

NTOA IRON OPERATOR CHALLENGE

By Bruce Bayley

On May 2, 2016, the NTOA's Correctional Section, in conjunction with the Mock Prison Riot, the West Virginia Division of Corrections and the West Virginia Training Foundation Inc., conducted the first-ever Iron Operator Challenge.

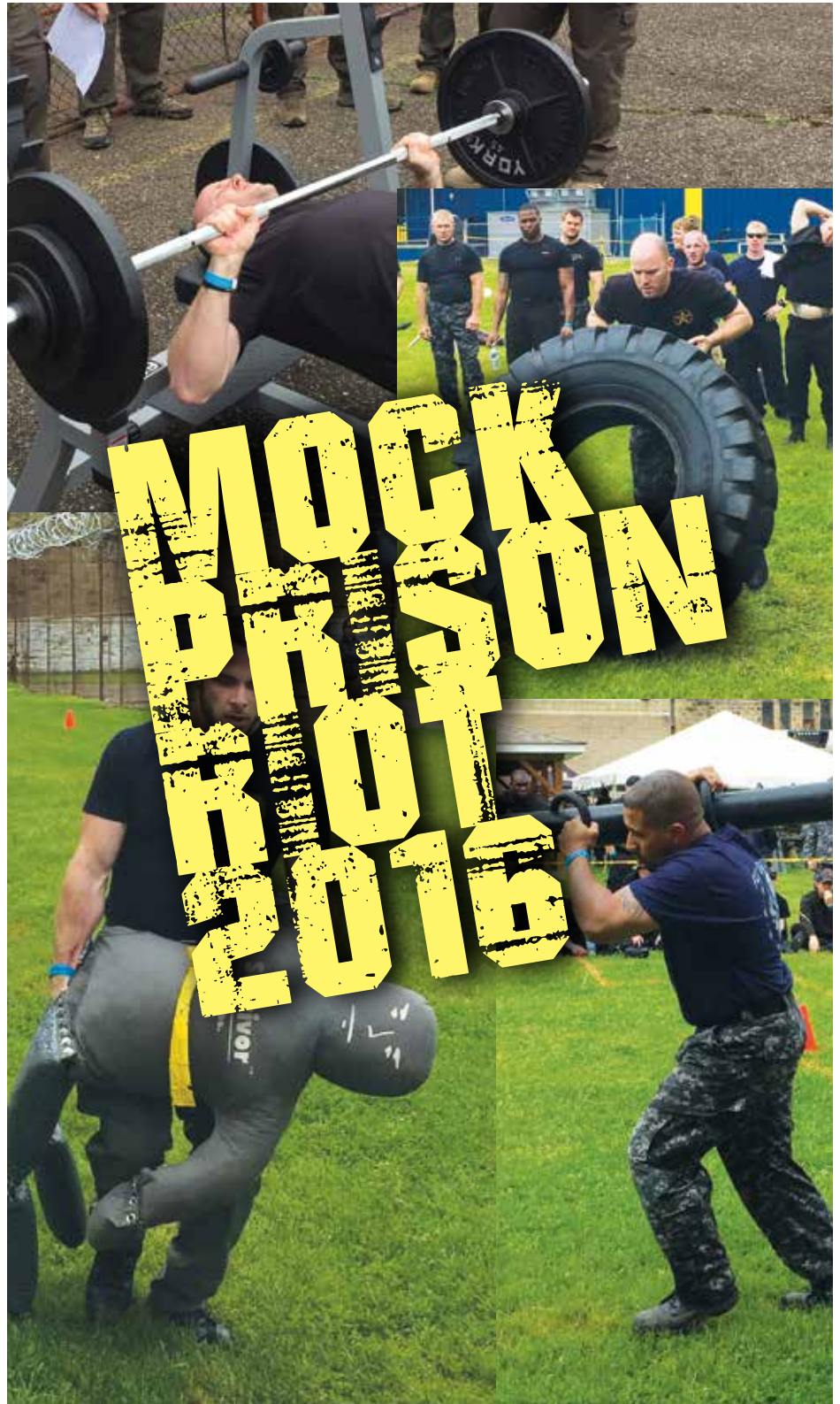
Correctional special operations officers from around the world attend the annual Mock Prison Riot in Moundsville, West Virginia. This premier training event for correctional emergency response teams allows operators to hone their skills, network and get up to speed on the latest technologies used in correctional special operations.

This year 28 competitors from 15 different agencies were also able to put themselves to the ultimate test of strength and endurance by competing in four grueling events: the Bench Press, the Towel Hang, the Weighted Carry and the Tire Flip.

After nearly four hours of competition, the results were tallied and the finalists were announced in front of Mock Prison Riot attendees during a ceremony in front of the vendor's exhibitor hall. The winners of the 2016 NTOA Iron Operator Challenge were:

First Place: Craig Cucci, FBOP-FCI, Otisville, NY (112 points). Prize: 870 Remington tactical shotgun sponsored by Remington.

Second Place: Joshua Hendrix, Bossier County (LA) SD, (108 points). Prizes: 40mm launcher sponsored by Sage and an HK Tactical Hatchet sponsored by Benchmade.





Participants and instructors for the Iron Operator Challenge.

Third Place: Tyrone Jackson, Orange County (FL) SD (105 points). Prize: Tactical knife sponsored by Benchmade.

Fourth Place: Mark Turner, FBOP-USP Canaan, PA (104 points). Prize: Tactical backpack sponsored by Voodoo Tactical.

Fifth Place: Mark Sarno, Onondaga County (NY) SD (101 points). Prize: Beast Knife sponsored by Sage.

All competitors were awarded an NTOA Challenge Coin for their efforts.

The NTOA would like to thank its instructors Carl Grove, Ed Geroski, Keith Moon, Ken Goodman, Ken Smith and John Bakewell for their time and expertise in running the challenge, as well as prize sponsors Benchmade, Remington, Sage and Voodoo Tactical.

In addition, we want to acknowledge Jim Rubenstein, Commissioner of Corrections and Deputy Secretary of

the Department of Military Affairs & Public Safety; Mike Coleman, Deputy Commissioner, West Virginia Division of Corrections, co-host of the 2016 Mock Prison Riot; Paul Simmons, Assistant Commissioner – Operations; Major Ronnie Williams, Chief of Special Operations and Acting Director of Security and Project Director for the 2016 Mock Prison Riot; and Sharon Goudy, Project Manager for the West Virginia Corrections Training Foundation Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation and co-host of the 2016 Mock Prison Riot. Without their steadfast dedication and support of correctional special operations officers worldwide, this event would not have been possible.

We hope to see you next year at Mock Prison Riot's 2nd Annual NTOA Iron Operator Challenge on April 30 through May 3, 2017. ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bruce Bayley, Ph.D., is a former California correctional officer and deputy juvenile probation officer in Utah. He currently works as a professor of criminal justice and graduate director at Weber State University. In addition, Dr. Bayley is an adjunct instructor at the Weber State Police Academy and a sitting member of Utah's POST Council. He can be reached at bbayley@weber.edu.



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