A Year of Progress, Service and Excellence



As we approach the end of another year, I am proud of what the National Tactical Officers Association and its members have accomplished together. Every year brings new challenges to our profession, but it also brings opportunities to learn, adapt, and strengthen the way we serve our communities.

Our 2026 Law Enforcement Operations Conference in Nashville was a great example of that commitment. The conference brought together professionals from across the country and around the world for a week of training, networking, and camaraderie. The quality and enthusiasm of our attendees and instructors made the event a tremendous success.

We are especially grateful to the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department for helping bring the conference to Nashville and for its support throughout the week. MNPD's hospitality and partnership helped make the conference memorable, and we were honored to recognize the department's SWAT team for reaching an extraordinary milestone: 50 years of dedicated service.

We also are proud to recognize our 2026 Hall of Honor inductees, featured on the cover of this issue. Their contributions have left a lasting mark on the tactical community and the NTOA. These individuals have demonstrated exceptional dedication to training, leadership, innovation, and professional excellence. Their careers remind us that our profession advances when people are willing to lead, teach, challenge conventional thinking, and invest in others.

Each of our Hall of Honor inductees spent their careers pushing themselves to improve — never content with the status quo and always seeking to learn. I hope you are as motivated by their examples as I am.

This issue is also a significant one for *The Tactical Edge*. As outlined on page 6, we are moving to a digital-only publication beginning with Winter 2027. While the format represents an important change, it also is an opportunity to continue evolving and expanding how we share the knowledge and experience of our members and the broader tactical community. Please take a moment to read about this exciting change and the many advantages it will provide.

And there is much to share. Across our training programs, conferences, webinars, publications, and professional resources, NTOA members continue to demonstrate a commitment to learning and improvement. The challenges facing today's law enforcement professionals are complex, and maintaining proficiency requires more than occasional training. It requires an ongoing commitment to education, critical thinking, preparation, and professional development.

That is why the NTOA continues to invest in opportunities that allow members to learn from leading practitioners, researchers, instructors, and one another. Whether you are a patrol officer seeking to improve your skills, a team leader developing your personnel, a commander responsible for organizational readiness, a crisis negotiator managing complex incidents, or a trainer preparing the next generation, there is value in remaining connected to the profession and to your peers.

As we look toward 2027, I encourage every member to continue taking advantage of the opportunities the NTOA provides. We have developed exciting new courses that will roll out in the coming year, designed to address the evolving challenges facing today's law enforcement professionals and provide cutting-edge training.

Attend a conference. Participate in training. Share your experiences. Mentor someone who is coming up behind you. Ask questions. Challenge yourself to keep learning.

Our profession will continue to evolve, and the NTOA will evolve with it. But our fundamental purpose remains constant: to provide credible training, education, resources, and a forum for sharing information that ultimately helps save lives.

Thank you for your membership, your service, and your continued commitment to excellence. I am grateful for everything you do for your teams, your agencies, your communities, and one another.

I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the year ahead.



Thor Eells
Executive Director