

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I hope this edition of *The Tactical Edge* finds you well and enjoying a safe and productive summer. If the current state of national discourse is any indication, the challenges facing law enforcement continue to escalate at an alarming pace. Violent assaults on police officers that once shocked the public conscience are now met with indifference, or worse, encouragement by segments of the media and public. This erosion of civility and disregard for the rule of law is deeply troubling.

Like many of you, my initial reaction is frustration and anger. But upon reflection, it becomes clear that now, more than ever, we must rise above the fray. We must remain politically aware, yet apolitical. Our profession demands objectivity, fairness and unwavering integrity as we fulfill our duty to the communities we serve.

We chose this profession knowing it would require selflessness, resilience and a steadfast commitment to justice. Each of you bears witness to the extremes of human behavior daily — so much so that it becomes part of your norm. In the face of mounting pressure, I urge you to redouble your commitment to professionalism and discipline. Let us continue to take the high road, even in the most trying circumstances, and strive for continual self-improvement. When we grow as individuals, we elevate the profession.

We also recognize that professional development and training often come with financial barriers. That is why the NTOA continues to partner with leading law enforcement organizations and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) to offer meaningful training opportunities at no cost.

Through the Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC), agencies can request customized training on a wide variety of critical topics, including active shooter response, mass casualty incidents, rescue task force operations, public order management, and officer safety and wellness. What sets CRI-TAC apart is its simplicity — no grant administrators or complex applications. A single request and follow-up conversation are all that's needed. CRI-TAC staff manage the paperwork, making access to no-cost, high-quality training remarkably efficient. I encourage you to explore this opportunity — details and a link to CRI-TAC can be found on the NTOA's homepage.

Finally, I invite you to attend either our upcoming Law Enforcement Operations Conference and Trade Show, taking place August 24-29 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in Washington, D.C., or our Crisis Negotiations Conference in Chandler, Arizona, on October 27-30. Both events will feature exceptional training opportunities, with the LE Ops conference offering the added benefit of experiencing our nation's capital and its historic landmarks. The Crisis Negotiations Conference will host its second annual Crisis Negotiation Challenge, following the highly successful debut of the event last year. I hope to see you at one of the conferences!

Stay safe, stay focused and stay committed to the mission.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thor Eells'.

Thor Eells
Executive Director