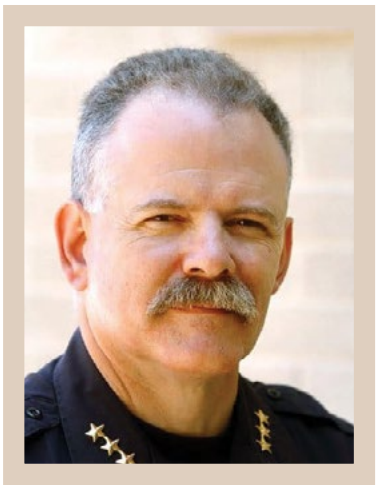


The NTOA's Hall of Honor has been created to honor those worthy of the highest recognition for their contributions to the tactical community, regardless of their affiliation with the association. The National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) was founded on the importance and appreciation of the tactical component of law enforcement operations. Acknowledging this, the NTOA, founded by John Kolman, serves as the cornerstone for professionalizing this ever-evolving discipline in law enforcement.

The NTOA recognizes the history and commitment of national, state, international and private organizations, as well as local, county, state and federal entities, to delivering state-of-the-art tactical operations and services to the communities they serve. The Hall of Honor recognizes the commitment to excellence by law enforcement tactical professionals, trainers and supporters who provide training, expertise and direction to law enforcement entities, providing them with the necessary resources to meet the constantly changing field of law enforcement tactical operations.

The Hall of Honor, a testament to the progress and evolution of tactical operations, recognizes individuals who represent the tactical community's highest level of career excellence. It captures and recognizes significant law enforcement events and operations that have profoundly affected the development of the tactical community or demonstrated valor, ingenuity or innovation within the law enforcement tactical community. Lastly, the Hall of Honor provides a centric location to capture the history and evolution of tactical operations, inspiring future generations.

JEFF *Chudwin*



Jeff Chudwin

Jeff Chudwin's distinguished career has been defined by exceptional leadership, unwavering integrity, and a lifelong commitment to advancing the law enforcement profession. A retired chief of police, former assistant state's attorney, nationally recognized trainer, inventor, and founding member of the Illinois Tactical Officers Association (ITOA), Jeff has dedicated decades to serving officers, agencies, and communities across the nation.

Jeff began his law enforcement career in 1974, serving first as a part-time patrol officer before advancing through the ranks to chief of police. He also built a distinguished legal career as an assistant state's attorney in Cook County, Illinois, before becoming one of the nation's most respected law enforcement use-of-force experts. As a legal and tactical instructor, he has helped develop policies, procedures, and legal precedents that have enhanced officer safety and contributed to the successful resolution of critical incidents nationwide.

In 1988, Jeff became a founding member of the Illinois Tactical Officers Association. He served on the board of directors and later as president for 29 years, helping establish the organization as a leader in tactical training, firearms instruction, and legal education. His dedication to training law enforcement officers and specialty units has significantly contributed to operational success and has helped save both civilian and law enforcement lives.

Long before patrol rifles became widely accepted in American policing, Jeff recognized their value and championed their adoption. Through education, persistence, and professional credibility, he helped advance patrol rifle programs throughout the law enforcement community, strengthening officer preparedness and enhancing public safety.

Beyond his accomplishments, Jeff is widely respected for his character, integrity, and commitment to doing what is right. His leadership has consistently reflected the highest standards of professionalism, service, and honor. Colleagues and friends alike know him as a trusted mentor, steadfast advocate, and tireless supporter of the law enforcement profession.

A champion competitive shooter and firearms instructor, Jeff continues to pursue excellence alongside his wife, Kim, whom he married in 2017. Together they share a passion for training and the shooting sports.

Through decades of service, leadership, innovation, and mentorship, Jeff Chudwin has left an indelible mark on law enforcement. His contributions have strengthened agencies, advanced training and tactics, improved officer safety, and inspired generations of law enforcement professionals.

