

2016 Conference — Louisville, KY

By Ed Allen

Louisville, the “Gateway to the South” and home of the Kentucky Derby, proudly served as this year’s host of the NTOA Tactical Operations Conference and Trade Show. The city is uniquely positioned along the Ohio River and within a day’s drive of two-thirds of the U.S. population. Attendees took advantage of the proximity, as this year’s registration was a record-breaking 950 law enforcement professionals. The city offered many sight-seeing opportunities, including one-of-a-kind attractions like the legendary Churchill Downs, the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory and the Muhammad Ali Center.

The conference’s general session began with a warm Southern welcome from Chief Steve Conrad of our host agency, the Louisville Metro Police Department. Attendees also welcomed CEO Doug Kelly and families from Make-A-Wish Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana as guests for the day at the trade show, where they enjoyed browsing the innovative products from our vendors and meeting law enforcement professionals from all over the world. The courage demonstrated by these kids and their families was inspiring to all.

Each year, the NTOA provides conference sponsorships for many of our members who may not otherwise have the ability to attend. Funding for these sponsorships was provided by Noveske, SWAT Life: Brothers for Adversity and Vista Outdoor. This year, 12 members were able to attend the conference because of these generous donations.



Families from Make-A-Wish Foundation



Our trade show, always a showcase for an amazing array of products and services, featured more than 230 companies. This year we introduced a Product Showcase featuring the Victory, a wireless rail-mounted push-to-talk communications system from Atlantic Signal; Syntech bullets, holsters and medic supplies from Vista Outdoors; the Streamlight TLR-6; a backpack-mounted OC spray system from Less Lethal Concepts; and the new

DoubleBang and 9-Bang from Combined Tactical Systems, to name a few.

Our members had the opportunity to attend expert-led briefings and short seminars on the trade show floor. Some of the most well-attended sessions covered topics such as the integration of unmanned aircraft systems in law enforcement, duty knife carry and deployment for law enforcement and a debrief on the “Draw the Prophet” terrorist attack in Garland, Texas.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

- Jonathan Clemins**, Huntington (WV) PD
- James Doll**, Richmond (IN) PD
- Corey Fukumoto**, Alhambra (CA) PD
- Brandon Kehoe**, Sheboygan (WI) PD
- Christopher Kelly**, North Versailles Twp. (PA) PD
- Matthew Leigeber**, Tyler (TX) PD
- Jeanette Mann**, Alleghany County (VA) SO
- Ed Marshall**, Madison (WI) PD
- Christopher Mulcahey**, Collier County (FL) SO
- Travis Pomaibo**, North Versailles Twp. (PA) PD
- Eric Weber**, Glendora (CA) PD
- John Zumwalt**, Covina (CA) PD

SPONSORED BY



Scholarship winner Jeanette Mann with SWAT Life founder Cleyton Bray



Raffle prize winner Sgt. Edward Marshall (r) with Kim Koyle of ATS. Sgt. Marshall won two Type III hard armor plates and a plate carrier.



NEW Product Showcase

TACTICAL OPERATIONS CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

Another first for the NTOA conference was a welcome reception event on Monday night, sponsored by Lenco, Point Blank Enterprises and Tactical Electronics. Attendees, vendors and staff enjoyed social time together at The Sports and Social Club in the heart of Louisville's famous 4th Street Live! entertainment complex. Guests enjoyed food and games, and some even sampled Louisville's finest offerings of bourbon.

The real work of the week began on Tuesday, when training commenced. Attendees participated in 25 seminars at the Galt House Hotel and 17 practical tracks, the most ever offered at our conference. Debriefs on both the Paris and San Bernardino terrorist attacks were presented to standing room only audiences.

The traditional Wednesday evening banquet and awards presentation took place at the impressive Galt House Hotel. Guests heard from keynote speaker Maj. Dan Rooney, an Air Force pilot and professional golfer, who shared his story and his life mission to create the Folds of Honor foundation. The foundation stands in the financial gap



Welcome Reception at The Sports and Social Club, sponsored by Lenco, Point Blank Enterprises and Tactical Electronics



Keynote Speaker Maj. Dan Rooney



Conference Co-hosts Louisville Metro PD

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TACTICAL OPERATIONS CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

of the more than 1 million dependents adversely affected by war, providing educational scholarships to the children and spouses of those killed or disabled while serving our nation.

The annual presentation of the NTOA Awards recognized worthy individuals and significant achievements that have occurred throughout the law enforcement special operations community over the past year. 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 outstanding individuals. Also recognized during the event for their contributions to the success of the conference were the members of Louisville Metro Police Department. ■

SAVE THE DATE

We are excited to announce that next year's conference will take place in Phoenix, Arizona, on Sept. 24-29, 2017. Watch our website for updates on the conference and online registration. (See conference ad on page 14 of this issue.)



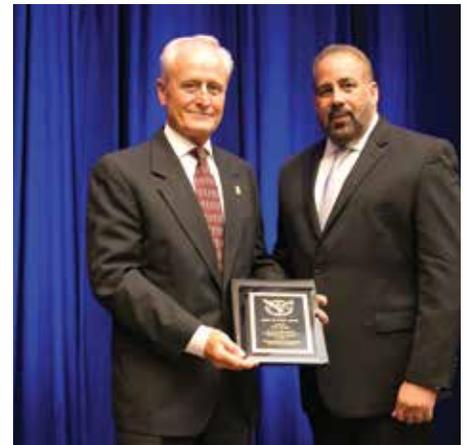
K9 SWAT Deployment Award:
Sgt. Eric Kerns, Las Vegas Metro PD with
NTOA Executive Director Mark Lomax



John Kolman Award of Excellence:
Asst. Chief Robert Chabali (ret.),
Dayton PD



TEMS Award: Master Police Detective
Matthew Overton, Newport News PD



Spirit of NTOA Award: SA Scott Barker
(ret.), FBI



Unit Citation of Valor: Los Angeles County SD





Advanced Tactics



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