



2023

SCOTTSDALE, AZ

NTOA'S 2023 CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS CONFERENCE

The NTOA's 2023 Crisis Negotiations Conference was held in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel Paradise Valley-Scottsdale on Nov. 13-16. Nearly 600 attendees representing 232 agencies from 49 states and four countries came to sharpen their skills through various courses and debriefs throughout the week. They took advantage of our outstanding trade show held over several days of the conference.

An opening ceremony kicked off the conference, with NTOA Executive Director Thor Eells serving as emcee. The Honor Guard from the Scottsdale Police Department presented the colors, and Rabbi Robert Kravitz, a volunteer police chaplain, delivered the invocation. The Scottsdale Police Department was recognized for co-hosting this year's conference and providing support throughout the event. Chief Freeman Carney of the Paradise Valley Police Department welcomed attendees. Eells also thanked Point Blank Enterprises, Savage Training Group, Crisis Systems Management, Vertx and Brinc Drones for sponsoring the conference.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Rob Weinhold, founder of the Fallston Group. During his public service career, Rob most notably served in a sworn capacity for the Baltimore Police Department and was promoted through the ranks to public affairs director. He also served as chief of staff for the United States Department of Justice and as a senior executive within Maryland's governor's office. While in these roles, Rob also served as chief strategist and spokesperson for the entities he represented;

52 TRAINING HOURS



600 ATTENDEES
FROM 49 STATES,
FOUR COUNTRIES
AND 232 AGENCIES
WERE REPRESENTED



19 COURSES & DEBRIEFS



Chief Freeman Carney
Paradise Valley PD



Rob Weinhold



Officer Ben Wetzel with Phoenix Police Department



he has conducted thousands of media interviews and is considered an expert in crisis leadership. Rob's messages about leadership and culture were very informative and spot-on. His background and experiences allowed him to relate his messages to the audience in an effective manner.

The NTOA's Negotiations Award was presented to Officer Benjamin Wetzel of the Phoenix (AZ) Police Department for his selfless dedication to the service of others and his significant contribution to the field of crisis negotiation. Becoming a negotiator in 2000, Ben has a long history of negotiations and instructing and has done much for the negotiations community. It would be hard to find a more deserving person for this award. (See photo)

Our popular Welcome Reception was held Monday evening at Paradise Park. Conference attendees, vendors and instructors enjoyed a relaxing evening dinner, beverages, games and football to kick off a week of education and networking.

Over 50 hours of training and education through 19 presentations were provided during the week. Several case studies occurred, including several incidents involving hostages. The studies were from throughout the country and were very unique.

Seminars included topics such as team leadership dynamics, response to non-criminal barricaded subjects, training management, rural and roadside negotiations, team building, and many more. Our conferences always include seminars on officer wellness and resiliency, and 2023 was no exception. One unique seminar that received extra mention was Results-oriented Negotiations and Neurobiology. This presentation by Dr. Mitch Javidi was one of the week's highlights, as it focused on the impacts of stress on negotiations, including the officer. Opt Health provided a seminar on first responder health optimization, providing interesting medical insight into law enforcement's health challenges. These examples only highlight some of the outstanding seminar courses offered during the conference.

This year's Crisis Negotiation Conference will be held Oct. 28-31 at the Gila River Resort & Casino - Wild Horse Pass in Chandler, AZ. The conference will include programs and events above and beyond the usual schedule. We look forward to seeing you there, where we will continue providing you with first-class negotiation training. Watch our website for the agenda and online registration information.



2023 RECIPIENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AWARD

Officer Benjamin "Ben" Wetzel
Phoenix (AZ) Police Department

The Negotiations Award is presented to the person(s) who significantly contributed to the crisis negotiations field by exemplifying in a real-life situation the skills and techniques needed to defuse a critical incident; by instructing nationally recognized negotiation concepts; or by advancing the negotiations/tactical team concept.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2024 NEGOTIATIONS AWARD

The NTOA is accepting nominations for the 2024 Negotiations Award, which will be presented at the annual CNT conference in Chandler, Arizona, on Oct. 28-31, 2024.

The nomination deadline is Sept. 1, 2024

Please submit your nominations online at ntoa.org/about/awards

SAVE *the* DATE

**2024 Crisis Negotiations Conference
Chandler, AZ - Oct. 28-31, 2024**

GILA RIVER RESORT & CASINO – WILD HORSE PASS



2024

**CRISIS
NEGOTIATIONS
CONFERENCE**

**OCTOBER 28-31, 2024
CHANDLER, AZ**



**GILA RIVER RESORTS & CASINOS
WILD HORSE PASS**