



NTOA PRESENTS FIRST LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

The NTOA held its first-ever leadership symposium May 6 – 10, 2019, in Reno, Nevada. It was the ultimate destination for providing law enforcement professionals with leadership growth and networking opportunities. The Silver Legacy Resort Casino played host to over 100 attendees representing agencies from across the United States, as well as Canada.

The event featured eight of the NTOA's stand-alone courses in one location, all during the same week. This allowed attendees to choose from a variety of courses and depending on what courses they pre-registered for, they could attend several courses while only having the expense of one travel itinerary. Courses ranged from one to five days, and everything in between. Some attendees ended the week with four course certificates.

The symposium brought the NTOA's most sought-after leadership courses and the nation's best instructors to one place. Diversity in offerings was one of the key benefits for attendees. Courses focused on both patrol and SWAT operations. Several of the NTOA's most popular courses were offered, including Managing an Incident Command Post and Tactical Operations Center, SWAT Command Decision-Making

and Leadership I and II, SWAT Team Leader Development, SWAT After-Action Reporting, and more. Instructors were able to rotate through the various courses, providing a broader exposure for the attendees.

Executive Director Thor Eells and Director of Training Don Kester provided a warm NTOA welcome to all attendees. Details for the week and the networking reception on Monday evening were provided. The NTOA instructor cadre was introduced. After the goals and intentions for the week were set, it was clear the instructors were eager to bring value to everyone in attendance.

Starting the week was Supervising Patrol Critical Incidents. This course provides patrol supervisors with the information and tools necessary to manage critical incidents. Objectives covered included primary mistakes during a large-scale critical incident, legal realities, and crisis leadership. The supervisors and future supervisors in attendance walked away from this course with several tools added to their tool box.

The growing concern for law enforcement and the response to persons in crisis was covered as well. The Law Enforcement Response to Suicidal Subjects: Legal Realities and Options course is designed to educate police personnel on the legalities

and challenges faced when responding to suicidal subjects. Discussions included constitutional requirements, case laws, and some of the model programs from around the country.

One of greatest highlights of the symposium was the incident debriefs offered during the week. Chief Mike Zaro from Lakewood (WA) Police Department shared the first of many of these debriefs. These sessions provided attendees a tremendous amount of value and the opportunity to relate crucial learning points discussed during their classes. We would like to thank Chief Zaro and our instructor cadre for sharing the harrowing stories that have impacted their lives.

The ultimate goal of the NTOA is to improve public safety and domestic security through training, education and tactical excellence. This leadership symposium by far exceeded that goal. Thank you to all our presenters and attendees for making our first leadership symposium a success. Watch for announcements of similar events being offered in 2020!

Thank you to Sgt. Correy Harrison of El Paso County (TX) Sheriff's Office for contributing this article.

NTOA LEAD Week 2020
ntoa.org/leadweek
See page 11 for more info.