



# 2022 LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW - MILWAUKEE, WI

BY BUCK ROGERS

The NTOA returned to Milwaukee this September for its 39th Annual Law Enforcement Operations Conference and Trade Show. More than 1,000 attendees, representing 388 agencies from 47 states and five countries as far away as Tunisia, Singapore and Italy, joined us at the Wisconsin Center for a full week of seminars, incident debriefs, and networking with leaders and innovators in the law enforcement community.

More than 200 companies, including over 30 first-time exhibitors, showcased the latest technologies and products during our two-day trade show. Attendees had an opportunity to see for themselves many of the products featured in our Member Tested Program throughout the year. They also enjoyed food, drinks and networking, as well as the opportunity to attend several timely incident debriefs and seminars.

A warm welcome from Executive Director Thor Eells opened the conference on Monday morning. First on the agenda was a moving tribute to Charles “Sid” Heal, who

passed earlier this year. Many in attendance had the honor to have known Sid, a distinguished leader in the law enforcement community, and the remembrance was heartfelt for all.

Eells then introduced members of the Association of SWAT Personnel – Wisconsin and thanked them for their support. John Costabile, Jake Trussoni, Steve Pederson, Bill Skurzewski, Jeff Gonzalez, Mike Anderson and Dan Wesolowski worked tirelessly for more than a year to make this conference a reality.

Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office Inspector Daniel Hughes and Milwaukee Police Department Inspector David Feldmeier also made comments to open the conference.

Keynote speaker Rob Weinhold spent decades in private and public sector leadership service, and continued his career mission helping organizations during life’s most critical times by launching Fallston Group in 2009. His words were an inspiration to all in attendance.





**MORE THAN 1,000  
ATTENDEES FROM 47  
STATES, FIVE COUNTRIES  
AND 388 AGENCIES  
WERE REPRESENTED**



# AWARDS



**Unit Citation for Valor:** Gastonia Police Regional Response Team (NC) for bravery in the face of danger and selflessly putting themselves in harm's way to safeguard the lives of other officers and innocent citizens.

(l-r) Sgt. Stephen Strickland, Capt. Brian Lawrence, Sgt. Eric Seagle, Officer Heath Stanley and Officer David Lutz



## First International Student

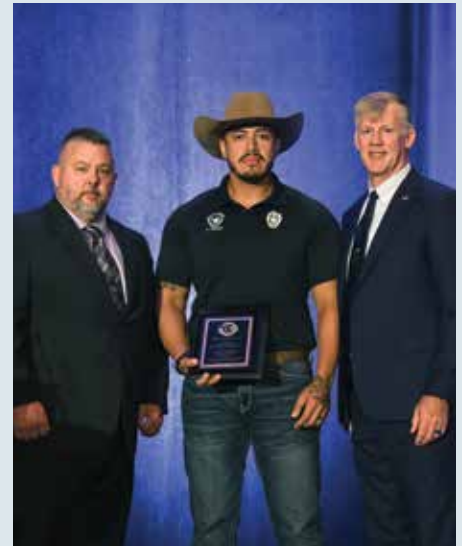
Senior Chief Inspector Michele Giovanni  
This year we welcomed our first international student to complete a module in the Command College. Congratulations to Senior Chief Inspector Michele Giovanni, a 21-year veteran of the Aliquota Primo Intervento from Brescia, Italy.



## K9 SWAT Deployment Award

Officer Kyle Davis, Irvine (CA) Police Department.

Officer Davis entered an apartment with SWAT operators and deployed his partner Bodie to minimize the risk presented by an armed subject to SWAT operators, the community, and the suspect.



## Spirit of NTOA Award

Deputy Nathaniel Garza, Bexar County (TX) Sheriff's Office

Deputy Garza was honored for his outstanding work ethic and dedication to learning and instructing tactics, which epitomizes the ultimate vision of the NTOA — to save lives.



The annual presentation of the NTOA Awards recognized outstanding individuals and significant achievements that occurred throughout the law enforcement special operations community over the past year. Such accomplished and dedicated members contribute to our field in so many ways, and the NTOA was gratified to acknowledge some of these exceptional individuals. (See award winners on page 22.)

Our annual Welcome Reception was held at the Harley-Davidson Museum. Attendees enjoyed a night of relaxation and socializing. Many attendees were able to tour the museum and enjoy a barbecue and live band. The event was generously co-hosted by Point Blank Enterprises and Lenco Armored Vehicles.

