

NTOA COMMAND COLLEGE STUDENT PROFILE



DEPUTY JERROD OLSON
CODINGTON COUNTY (SD) SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Deputy Jerrod K. Olson is a 9-year veteran of law enforcement and currently serves with the Codington County (SD) Sheriff's Office and is an SRT team leader. He holds several instructor certifications related to his SRT duties and earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Minnesota State University.

Q: How do you envision the NTOA Command College benefiting you in your leadership role on your team?

A: Going through the NTOA Command College has enhanced my confidence in leading my team and providing me tools necessary to reach our goals. Being mission capable is the main goal but getting there is not necessarily easy. I utilize what I have learned from the NTOA Command College almost daily.

I can tell by just going through the Command College that our training appears to be flowing more smoothly. I feel I have gained significant structure from these courses that have allowed me to approach areas in our training with alternative ways of thinking to achieve better training results from our team. Team feedback appears to be more positive, as well. I have received compliments from upper management advising they could see positive changes since I have been going through the Command College.

Q: You have had an opportunity to serve in a number of assignments that involve training law enforcement officers. What qualities and skills do you think are most important for today's officers?

A: The quality and skill that I feel are most important for today's law enforcement would be adaptability. This applies both to in-field adaptation and adapting to law enforcement changes in general (case law, technology, tactical methodology, etc.). Things change all the time during real-life situations and being able to adapt and overcome problems involved with these changes is an invaluable skill-set to have.

Another quality I think that still holds with most people is determining if their job is a career or just a job. Those who believe that their job is just a job generally do not move within the job setting. Those coming in with the mindset of starting their career seem to have a better attitude; they explore the waters more and typically try to do the best they can at everything they do.

Q: As a senior leader within your organization, what role do you feel you play in identifying and mentoring the next generation of leaders?

A: I feel I reflect the adage of "lead by example." Putting in the extra effort and detail on calls or cases does not go unnoticed and those who are considered "new" often look

at senior employees for guidance. Those that seem to put in the extra time and effort tend to start getting into leadership roles whether they know it or not. If you can inspire people around you to do a good job, they will do a good job. Then years after doing good, detailed, honest work, they will inspire the next generation of potential leaders.

Q: What feedback would you give other NTOA members who are considering enrolling in the Command College?

A: I would tell them that the knowledge and education you would receive would be priceless, especially if you're new to any leadership role or management position. It opens your mind and gives you alternative perspectives on how to apply leadership. Many people are gifted with leadership qualities and the NTOA Command College can help home in on that.

The NTOA Command College is set up in a way that allows individuals to take their time to learn on the go. My life seems to be busy, whether I want it to be or not. With work (especially our line of work), family, and everything else, I can say that taking the classes online worked out well. I liked how they had everything planned out. When you get into the modules, you have enough information to answer most if not all questions that come up.

Q: As part of the Command College program, you are asked to select a Capstone Research Project. What topic will you choose and why?

A: I picked the topic that talks about the importance of information flow during an operation, especially when compressed. I feel that time and information flow are crucial when it comes to an operation because the information received will dictate your tactics that will be used. The information flow is significant when communicating with key players such as the SWAT commander and SWAT team leader. It is also essential to know that the information received could change. That is where being able to adapt is crucial. Knowing this allows you to plan for contingencies or play the "what if" variables in your tactical equation.



SET YOURSELF APART FROM OTHERS IN THE PROMOTIONAL PROCESS BY ENROLLING TODAY!

The NTOA Command College isn't just for aspiring leaders, it's also the perfect opportunity for experienced tactical team leaders and commanders to validate the leadership philosophies and tactical concepts that they may already know.

Through video lectures, quizzes, discussion forums and writing assignments, you'll be able to demonstrate your knowledge of tactical leadership skills. Seasoned leaders in this program often excel at the assigned tasks, as they have numerous experiences to draw from.

Find out today if the NTOA Command College is right for you! Visit ntoa.org/academy to learn more.