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# SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD PHILLIP C. HANSEN

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**B**y the time you receive this issue, we will be well into the New Year. But as I sit writing this message, I do so with a heavy heart. It is one week before Christmas, and we are all reeling and heartbroken over the tragic events at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. On

behalf of the entire NTOA, our hearts, prayers and deepest sympathy go out to the victims, their families, the first responders and all who have been affected by this horrific incident.

As law enforcement personnel, we cannot always be present to avert tragedy, and no amount of training can ever fully prepare those who must face the carnage that our fellow officers encountered in Newtown. Nonetheless, in many instances we are the line between our community and the evil that some are capable of inflicting on our innocents. As an association, we commit ourselves to assisting the Newtown community in any way possible, and we pledge to redouble our efforts in the development and presentation of meaningful training and preparation for first responders.

This year marks the NTOA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and I'm pleased to announce that there are a number of new initiatives to benefit members, including membership drive incentives and substantial increases in funding for our college scholarships. Please look for announcements in *The Tactical Edge* regarding these programs, and be sure to check the NTOA website for information on a wide variety of member benefits.

Looking back on 2012, our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Tactical Operations Conference and Trade Show in Seattle was

a tremendous success. A long-term NTOA goal has been to continually move the annual conference across the country, affording accessibility to officers from all regions. This year, we look forward with much anticipation to our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Kansas City, Mo. where you can expect great training and great barbecue in one location. It doesn't get much better than that!

This anniversary is a significant milestone, and together we have made tremendous progress as both a professional association and, more importantly, in the field of tactical operations at large. Even so, great challenges remain ahead and we know that to prevail against our adversaries we must continue to grow, adapt and train not only ourselves, but those who will assume our positions in the future.

## **ABOUT YOUR ASSOCIATION AND ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The NTOA is a true non-profit organization dedicated to your safety and the advancement of law enforcement tactical operations. The association's revenue is derived primarily from training courses, conferences, membership dues, and advertising for *The Tactical Edge*. The vast majority of this income is then turned back to our membership in the form of member benefits. These benefits including the outstanding training provided at regional courses and at our annual conference, the advancement of our profession through the development of tactical protocols such as the NTOA SWAT Standards, the NTOA Educational Scholarship program, grants to members for training and equipment, assistance to state tactical associations and the publication of our industry's flagship

professional journal, *The Tactical Edge*. Our revenue also provides salaries and the operating budget for the small, hardworking staff at our headquarters in Doylestown, Pa. Any remaining funds are placed in savings to ensure the fiscal viability of our association.

Members of the NTOA Board of directors are proven law enforcement leaders who have devoted themselves over time to fulfilling the NTOA's mission. They volunteer to serve on a pro bono basis, as do our section chairpersons, advisors and federal liaisons. These personnel give of themselves because they are passionate about law enforcement and have the heart to serve. As such, they deserve your interest, input and support.

Board members are elected regionally by our individual members. The directors you select are critical to the continued success and credibility of the NTOA. Disappointingly, last fall less than ten percent of our individual members took time to vote in our annual election. We are fortunate that every candidate had a history of achievement and was qualified to serve. Nonetheless, each candidate, and our electoral process at large, deserves your interest and participation. I am asking that you please participate in future elections by taking the short time required to review and evaluate each candidate's statement and experience and then cast your vote. The process is easy, and the board is currently evaluating measures to make the voting process even more accessible. Like our national elections, every vote counts. With your participation, the NTOA will be stronger and even more attuned to the needs of its membership.

## **A GREAT CONTRIBUTOR AND FRIEND**

After completing his 19<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the NTOA Board of Directors, Eastern Region Director and NTOA Treasurer Jim Torkar chose not to run for re-election. Jim's contributions to the NTOA are too numerous to mention, but among many other things his oversight contributed greatly to our association's financial stability. He also was the driving force behind the implementation of our NTOA Educational Scholarship Program. Jim has always been respected on the board for his low-key and level-headed approach to problem-solving. He is the consummate professional and in his reserved, gentlemanly manner, one of the most ethical and effective leaders I have ever known. Thank you, Jim, for your counsel, support and friendship. It's truly been an honor to work with you.

In closing, thank you for your commitment as law enforcement personnel and for the daily sacrifices you make to protect our nation. Thank you as well for your continued support to this great organization. May God bless and protect you in your work and in your homes.

Sincerely,

**Phil Hansen**  
Chairman, Board of Directors

## **SCHOOL AND WORKPLACE VIOLENCE: PLANNING AND RESPONSE COURSE**

**A** specialized course for law enforcement, school and business professionals to prepare to respond to incidents of mass violence.

Joint classroom instruction for both law enforcement and school/business attendees followed by separate tracks, tailored to the roles of each group. Groups reunite for field exercises/drills.

### **Concepts covered include:**

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- Emergency plan development
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