Beginning Tuesday, attendees had their pick of more than 100 seminars and incident debriefs, including the Borderline Bar and Grill Mass Shooting in Thousand Oaks, California; the Barricaded Sovereign Citizen Gunman incident in Illinois; Downtown LA Hostage Rescue; Hostage Rescue in Kansas City; and the Palace Drive Barricade/Hostage incident in Colorado Springs, Colorado, among many others. We thank our presenters for sharing harrowing stories about incidents that will affect their lives forever.

Our outstanding seminars featured topics such as "Response to Suicidal Subjects: What Are You Doing?," "Dare to be Great: Leadership Strategies for Tactical Officers," "Behavior Based CQB/Room Entry," "High-Risk Unified Commander," "Developing Exercises to Validate Plans and Procedures," "The Articulation of the Use of Deadly Force," and leadership classes for the team leader and commander. We brought in over 100 instructors to lecture on various topics to sharpen attendees' skills and educate members on legal updates, trends in policing and significant incidents across the nation. Our appreciation extends to these instructors, who traveled from far and wide to bring some of the best training available.

**Next year's conference will take place at the spectacular Gaylord Resort in Aurora, Colorado, Aug. 27 - Sept. 1, 2023.**

**Watch our website for updates on the conference and online registration.**



Welcome reception at the Harley-Davidson Museum.

## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONFERENCE SPONSORS:

Brinc Drones  
5.11 Tactical  
First Tactical  
Lenco Armored Vehicles  
Point Blank Enterprises Inc.  
Tru-Spec  
Vertx

## RAFFLE PRIZES

Thank you to the many companies who donated prizes to be raffled off at our conference to help raise funds for various scholarships offered by the NTOA.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Through the generosity of Point Blank Enterprises and Brinc Drones, 17 scholarships to attend the conference were awarded.

See a letter of thanks from Cmdr. Denise Franklin of the Skokie (IL) PD on page 24.





# THANK YOU

Co-hosts: Association of SWAT  
Personnel – Wisconsin

(l-r) Thor Eells, Jeff Gonzalez,  
Bill Skurzewski, Mike Anderson,  
Dan Wesolowski and Steve Mescan



Milwaukee County Sheriff's  
Office Inspector Daniel Hughes (l)

Milwaukee Police Department  
Inspector David Feldmeier (r)



Chaplain George Papachristou (l)

Keynote: Rob Weinhold,  
Fallston Group (r)





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# A LETTER OF THANKS



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## Awards and Distinctions

American Public Works Association  
(APWA) Accreditation

Commission on Fire Accreditation  
International (CFAI)

Gold Level Clean Air Counts  
Community

Government Finance Officers  
Association Budget Award

Government Finance Officers  
Association Certificate of  
Achievement for Excellence in  
Financial Reporting

Illinois Law Enforcement  
Accreditation (ILEAP)

Insurance Services Office (ISO)  
Class One Fire Department

State of Illinois Certified Health  
Department

Tree City U.S.A. Distinction

## Village of Skokie

September 26, 2022

National Tactical Officers Association  
Program Manager Laura Gerhart  
7150 Campus Dr. Suite 215  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80920

Dear Ms. Gerhart,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you and sponsor Brinc Drones for making the National Tactical Officers Association scholarship possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor, and I deeply appreciate your support.

As a recently promoted Patrol Commander of the Skokie Police Department, I aim to lead with authenticity. I am passionate and dedicated to empowering and developing officers to serve the Skokie community effectively.

The seminars offered during the National Tactical Officers Association Conference will provide me the tools to communicate effectively, lead, and mentor to formulate steadfast relationships within my agency and with residents in the Skokie community.

I am confident that the content in the seminars will be a central resource to help guide me in my department philosophy of "Be the Difference."

I cannot thank you enough for your generosity. I am grateful for the future leadership opportunities I will have because of the National Tactical Officers Association scholarship.

Sincerely,

Denise E. Franklin  
Patrol Commander  
Skokie Police Department



# SAVE *the* DATE

40TH ANNUAL

# 20 23



## LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

AURORA, CO • AUG. 27 - SEPT. 1, 2023

GAYLORD ROCKIES RESORT AND CONVENTION CENTER