KEITH *Frakes*



Keith Frakes

Keith Frakes began his law enforcement career in 1984 with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office in Phoenix, Arizona, following his active-duty service in the United States Army. In 1986, he was selected for the agency's full-time Tactical Operations Unit and became an FBI-certified bomb technician in 1990. During his distinguished career, he also served as a departmental SCUBA diver and instructor and helped develop the agency's tactical aerial insertion capabilities. His courage and dedication earned him the Sheriff's Star for Bravery and recognition as Deputy of the Year in 1992.

A respected leader and innovator in the tactical and explosives communities, Keith modernized his agency's

explosive breaching program and provided training to law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. For more than two decades, he was a featured presenter at the annual Breachers Symposium and was honored as the International Breacher of the Year in 2011. He was also an early advocate for integrating tactically trained bomb technicians into SWAT operations, recognizing the critical value of direct counter-IED support during high-risk incidents.

Keith rose through the ranks of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, serving as both sergeant and lieutenant in the SWAT Division before retiring in 2004 as a captain and commander of the Counterterrorism Division.

Following his law enforcement career, Keith joined the U.S. Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratories, where he provided advanced explosives training and supported the development of specialized technologies for military and law enforcement organizations. For more than 15 years, he served as a member of the Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST), contributing to some of the nation's most critical security missions.

Keith also dedicated 41 years of combined service to the United States Army and Army Reserve, retiring as a chief warrant officer four. His military service included assignments in Germany, Panama, and Japan, as well as deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan with the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. He later served at the Pentagon, helping develop enhanced counter-IED strategies and capabilities.

A member of the NTOA for nearly four decades, Keith served as an instructor, EOD/Explosives Section chair, member of the board of directors, and director emeritus. Throughout his tenure, he was a steadfast advocate for preserving the NTOA's founding mission while helping expand its influence and impact across the tactical profession.

"The Hall of Honor recognizes individuals who represent the tactical community's highest level of career excellence."

PAUL *Howe*



Paul Howe

Master Sgt. Paul Howe's distinguished career is defined by valor, leadership, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Through decades of service, he has profoundly influenced the military, law enforcement, and tactical communities.

Paul's interest in law enforcement began in 1976 as a law enforcement explorer with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Prior to military service, he worked as a jailer and state-certified police officer in Colorado before enlisting in the United States Army.

As an infantry soldier, Paul quickly distinguished himself, earning recognition as the 9th Infantry Division's Athlete of the Year in 1983 before serving in the Division's Airborne Long Range Surveillance Detachment. He later attended Delta Selection and was assigned to 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment–Delta, where he served as an assaulter, sniper, assault team leader, and senior instructor in the Unit's Selection and Training Section.

His extensive training included Ranger School, multiple Airborne and Jumpmaster courses, Pathfinder School, the Delta Operators Course, and advanced hostage rescue, breaching, and close-quarters battle training. He also attended numerous advanced law enforcement firearms courses and achieved a perfect score on the FBI "Possible" course of fire while attending the FBI Instructor Course.

During a military career that included deployments and operations in more than 15 countries, Paul earned numerous awards and decorations, including the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest award for valor in combat; the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device; the Combat Infantryman Badge; four Meritorious Service Medals; and two Valorous Unit Awards.

Following his retirement from the Army in 2001, Paul founded CSAT – Combat Shooting and Tactics. Through CSAT, he has trained thousands of military personnel, law enforcement officers, and tactical operators nationwide. His ability to translate proven military tactics and leadership principles into practical law enforcement applications has made him one of the most respected trainers in the profession.

Paul is also the author of "Leadership and Training for the Fight," "The CSAT Way," numerous articles on leadership and tactics, and more than 500 firearms training videos that continue to educate tactical professionals around the world.

Through a lifetime of service, sacrifice, leadership, and mentorship, Paul Howe has enhanced operational effectiveness, improved officer safety, and helped save countless lives.

"The Hall of Honor, a testament to the progress and evolution of tactical operations, recognizes individuals who represent the tactical community's highest level of career excellence."

