

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I hope this edition of *The Tactical Edge* finds you well and enjoying the start of a new year. I also hope the holidays provided time to relax, recharge and spend meaningful moments with family and friends.

As we enter another year, it is common to set new goals — both personally and professionally. I would like to suggest a shared goal for all of us: to take advantage of this “good time” to thoughtfully assess where we stand as professionals and as teams. This includes considering new and emerging threats, evaluating our current capabilities, identifying training gaps and making a deliberate effort to improve.

Our desired end state should be one in which we are not surprised at a “bad time,” when an incident occurs, and are not forced into a purely reactive posture. By leveraging our collective experience and imagination, we should be able to anticipate most of the challenges we may face. Preparation is not optional; it is essential.

The time invested now in planning, training and honest self-assessment will save precious seconds when they matter most during a critical incident. Taking these steps individually and as teams will better position us to respond decisively and effectively, ultimately supporting us as we continue the important work of protecting our communities.

To support your goals in 2026, we are excited to share several significant training opportunities on the horizon. We invite you to join us for our virtual Public Order Symposium on May 12–13, featuring leading public order experts from around the world in a two-day online event designed specifically for law enforcement professionals engaged in public order operations. In addition, we are actively planning our annual Law Enforcement Operations Conference & Trade Show, as well as our Crisis Negotiations Conference and Negotiator’s Challenge. These premier events reflect our ongoing commitment to providing relevant, experience-driven training that aligns with the realities of today’s operational environment. Visit our website for additional details and to secure your place. Each of these events, along with our diverse offerings of individual classes, provides meaningful opportunities for professional growth.

Thank you for your continued professionalism, commitment and dedication. I look forward to another year of growth, learning and shared purpose.

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

Thor Eells
Executive Director