

NTOA COMMAND COLLEGE STUDENT PROFILE



OFFICER MICHELE GIOVANNINI CARABINIERI CORPS

Officer Michele Giovannini joined the Carabinieri Corps (a federal law enforcement agency in Italy with military status) in 2001, attending the Warrant Officers school. He worked as a team leader and supervisor in mobile crowd control, community police, patrol and in the CoESPU (Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units) as a trainer. Giovannini is assigned as a team leader in a full-time SWAT team. He has a degree in criminology.

Q: As an international student, what are some of the advantages of participating in the NTOA Command College?

A: The NTOA Command College gives opportunities at 360 degrees to an international student. Having access to decades of SWAT experience and thousands of calls offers a very wide set of tools to foreigners.

American SWAT teams were the pioneers in tactical policing and went through a lot of lessons learned that could be exploited by officers from other nations to improve or modify their own procedures. The opportunity to follow the majority of the lessons online is also a helpful tool for us, allowing international students to learn without traveling for long periods, spending a huge amount of money for flights, food and accommodations. The same concept applies to the NTOA conferences.

Q: How do you think the leadership lessons in the Command College will improve your interactions with other Italian law enforcement commanders in your region?

A: Italy is a “multi-agency” country, where four state police forces (Carabinieri, state police, financial police and corrections) work together beside all the local municipal agencies. Very often LEOs are also called to cooperate with fire and EMS. College lessons about leadership, management and several guidelines learned during the team leader course could certainly help working in a multi-agency context, especially during the establishment of a unified command.

Q: What do you see as your greatest challenge in the Command College as an international student?

A: For sure, the language is the biggest challenge. I studied English at school and I practiced it during my deployments and international experiences, but it is not my first language and it's always challenging to follow a course held in another tongue.

The second issue is to understand structures, rules, procedures, legal systems, habits and many other aspects of U.S. law enforcement that are completely different

from what I am used to dealing with. For example, at the beginning I had to check the difference between a county sheriff's office and a police department in order to understand some aspects of the U.S. law enforcement system.

The Italian one is totally different, so, other than following all the lectures in a foreign language, I had to strive and spend additional time to fully understand the context and the basis behind the lessons. Attending previous NTOA courses gave me great support to win this second challenge and I am grateful that I joined them before I enrolled in the academy.

Q: What are one or two things you would like to communicate to other international students about the Command College?

A: I invite them to join with a willingness to learn and to have their minds as open as possible. NTOA Command College is a great opportunity to grow and share experiences and skills with officers from other countries. I also suggest joining an NTOA online course before the Academy, in order to test their skills and to see if they feel comfortable with this kind of learning.

Q: What impact do you think the Command College will have upon you?

A: The Command College is already giving me new keys to read different situations and scenarios, new points of view and many new tools to face problems. It is also showing me some "other side of the coin" in topics that I never deeply analyzed, helping me to think out of the box and open my views.

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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.

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