

NTOA COMMAND COLLEGE STUDENT PROFILE



CHIEF INSPECTOR DON SNIDER UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE CAPITAL AREA REGIONAL FUGITIVE TASK FORCE

Chief Inspector Don Snider serves as commander of the United States Marshals Service's Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF). He leads a multi-agency task force comprised of more than 200 full-time federal, state, and local law enforcement officers dedicated to investigating and apprehending violent fugitives within the National Capital Region. He previously served in various roles within the Marshals Service, including task force coordinator, tactical medic, supervisory deputy U.S. marshal, chief of Gang Enforcement, and deputy commander. Chief Inspector Snider is a U.S. Army veteran, and a graduate of Illinois State University, the Texas Tactical Police Officer's Association Basic SWAT program, and the Department of Justice's Leadership Excellence and Achievement Program.

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: Mentoring the next generation of leadership is critical to the long-term success of any organization. Within my organization, and in my personal life, I place a very high priority on developing leaders. I actively pursue opportunities to mentor others by serving as an adjunct instructor to our Training Division's Leadership Development Branch and Control Tactics Program.

I have been blessed with a very rewarding career that has taken me to some interesting places and provided me with some great experiences. I am always willing to share my successes and failures with those seeking personal and professional mentorship.

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

A: I would strongly encourage NTOA members looking to develop their leadership skillset to seek out the Command College. The curriculum is based on sound leadership principles, and the material is presented professionally. There is a time commitment, and much of the course is self-led, so make sure you have a few hours a week that you can dedicate to your leadership journey.

Q: You have had an opportunity to serve in both the military and civilian law enforcement and work for a variety of leaders. What consistent qualities do you see in good leaders?

A: I have had the pleasure and opportunity to serve with some exceptional leaders in my 24 years of military and law enforcement service. Three consistent qualities that I believe are common across great leaders are a people-first focus, strength in positive communication, and the ability to build coalitions. As a young infantryman serving in the U.S. Army, I learned about the value of people-centric leadership. Leaders who prioritize people will create units comprised of personnel who will relentlessly pursue great accomplishments. Good leaders will always place their people before themselves.

I have also observed that leaders with strong communication skills bring tremendous value to organizations. Leaders who can translate intent accurately into orders, write with clarity and conciseness, and deliver briefings in a professional and captivating manner will hold the attention of the audience.

Strong partnerships are so important in today's complex law enforcement environment. Leaders with the ability to build and maintain strong coalitions will likely be successful within their organizations and in the communities they serve. The NTOA Command College curriculum discusses these leadership qualities and several others exceptionally well.