

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The NTOA dedicates this issue of *The Tactical Edge* to Charles “Sid” Heal. Many of you may have had the fortunate opportunity to spend time with Sid and to learn from his extensive knowledge and experience. Sid truly was one of the very best in our noble profession. He was one of the brightest tacticians and a real visionary.

I got to know Sid well and I learned from him every time we had the opportunity to interact. He dedicated himself to teaching and serving those in the tactical community. Sid gave so much to both the NTOA and law enforcement, that we felt it right to pay tribute to his contributions and everlasting legacy. NTOA Director Emeritus Phil Hansen has penned a moving article recognizing Sid and his accomplishments, which appears on page 20 of this issue. Please take the time to read it and reflect on one of the true legends in law enforcement.

While we have recognized Sid with this dedication, we are working even harder to honor his legacy through our work to improve the profession. Currently, we are focused on two significant projects which we believe will assist those actively working to achieve improvement and/or validation. The first of these projects is our Tactical Response Operations Standards (TROS,) which is undergoing its most recent update. As many of you will recall, when the NTOA undertook this responsibility years ago, we committed to creating a living document that would undergo review every few years. We wanted to ensure that the standards remain current and helpful in guiding teams toward true functionality and capability. The update is a three-step process. The first part consisted of a solicitation period in which input and comments were received from the tactical community. The second part of the process consists of a large group of subject-matter experts reviewing and considering the input that was received. Additionally, this group is reviewing,

updating and creating new material for the standards. Finally, a second group of subject-matter experts will review the work that has been completed for accuracy and relevancy. I can attest that this committee has been thorough in its efforts. Our goal is to have this latest iteration completed in early 2023. I am confident that it will be prescriptive and resourceful.

While the TROS Committee has been working, a separate group of incredible subject-matter experts has been focused on creating the first Public Order Standards. This group is made up of law enforcement personnel from across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Austria and Germany. Our goal is to provide a resource and standard to assist the law enforcement profession in managing many of the current challenges of both spontaneous and planned public gatherings that require police resources. These standards will establish minimum capabilities, safety equipment and training. The goal is to assist law enforcement agencies in safely operating in a public order environment, while also protecting the civil liberties afforded by contemporary law to those present. Currently, there are no standards available to law enforcement to assist in this endeavor. Additionally, the NTOA is in the process of completing new public order training programs to help agencies achieve the standards that are being prescribed.

Both of these projects have taken an enormous amount of time and effort. And to be honest, none of this would have been possible without the sacrifice and dedication of so many subject-matter experts who have graciously volunteered their time. I thank them for their selfless service and dedication. We are grateful! Please keep an eye out for both of the standards.

As always, please do not hesitate to let us know how the NTOA may serve you. Thank you again for your service.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thor Eells".

Thor Eells
Executive Director