehicles



Awards Banquet



Chaplain Melvin Ward, Unified
PD of Greater Salt Lake

Sgt. Paul Kotter,
Utah Highway Patrol

(l-r) NTOA Chairman Thor Eells, Sgt. Jason Mudrock, SLC Interim
Chief Mike Brown, Officer Jason Gavin, UPD Deputy Chief Shane
Hudson and NTOA Director Robert Chabali



Keynote Speaker Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. (l) with
NTOA Chairman Thor Eells

Unit Citation for Valor: San Diego County Special Enforcement Detail



Unit Citation for Valor: Tri-City Regional SWAT Team



Unified PD of Greater Salt Lake and Salt Lake City PD



TACTICAL OPERATIONS CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

John Kolman Award of Excellence:
Officer Patrick Fiorilli, Lakewood (OH) PD



NTOA Award of Valor: (l) Deputy John Hitch and (r) Deputy James Boggan,
Carson City (NV) SO



TEMS Award: Lt. Wren Nealy Jr.,
Waller County (TX) SO



K9 SWAT Deployment Award: (l) Officer
Dave Taylor, Riverside (CA) PD and (r) Officer
Albert Sandoval, Albuquerque (NM) PD



Spirit of NTOA Award: Ben Kimbro



Keynote Speaker Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. with NTOA board members and staff



TEMS



Tactical Tracking and Wooded Terrain



Corrections



Passenger Rail Tactics

