

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



As you read this edition of *The Tactical Edge*, we have successfully completed our 40th Annual NTOA Law Enforcement Conference in Aurora, Colorado. The positive feedback has been great to hear, and it's undoubtedly a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff and instructors. A special thank you to the Rocky Mountain Tactical Team Association and the Aurora Police Department SWAT Team for their exceptional assistance.

The incident debriefs and presentations were extremely well received, and we are grateful to our presenters who made them possible. These presentations were invaluable in sharing lessons learned and promoting knowledge exchange. I especially want to thank our friends from Tunisia for making the long trip to share their experiences in the March 2015 attack on the Bardo National Museum and the March 2016 attempt by ISIS to take over the city of Ben Guerdane. They provided unique insight into challenges we all face, no matter the country.

As in past years, the conference provided a valuable opportunity for attendees to learn and connect with their peers and leaders in the law enforcement community. Every year we work hard to ensure that you have a positive experience and leave with a feeling that you benefitted from your attendance. Please take the time to read our conference article beginning on page 16 of this issue.

For those of you who attended the conference, this will serve as a reminder of all that you've learned. If you didn't attend, then this next part hopefully will serve as a challenge. Creating a culture of excellence within the law enforcement/tactical community is crucial — today more than ever. Training and continuous improvement play a vital role in maintaining high standards and ensuring that we in law enforcement are well-prepared for the challenges and critical incidents that present themselves. Whether a formal or informal leader, each of us is responsible for working toward this goal.

As you move forward, the commitment to this effort is essential. By continually striving for excellence and fostering a culture of learning and improvement, you contribute to the growth and effectiveness of your team and agency. We all are winners in this endeavor. I wish you all the best in your efforts!

Next year's conference moves to Kansas City, Missouri, and we already are planning for the opportunity. We are confident that it will be another successful and productive conference.

Stay safe, and I hope to see you all at a future conference or training event.

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

Thor Eells  
Executive Director