

STUDENT PROFILE



CAPT. DELBERT MYRICK
SPOTSYLVANIA (VA) SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Delbert Myrick began his law enforcement career in 2002 with the Arlington (VA) Police Department. He currently serves with the Spotsylvania (VA) Sheriff's Office as the captain of special operations, where he supervises 13 different specialties. He is a certified general instructor, firearms instructor, active attack instructor and K9 master trainer. Myrick also is an adjunct instructor with ALERRT, Texas State University, where he teaches active attack training nationally. He currently serves as vice president of the Virginia Police Canine Association. Myrick earned his bachelor's degree in biology from George Mason University and is in his last semester at Liberty University where he will obtain his master's degree in criminal justice leadership.

Q: How do you envision the NTOA Command College benefiting you in your leadership role on your team?

A: My preconceived notion of the NTOA Command College was it was solely for tactical officers. The information received applies to tactical operations but also significantly applies to everyday patrol operations. Risk mitigation and operational planning were vital components of the NTOA Command College. Both risk mitigation and operational planning should be used for calls of service where a propensity for violence is high to include warrant services for patrol officers. Understanding these key aspects will vastly improve my critical thinking and planning for patrol operations to enhance officer safety and reduce liability.

Q: You currently serve as team commander with your agency's SWAT team. How do you envision the NTOA Command College benefiting you in that role?

A: As the SWAT team commander, the NTOA Command College presented vast information and knowledge applicable to my role. The most significant ability gained from the NTOA Command College is the ability to articulate the steps taken to reduce the risk to the citizens, operators and suspects. Articulating these steps will alleviate liability on the agency and operators and place the burden on the suspects for their actions after different de-escalation techniques were utilized by law enforcement. Additionally, a threat assessment will be used to determine the best tools and tactics to effectuate the operational goal of reducing liability. Law enforcement has endured significant scrutiny over the last few years, and the NTOA Command College provided critical tools to correctly address learning lessons from the past.

Q: You have had the opportunity to serve in several assignments that involve training law enforcement officers. What qualities and skills do you think are most important for today's officers?

A: As a training officer, I see generational differences among new officers, but there are also commonalities. Today's successful officers possess many vital qualities, including integrity, honesty, effective communication, compassion, ethical behavior and intelligence.

Q: What qualities and skills do you think are most important for today's leaders?

A: An abundance of leadership books and articles dominate the internet or bookstores. The old adage that leaders are born is now taking on the perspective that leaders are made. Leadership is not only garnered through education but also through practical application. Narrowing the list of qualities to a few is a difficult task. I believe leaders must be honest, humble, servant, effective communicators, ethical, compassionate, competent, a reader, a teacher and convictional in their beliefs. These are a few qualities effective leaders must possess to gain their peers' and subordinates' trust and respect.

Q: How have the lessons in the Command College improved your interaction with other tactical teams and leaders in your area?

A: The NTOA Command College has enhanced communication and interaction with other tactical teams by encouraging joint training and highlighting each team's strengths and weaknesses. These identified strengths and weaknesses allow for greater integration and augmentation during tactical operations.

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: The most significant message I could relay to the next generation of leaders is to be learners. Read and train to better serve your subordinates. Knowledge is power, and sharing knowledge is vital in training future leaders. Succession planning is critical; people often withhold information for fear they will no longer be valuable. Instead, we must share our knowledge so we create more innovative and competent operators and leaders. Creating a culture of information sharing will build a brighter and more substantive future for the tactical team and organization.

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

A: I encourage other NTOA members to enroll in the NTOA Command College. The knowledge gained will make them better leaders, operators and people. Many of the concepts learned are applicable to professional and personal aspects of our lives. The NTOA Command College will transform thinking processes to enhance critical thinking and decision-making, areas where leaders are most frequently criticized.

Q: You've already graduated from Module I and Module II of the Command College and are nearly completed with Module III. Do you feel the coursework is still relevant to your assignment on SRT?

A: The information gathered in all three modules is highly relevant to my current assignment. I foresee reviewing the literature from each module frequently to reinforce my retention of the information and reaffirm my commitment to being the best leader for my subordinates.

Q: As the first Command College graduate at your agency, do you have any comments about your experience in the College and how it may help you in your career?

A: As the first NTOA Command College graduate on my team and agency, the knowledge gained will continue to serve me and the agency at all levels as I progress through my career. The NTOA Command College's profound impact on me personally and professionally has made me a better person and team commander. Based on my experience and the priceless value the NTOA Command College possesses, I have placed into the budget for our tactical team for team leadership to attend the NTOA Command College. Currently, I have one team leader enrolled in Module 1, with others to follow. Budgeting for others to attend the NTOA Command College is another way to invest in them and the team's future.



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