

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the National Tactical Officers Association, I hope that you were able to spend quality time with family and friends over an enjoyable and peaceful holiday season.

As you read this current issue, however, we are reminded of the unyielding challenges we face — both man-made and natural. The incidents we read about serve as a sobering reminder that we must always remain vigilant and prepared. Training, as we know, remains a cornerstone of preparedness, and we must continue to evolve, adapt and strengthen every aspect of our response capabilities.

The NTOA is committed to advancing training in the new year. Our MIRACLE (Mental Illness Response Alternative Center for Law Enforcement) program will see significant growth, offering new courses and resources to better equip our members. Additionally, we will be expanding our training curriculum, introducing new classes and incorporating innovative technologies to support our ongoing mission.

As we kick off 2025, we're excited to announce two major training events on the horizon. Join us for the **Public Order Symposium** in Dallas, TX, on April 7-9, and **LEAD Week** in Nashville, TN, on May 19-23. These exceptional opportunities are designed to enhance your skills, knowledge and tactical expertise. Visit our website for more details and to secure your spot.

Looking ahead, let us recommit ourselves to being the best prepared we can be, especially after the troubling rise in law enforcement officer fatalities in 2024. Officer deaths increased 25% last year, with gunfire being the leading cause. These numbers are a stark reminder of the risks we face and work still to be done. Let's set a collective goal to reduce these statistics by prioritizing officer safety, enhancing our training and fortifying our communities.

We encourage you to continue sharing your needs, ideas and feedback with us. Together, we can make meaningful progress and continue to elevate our training, preparedness and professionalism to the highest levels.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication, service and commitment to excellence. Here's to a safe, productive and impactful 2025. **Stay vigilant. Stay prepared. Stay safe.**

Godspeed.

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

Thor Eells  
Executive Director