STEVE *Ijames*



Steve Ijames

Steve Ijames began his law enforcement career in 1978 in his hometown of Poplar Bluff, Missouri. In 1982, he joined the Springfield (Missouri) Police Department, where he distinguished himself as a leader and innovator, rising through the ranks from corporal in 1988 to major in 1998. Along the way, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree, a master's degree, and graduated from the FBI National Academy, Class 186.

As a newly promoted sergeant in 1990, Steve was tasked with creating the Springfield Police Department's first full-time tactical team. Recognizing a critical gap in force options available to officers, he championed the adoption of pepper spray, less-lethal impact munitions, conducted energy weapons, and patrol rifles, helping modernize the department's response capabilities and enhance officer safety.

Steve's expertise quickly earned national and international recognition. He was an original member of the NTOA board of directors, served for 20 years on the International Association of Chiefs of Police National Law Enforcement Policy Center, and contributed to the Boston Marathon Bombing Post-Blast Commission. He has instructed and spoken in 33 countries and authored approximately 100 articles on use of force, tactical operations, and law enforcement equipment.

As an expert witness, Steve has reviewed more than 2,500 civil and criminal cases, including some of the most high-profile incidents in modern policing. His work has consistently supported officers and agencies through objective analysis and professional expertise.

Beyond law enforcement, Steve has led more than 40 mission teams to Nicaragua, helping build thousands of homes for families in need, and has supported humanitarian efforts that provided medical care, dental services, and daily meals for children in Haiti.

Steve has also served as interim chief of police for the cities of Ozark and Republic, Missouri, and currently holds reserve deputy commissions with Greene and Stone Counties.

Through his leadership, innovation, and unwavering commitment to service, Steve Ijames has made a profound and lasting impact on the tactical profession and the law enforcement community. His contributions continue to influence and inspire generations of officers across the nation and around the world.

SANDY Wall



Marcus L. "Sandy" Wall

Marcus L. "Sandy" Wall's distinguished career has been defined by leadership, service, and an unwavering commitment to advancing the tactical profession. Beginning his law enforcement career with the Houston Police Department at the age of 20, Sandy served 28 years with the department, including 22 years on the SWAT team. During his tenure, he earned four Chief's Commendations, was named Houston Police Officer of the Year in 1992 and was recognized as Texas' Top Cop by the National Police Officers Association.

For more than two decades, Sandy set the standard for excellence within HPD SWAT. He played a key role in developing training programs that shaped narcotics warrant service, high-risk patrol tactics, and active shooter response. His operational skill and leadership were further demonstrated in 1999 when he captured the TTPOA Super SWAT Competition title at the age of 43.

Following his retirement from HPD in 2004, Sandy continued serving the law enforcement community through Safariland, where he rose to regional sales director and later director of training for the Safariland Training Group. Through his instruction, mentorship, and infectious enthusiasm, he has influenced thousands of officers and tactical professionals across the nation.

Sandy's impact extends far beyond his operational and training accomplishments. As president of the Texas Tactical Police Officers Association, he transformed an emerging organization into one of the nation's premier tactical associations. Through vision, leadership, and dedication, he established a strong foundation that continues to support and advance tactical officers throughout Texas and beyond. Even after his presidency, Sandy remained actively involved for decades, contributing as a trainer, advisor, and leader.

Known for his humility, integrity, and genuine concern for others, Sandy has devoted his life to improving the capabilities of SWAT teams and enhancing officer safety. His influence can be measured not only in programs developed and officers trained, but also in the countless lives protected through his efforts.

Behind Sandy's success stands his wife, Theresa, his steadfast partner since 1985, whose support has been instrumental throughout his remarkable journey.

Through a lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication to the tactical profession, Sandy Wall has inspired generations of law enforcement officers and helped shape the future of SWAT operations.

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Please visit our website to view online biographies, dedications and videos.

ntoa.org/hall-of-honor

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