

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I want to begin by thanking all those who made our Law Enforcement Operations Conference at the Gaylord National Resort in Washington, D.C., a tremendous success. The event was well attended and featured a wide variety of topics delivered by outstanding instructors. I am confident that every attendee left better prepared to meet the daily demands and responsibilities of our profession.

As I write this message, NTOA staff is hard at work preparing for our Crisis Negotiations Conference in Chandler, Arizona. This year's conference is shaping up to be another outstanding event, with more than 650 attendees from across the United States and several other countries. We have assembled an exceptional lineup of instructors who will cover a broad spectrum of critical topics. The growth of this conference over the past five years speaks volumes about the importance of crisis negotiations in today's law enforcement environment. It serves as a clear reminder of the high demand for highly specialized knowledge and training in this discipline.

This year's conference will also feature the second annual National Negotiator's Challenge. This competition offers teams the opportunity to demonstrate the unique skills and talents essential for their vital role in crisis management.

Speaking of the importance of crisis negotiations, I would like to bring to your attention this edition's cover article, "BASE: Building a Stronger Foundation for Crisis Negotiators," by Pat Doering, featured on page 56 of this issue. The article offers valuable insights into the specialty of crisis negotiations and why it has become an essential component of effective crisis response.

The environment in which we operate remains both kinetic and unpredictable. This reality underscores the need for us to remain vigilant, focused and always prepared. Through our conferences, training opportunities and the sharing of best practices, the NTOA remains steadfast in its commitment to providing you with the tools necessary to meet these challenges with professionalism and excellence.

Stay safe, stay sharp and thank you for your continued dedication to our noble profession.

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

Thor Eells
Executive Director