

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I want to thank all of you who attended the NTOA's 38th Annual Law Enforcement Operations Conference and Trade Show in Kansas City. It was a huge success and a privilege to welcome this group of committed professionals to our conference and inspiring to witness the camaraderie between participants. The excitement was palpable. Attendees came to work hard and learn, striving to grow in their profession. It was evident that the year pause re-energized everyone.

The trade show was outstanding this year, providing cutting-edge technologies, products and solutions. Our sponsors, along with over 185 exhibitors, made the exhibit hall a dynamic place to connect with other students and vendors. I can honestly say that this was one of the best shows ever.

As with previous conferences, none of this would have been possible without the support of local agencies. We thank our co-hosts, the Kansas City (MO) Police Department and the Heartland Tactical Officers Association, for their contributions and support in making this conference such a success. They were incredible to work with and definitely made a positive impression on everyone in attendance.

Last but not least, an enormous thank you to our staff and instructors who worked tirelessly for many months on every aspect of the conference. I am proud to be part of this amazing group. Please take the time to read our conference article beginning on page 18 of this issue. For those of you who were able to attend this year's conference, I hope to see you again next year in Milwaukee. If you were unable to make it this year, mark your calendar for 2022. I am confident it is going to be an outstanding event.

As we approach a new year, the NTOA's Tactical Response and Operations Standard (TROS) is undergoing review and being updated. This was originally scheduled to begin in 2020 but was paused due to the pandemic. A diverse panel is being established to examine and consider recommended changes to the standards. My hope is that you will take the time to review the TROS and contribute suggestions. I can attest that each and every proposal is vetted and seriously considered for inclusion in the revised standard. As promised, the TROS continues to be a living document. We remain committed to adapting and improving the standards to best serve the tactical community and ensure the highest levels of professionalism in law enforcement.

In addition to the TROS assisting with our quest for high standards for our teams, individual certifications remain an important part of the NTOA. The NTOA Academy Command College continues to grow in numbers each month as members enter into a challenging certification process. We now have an international student involved as well. This only serves to increase the diversity of perspective within the group and the opportunity to learn from one another. The Command College continues to focus on SWAT team commanders and team leaders. We have worked hard through the pandemic to modify the courses for availability online. We are looking to increase access to this critical training while maintaining our high standards. Please consider taking advantage of this opportunity.

Thank you all again for your support and continued dedication to public safety. Be safe and God speed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thor Eells". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Thor Eells  
Executive Director