

# 2017 CONFERENCES – PHOENIX, AZ

By Ed Allen

## CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS CONFERENCE

The NTOA's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual CNT Conference was held on Sept. 21-25, 2017, and hosted negotiators from across the United States and Canada. NTOA Executive Director Thor Eells welcomed attendees to our first-ever combined conference, which allowed students to attend the two-day trade show on Sunday and Monday, as well as several shared breakout sessions.

Our seminars were taught by some of the best instructors and subject matter experts in the profession. Topics included team management, current case law, and emerging trends in negotiations tactics. We also presented several debriefs on recent real world incidents that highlighted the challenges of negotiating with military personnel and in a jail setting, to name a few. Also new this year were our breakout sessions, which allowed attendees to choose which topics they wanted to attend.

On Friday evening the NTOA hosted conference attendees and instructors at Chase Field, home of the Arizona Diamondbacks professional baseball team, to watch the Diamondbacks host the Miami Marlins. This event was generously sponsored by Vista Outdoor.

### JAN DUBINA RECEIVES CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS AWARD

The NTOA's Crisis Negotiations Award was presented this year to Det. Jan Dubina (ret.) of the Phoenix Police Department. Jan became chair of the NTOA's Crisis Negotiations Section in 2000. Since that time, she has developed and revised the curriculum, brought qualified and skilled instructors on board, and taught dozens of classes, much of it while working full time with the Phoenix Police Department's Special Assignments Unit.

As a negotiator, Jan has been involved in numerous high-profile incidents from which she has developed and presented professional debriefs for the benefit of negotiators around the country. She has taught all levels of crisis negotiations, both nationally and internationally.

She was instrumental in the development of the *Crisis Negotiator*, a quarterly professional journal published by the

NTOA. Because of her dedication and perseverance, the NTOA became an active member of the National Council of Negotiations Associations.



Det. Jan Dubina (ret.)

Over the past 18 years, Jan has worked selflessly for the benefit of negotiators nationwide. Her lifelong dedication to advancing the negotiations/tactical team concept and her national efforts have elevated the profession and skills of thousands of negotiators nationwide.

Thank you to all of our presenters and attendees. We hope you left the conference with a renewed dedication to the very difficult and much-needed work you do.

Watch our website for information on our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual CNT Conference in 2018.



Opening ceremonies



Arizona Diamondbacks game at Chase Field sponsored by Vista Outdoor

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### VISTA OUTDOOR

**Tpr. Shayne Calt**, Alaska State Troopers

**Chief Doug Conrad**, Keota (IA) PD

**Det. Angelo Gadola**, Hazleton (PA) PD

**Sgt. Richard Henry**, Chicopee (MA) PD

**Sgt. David Siderfin**, Silverthorne (CO) PD

**Sgt. Brian Tencza**, Flossmoor (IL) PD

### SWAT LIFE: BROTHERS FOR ADVERSITY

**Sgt. Russell Rongavilla**, Alhambra (CA) PD

### TEMS SCHOLARSHIP (DR. MICHAEL MORAN)

**Sgt. James Bloodworth**,

Columbus Fire and Emergency Medical Services (GA)

## SPONSORED BY



## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONFERENCE SPONSORS

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# TACTICAL OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

**B**lue skies and sunshine greeted attendees in Phoenix, Arizona, for the NTOA's 34<sup>th</sup> annual Tactical Operations Conference and Trade Show on Sept. 24-29, 2017. This conference gets better every year and our co-hosts, the Phoenix Police Department and Arizona Tactical Officers Association, did not disappoint! They worked diligently to provide an outstanding event with opportunities for camaraderie and training.

The conference's opening ceremony began on Monday morning with a warm welcome from Assistant Police Chief T.J. Martin of the Phoenix Police Department. Our keynote speaker was Jason Schechterle. Jason had one dream growing up, to serve as a Phoenix Police Department officer. After serving four years in the Air Force, he achieved his goal. Yet only 14 months into what was supposed to be a life-long career, his life took an unexpected, dramatic and, at the time, tragic turn, when his squad car was hit from behind by a speeding taxicab. Jason was severely burned in the fiery crash and has endured numerous surgeries, but he has fought to overcome all adversities. His story exemplifies that the power of the human spirit can never be underestimated or extinguished.

Attendees also welcomed 10-year old Darrius Lee who suffers from several medical challenges. Thanks to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Darrius was made an honorary member of the NTOA, and along with his mom and his friend Aidan, were guests for the day at the trade show. Darrius' favorite part of the day was seeing all the newest SWAT gear and being greeted by so many members of the law enforcement family from around the country, who gave him a patch or a challenge coin from their agencies. He was accompanied by Phoenix Police Officer Bernie Dalton, who was Darrius' patrol partner two years ago when he was granted his wish to be a police officer. This experience gave Darrius and his mom an opportunity to forget their struggles for a day and spend time with those who protect and serve. Their courage was inspiring to all.

Our trade show, always a showcase for an amazing array of products and services, featured more than 250 companies, more than 50 of which were exhibiting for the first time. Evoke Tactical displayed some possible game-changing eyewear and Merrell showed its new tactical boot line

to the community. To see a complete list of companies that exhibited at our trade show, go to [shows.map-dynamics.com/ntoa2017](http://shows.map-dynamics.com/ntoa2017).

