
DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It has been more than six months since I joined the NTOA as Executive Director and I am proud to report that exciting things are happening in many areas of our organization. The NTOA's reputation and influence is steadily growing and we are making changes that reflect this advancement.

First, the obvious. Our talented designer created the new masthead you see on the cover of this issue. The publishing staff is always keen to stay timely, and the always-evolving appearance and content of our Web site, brochures and *The Tactical Edge* reflect that determination.

Another area of growth is clearly discerned with our conferences. In May, I attended the NTOA's 12th Annual Breachers Symposium in Dallas, Texas. With the support and hospitality of the Dallas Police Department, the event was very successful. International participation was the highest ever, with more than 10 countries represented, including both law enforcement and military personnel. The event offered a diverse agenda including several operational case studies, presentations covering the technical/scientific aspects of breaching, and medical and safety related topics. The live range activities and an impressive vendor show were highlights of the week.

Taking place in the Northwest for the first time, our annual training conference promises to be a spectacular week. Seattle, Washington may be a long journey for some of you, but we promise it will be well worth the effort.

Our CNT conference will be held in Mesa, Arizona in October. Again, there will be international attendees at both conferences.

Our world is getting smaller and the NTOA's star is on the rise. I assure you that we remain committed to you and your needs, even as we welcome our international brothers and sisters in law enforcement, as evidenced by our growing training roster. Providing high-quality courses taught by skilled field operators is a priority for us, and we promise to continue offering the information and experiences you need.

I recently had the honor to attend NTOA Chairman Phil Hansen's retirement celebration. Phil is leaving the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department after 36 years of dedicated service. There, I spoke with NTOA founder John Kolman and Director Emeritus Ron McCarthy. Both of these renowned individuals have seen the strides NTOA is making and are enthusiastic supporters of our future. It is so vital and significant to have the continued support, insight and guidance that our more experienced directors and members bring to the table.

Be on the lookout for new initiatives that will reflect the NTOA's evolving development. And as always, your valued input about the future of the organization is welcomed. Contact me at mark.lomax@ntoa.org or 800-279-9127, ext. 115.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our upcoming events. Until then,

Be safe and God bless,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Lomax".

Mark Lomax
Executive Director

