With a beautiful southwestern backdrop, the NTOA’s 18th Annual Crisis Negotiations Conference was held on Oct. 30 - Nov. 2, 2018, in Phoenix, Arizona. NTOA Executive Director Thor Eells welcomed attendees at an opening ceremony on Tuesday morning.

A Welcome Reception was held on Tuesday night at the famous award-winning Rustler’s Rooste, sitting atop a butte in the foothills of South Mountain. Food and drinks were provided as we kicked off a week of education and networking.

Our seminars were taught by some of the best instructors and subject matter experts in the profession. Topics this year included negotiator wellness, negotiating with veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, negotiating with gang members, and fixing the disconnect between CNT and SWAT, among many others. We also presented several debriefs on recent real world incidents that highlighted the challenges of negotiating with barricaded and suicidal subjects, to name a few. Attendees were able to attend the general session presentations or a breakout session each day.
CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS AWARD

The NTOA’s Crisis Negotiations Award was presented this year to Detective Courtney Minton of the Palm Beach County (FL) Sheriff’s Office. Through her efforts, Detective Minton and the negotiations team de-escalated a situation with an armed and threatening subject that could have resulted in loss of life to the subject, law enforcement or the public. Detective Minton and the Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office Hostage Negotiations Team were integral in saving this agitated subject’s life.

Thank you to all of our presenters and attendees. We hope you left the conference with a renewed dedication to the very difficult and much-needed work you do.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2019 NEGOTIATIONS AWARD

The NTOA is accepting nominations for the 2019 Negotiations Award which will be presented at our 19th annual Crisis Negotiations conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. This award is given to an individual who significantly contributes to the crisis negotiations field by exemplifying in a real-life situation the skills and techniques needed to defuse a critical incident, by instructing nationally recognized negotiation concepts or by advancing the negotiations/tactical team concept.

Please submit your nominations online at ntoa.org/about/awards.

THANK YOU to the Arizona Tactical Officers Association, the Chandler Police Department and members of the Phoenix Police Department’s Special Assignments Unit for their assistance in making this conference a success.