

# NTOA COMMAND COLLEGE STUDENT PROFILE



## LT. JESSE LAINTZ LEXINGTON COUNTY (SC) SD

Jesse Laintz served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1998 to 2005, and was assigned to a variety of roles, including infantry, platoon sergeant and personal security team leader in Iraq. He recently was promoted to lieutenant for the south region of the Lexington County (SC) Sheriff's Department. Before his recent promotion, he was an investigations sergeant for the Major Crimes Unit, responsible for investigating homicides, sexual crimes, assaults, robberies, gang-related crimes and internet crimes against children. He also has been assigned to the agency's SWAT team since 2008 and is the assistant commander for the team. Laintz holds a doctorate of philosophy in organizational leadership from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

**Q: YOU CURRENTLY HOLD THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT COMMANDER WITH YOUR AGENCY'S SWAT TEAM. HOW DO YOU ENVISION THE NTOA COMMAND COLLEGE BENEFITING YOU IN THAT ROLE?**

**A:** As an assistant commander, the NTOA Command College has provided me with a means to learn how to do the job, and do it better. Before taking the assignment of assistant commander there was no doubt in my mind I could do it. I have a great commander teaching me, but I quickly learned that there was much more to the leadership and command aspect than I had expected. I needed help developing into the assistant commander my team needs. The NTOA's Command College has provided a clear path to follow to better educate me on the requirement of being a leader on our team.

Having worked through a large portion of the Tactical Leadership Certification in the NTOA Academy, I have already seen substantial benefits for me as a leader and for our entire team. Working through each of the modules provides an in-depth examination of current leadership topics that are relevant not only on the SWAT team, but also with all aspects of leadership from our team, to my department, and even in my personal life.

The residencies, coursework and group discussion boards are remarkable. They provide a networking group of tactical leaders that has become a sounding board to talk about issues we are facing.

The curriculum has also shown me that tactical teams across the nation are facing many of the same difficulties as our team. This networking affords us the opportunity to see what has/is working and has not worked for specific difficulties.

**Q: YOU HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN BOTH THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND WORK FOR A VARIETY OF LEADERS. WHAT CONSISTENT TRAITS DO YOU SEE IN GOOD LEADERS?**

**A:** Very early in my Marine Corps career I was exposed to the Marine Corps' 14 leadership traits, with the acronym of JJDIDTIEBUCKLE. These 14 traits are something I strive to achieve and have found prevalent in leaders that I would follow to hell just because they asked me to. If a leader exhibits these traits it shows qualities of thought

and action which, if demonstrated in daily activities, help that leader earn respect, confidence and loyal cooperation of others. These 14 traits are something I have carried with me into my law enforcement career, tactical career and strive to achieve in my personal life. I have seen each of these 14 traits in great leaders, but there are six that resonate with me: judgment, decisiveness, integrity, unselfishness, courage and knowledge. Many of these same traits were addressed in the tactical leadership coursework.

Judgement, decisiveness and knowledge all have to do with a leader's ability to work through the obstacles they confront. With these traits, a leader has the understanding of the science or art of the problem, the ability to think about things clearly, calmly and in an orderly fashion, and the means to make good decisions without delay. When milliseconds can cost a life, these three are what I have seen in other leaders that I strive to achieve.

Integrity, unselfishness and courage are the three traits that I have seen great leaders follow in every aspect of their life. A great leader is honest and truthful in all they say and do. They are considerate and don't make themselves comfortable at the expense of others, and they remain calm while recognizing fear and have the inner strength to stand up for what is right even if it is not the popular thing to do.

**Q: AS PART OF THE COMMAND COLLEGE PROGRAM, YOU WERE ASKED TO SELECT A CAPSTONE RESEARCH PROJECT. WHAT TOPIC DID YOU SELECT AND WHY?**

**A:** An easy question that is a hard one for me to answer. The answer is not difficult because of what is required, but rather because I have had difficulty trying to choose the perfect topic that is relevant to what is happening in the tactical and leadership arenas today — a topic that will have a lasting impact on the reader and myself during the research process. I have already proposed two different topics, but will likely be changing my topic again. This is no one's fault but my own. At present I am working toward obtaining scholarly articles and conducting reviews on work in neuroscience and how our brain learns while intertwining that with leadership and preparing operators. Again, an easy question that is a hard one for me to answer, but I will get it right and work on obtaining approval shortly.

**Q: WHAT FEEDBACK WOULD YOU GIVE OTHER NTOA MEMBERS WHO ARE CONSIDERING ENROLLING IN THE COMMAND COLLEGE?**

**A:** If you are considering enrolling take the jump and do it! If you were not interested, you would not be reading this article or contemplating the coursework, as you would have already turned the page or stopped thinking about it. With the concept of consideration, it means that you are interested and weighing the opportunities and the obstacles that the Command College may provide. I have found that the opportunities outweigh the obstacles and the knowledge I am gaining is remarkable. One of the great advantages of the Command College is it is at your own pace. With my recent promotion, I lost a sufficient amount of free time to work on my coursework. A new promotion is demanding and time-consuming, but I have been able to pause the coursework for a couple of months until my work and personal life settled into a routine again. I have been able to resume my coursework without issue.



**NTOA ACADEMY:  
BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT?**

The NTOA Command College isn't just for aspiring leaders, it's also the perfect opportunity for experienced tactical team leaders and commanders to validate the leadership philosophies and tactical concepts that they may already know. Through video lectures, quizzes, discussion forums and writing assignments, you'll be able to demonstrate your knowledge of tactical leadership skills. Seasoned leaders in this program often excel at the assigned tasks, as they have numerous experiences to draw from.

**FIND OUT TODAY IF THE NTOA  
COMMAND COLLEGE IS RIGHT FOR YOU!**

Visit [ntoa.org/academy](http://ntoa.org/academy) to learn more.