Our members had the opportunity to attend expert-led briefings and short seminars on the trade show floor. Some of the most well-attended sessions covered topics such as the integration of unmanned aircraft systems in law enforcement, street-level incident command, as well as debriefs on the Marcus Schumacher incident, in which Fargo (ND) Police Officer Jason Moszer was killed by a barricaded subject, and the Washington Navy Yard incident, in which a lone gunman fatally shot 12 people and wounded three others in a mass shooting at the headquarters of the Naval Sea Systems Command.



Darrius Lee, his mom and friend Aidan with Officer Bernie Dalton (l) and Deputy Mike Walsh.



Special guest: Darrius Lee and friend Aidan

## 2017 CONFERENCES AND TRADE SHOW

Each year, the NTOA provides conference sponsorships for members who may not otherwise be able to attend. Funding for these sponsorships was provided by SWAT Life: Brothers for Adversity and Vista Outdoor brands. We also offered a TEMS scholarship sponsored by Dr. Michael Moran. Eight members were able to attend the conference because of these generous donations.

Our Welcome Reception on Monday night was sponsored by First Tactical, Lenco and Point Blank Enterprises. Attendees, vendors and staff enjoyed social time together at Lucky Strike and Gypsy Bar, located in the heart of downtown Phoenix. Dan Costa, founder and CEO of First Tactical, raffled off a weekend trip to his mountain lodge in Montana for four attendees and their guests. Dan will join them for the weekend and agreed to be their personal chef, a job he held before he founded 5.11 and then First Tactical.

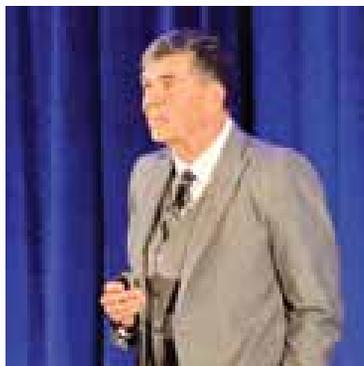
Beginning on Tuesday, attendees participated in more than 40 seminars at the host hotel and convention center, as well as 16 practical tracks at locations throughout the Phoenix area. Debriefs on the Washington Navy Yard shooting, the Orlando Pulse nightclub incident and the Dallas police ambush were presented to standing room only audiences. A special thanks goes to all of our presenters, especially those who were willing to tell their personal stories.

Our annual Wednesday evening banquet and awards presentation took place at the Sheraton Grand Phoenix Hotel. Guests heard from keynote speaker Dr. Tony Kern, one of the world's leading authorities on human performance. Colonel Kern, (USAF ret.) is the author of *Going Pro: The Deliberate Practice of Professionalism*, among other books. He challenged the audience with the concept of "extreme professionalism" and enthusiastically explained the role that certain values like engagement, image and selflessness play in attaining that level of professionalism.

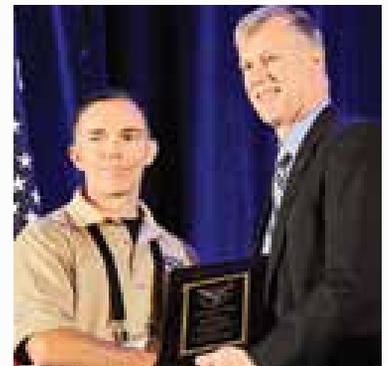
The annual presentation of the NTOA Awards recognized worthy individuals and significant achievements that have occurred throughout the



Awards ceremony and banquet



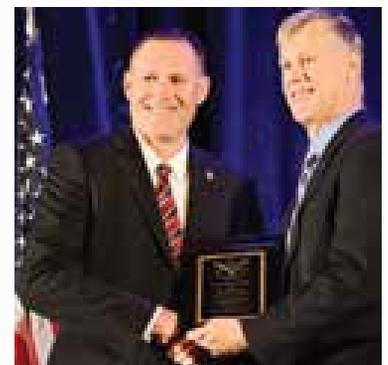
Keynote speaker: Dr. Tony Kern



Spirit of NTOA Award: Master Officer Brad Gallagher, Naples (FL) PD



K9 SWAT Deployment Award: Officer Todd Wuis, Grand Rapids (MI) PD



TEMS Award: Chief Matt Stewart accepting for Sgt. Austin Wood, Joplin (MO) PD

law enforcement special operations community over the past year. The NTOA is proud to have such accomplished and dedicated members who contribute to our field in so many ways, and we were gratified to be able to acknowledge and award some of these outstanding individuals.

Also recognized during the event for their contributions to the success of the conference were members of the Phoenix Police Department Special Assignments Unit and Arizona Tactical Officers Association.

We are excited to announce that next year's conference will take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Sept. 16-21, 2018. Watch our website for updates on the conference and online registration.

### Thank you to our co-hosts!



Co-host plaque presented to Lt. Jay Johnson of Phoenix PD



Arizona Tactical Officers Association

PRESENTED BY  
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WIN A TRIP TO  
**MONTANA**

RAFFLE WINNERS

**MONTANA TRIP RAFFLE WINNERS**

First Tactical and Point Blank Enterprises raffled off a three-day, three-night, all-expenses-paid (airfare included) trip to the First Tactical Lodge on the Big Horn River in Montana. Winners and their guests will enjoy dinner, lessons on a variety of topics, Custer's tour, shooting, sightseeing and meals while staying in a beautiful mountain paradise.

**WINNERS:**

**Adam Cannon – Douglasville (GA) PD**  
**Bobbie Pastecki – Loveland (CO) PD**  
**Scott Moffat – Allegheny County (PA) PD**  
**Molly Ryan**