

LUKE SHERMAN

Senior Vice President – Folds of Honor (Owasso, OK)

Captain (ret) – Special Investigations Division – Tulsa Police Department

Chairman – National Tactical Officer's Association

From the advent of his earliest days as a police officer, Luke has devoted himself to providing the most professional and effective law enforcement service to the communities he has served.

His strong belief that relevant training, mental preparation and proper decision-making processes are the cornerstones to accomplishing this goal and have led him to many successful chapters in 30 years of service to the citizens of Tulsa as its' surrounding communities.

Luke has served in many different roles during his decorated career with the Tulsa Police Department. He joined the Department in 1992 and has served as an officer, field-training officer, supervisor, field-training supervisor, Fugitive Warrants leader, Street Crimes leader, academy instructor, firearms instructor, SWAT and Special Response Team Commander, Division Commander, and Department staff member. In 1995, Luke was selected to the Department's SWAT team, the Special Operations Team (SOT). During his time on SWAT, Luke served as a tactical operator, Assistant Team Leader and last, in a Commander role. He was involved in hundreds of successful high-risk missions while working on the SWAT team.

Luke was promoted to the rank of corporal in 1998 and then sergeant in 1999. As a sergeant, Luke supervised numerous field units and specialty squads throughout the city. Since 2008, he has led the Departments very active Fugitive Warrant's Unit and is one of the leaders of the U.S. Marshal's Violent Crimes Task Force. Both units are responsible for the successful arrest of thousands of violent criminals of both on-going and high-profile investigations, as well as wanted fugitives from the Tulsa area and other parts of the U.S. Luke was the supervisor in charge during several significant incidents that left an indelible mark on the city – the Good Friday shootings (2008), the Best Buy shooting (2009) and the "Stranger Abduction" of an 8-year-old girl in east Tulsa (2014). All these incidents were successfully resolved with Luke's leadership and the direct involvement from the Fugitive Warrant's Unit. Luke's unit was and continues to be involved with the A&E show "The First 48". In 2019, Luke was the top applicant for promotion to the rank of Captain. He commanded both at the uniform divisions and with the Department's Special Investigations Division. Luke also was the commander of all field troops in the Department's Special Response Unit during the George Floyd civil unrest riots in 2020 involving BLM and Antifa groups.

Luke is considered an expert in tactical and critical decision type situations. He is well known both nationally and internationally for providing recognized training, consultation, and instruction to other law enforcement groups in the areas of critical decision-making, related to police enforcement matters and handling of high-risk incidents. Luke is the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA). He is currently the senior active director and has been on the board since 2007. He has taught for the NTOA since 2004 and is one of their Senior Instructors. As a part of the NTOA cadre, Luke has provided tactical expertise, consultation, and instruction to law enforcement groups throughout the U.S. as well as tactical consultation and instruction around the world. He has provided over 6800 hours of instruction and consultation in topics such as active shooter/killer, hostage rescue, high-risk warrants, civil disturbance, barricade gunman, legal considerations in policing and SWAT, civil disturbance, team leader and command level decision making, etc. In 2010, at the request of the King Abdullah II of Jordan, Luke was part of cadre of instructors who implemented a training program for the country of Jordan's Public Special Directorate (their national police force) and a Bahrain special police group. This program was specifically related to handling high-risk police situations, hostage rescue incidents and terrorist incidents. This program was considered a great success by King Abdullah II as well as his counterpart in Bahrain.

CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS with the Tulsa Police Department

- Commander – Special Response Team (2020-2022)
- Commander (Ground Operations) – Civil Unrest (George Floyd protests) (2020)
- Commander – Special Investigations Division (2019-2022)
- Commander – Riverside Patrol Division (2019)
- Promoted to the rank of Captain (2019)
- Tulsa Police Department's Medal of Valor (2016)
- Tulsa Police Department Chief's Award (2010)
- Detective Division, Fugitive Warrant's Unit (2008-2019)
- U.S. Marshals Violent Crimes Task Force (2008-2018)
- Assistant Team Commander – SWAT (2008-2010)
- Chief's Section, Internal Affairs (2005-2008)
- Tulsa Police Department Chief's Award (2005)
- Supervised Selective Enforcement Unit for North Division (2004-2005)
- Supervised Violent Crime Task Force in conjunction with A.T.F. (2003-2004)
- Supervised Street Crimes Unit for North Division (2001-2003)
- Field Training Supervisor (2000)
- F.B.I. selectee to critique and evaluate Emerging Critical Issues for Major City Chiefs (2000)
- Promoted to the rank of Sergeant (1999)
- Tulsa Police Department Commendation Award (1999)
- Supervised Methamphetamine Task Force (1999)
- Promoted to the rank of Corporal (1998)
- Field Training Officer (1996)
- Special Operations Team – SWAT (1995-2003) (2008-2010)
- Master Shooting Award (1995 to present)
- Gold Fitness Award recipient

CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS with the National Tactical Officer's Association

- Decorated Instructor with over 6800 hours of instruction (2004-present)
- NTOA Board of Directors - Chairman (2007-present)
 - Luke played an active role during the Covid-19 global pandemic. Along with the executive leadership, Luke worked to identify, apply, receive and implement the federal funding available (PPP) for small business that was critical to maintaining and sustaining the NTOA's business continuity during the CV-19 pandemic. These funds were awarded to the NTOA and integrated into the associations business continuity model. As a result of these leadership strategies and decisions, the NTOA was able to maintain its' course and momentum during a significant disruption of normal business.
 - Luke helped identify and implement the NTOA's strategy of transition to virtual training components of the training curriculum during the Covid-19 pandemic. These changes allowed for sustainability of the NTOA's primary mission; to provide relevant training to its' members.
 - As part of the NTOA leadership, Luke provided insight and input into the national response to the riots that ensued from the national George Floyd protests.
 - Luke as a key participant in the formation of MIRACLE. A law enforcement initiative related to training law enforcement's response and handling of the mentally ill.
 - A key component of the Director group involved in the formation of the NTOA Command College Academy – a nationally recognized institution of education with the purpose of training today's modern-day law enforcement leaders.
 - Integral part of group that reviewed, vetted & introduced national SWAT Standards.
 - Worked and vetted specifics with a national initiative, Project Red (I, II and III). A study on the vulnerabilities related to firearms violence and explosive attacks. The project also provided recommendations on improving responses to these types of attacks.
 - Continued work with the national Tactical Emergency Medical Services initiative (TEMS).
 - Integral component in development of training curriculum for both first responders and SWAT related to emerging critical issues (including active shooter, workplace violence situations and integration with the private sector in developing commonality).
 - The N.T.O.A.'s designee for the formation of a partnership with the Ontario Tactical Advisory Board. This has led to the invitation and acceptance of Canadian LE personnel to the N.T.O.A.'s database regarding input on SWAT standards and voting.
 - Work on the national initiative S.T.O.R.M. project.
 - Work related to the BATF regarding the FSDD transportation regulations and law.
 - A key piece of the Director group involved with the creation and integration of a directive driven lobby group speaking on behalf of the interest(s) of the tactical community with the lawmakers in D.C.