

## WESTERN STATES HOSTAGE NEGOTIATORS' ASSOCIATION

**2019 Featured Presenters  
April 7, 2019 - April 10, 2019**



### **Larry Gordon - Dallas Police Department**

Larry Gordon began his law enforcement career with the Dallas Police Department in March, 1995. In June, 1997 he was selected to join the Dallas Police Department's Specialized Crime Unit. Larry has also worked undercover operations for the FBI. In November, 2001 Larry was assigned undercover for the Narcotics Division. Larry has also served with the ATF Taskforce that targeted violent drug suspects. In 2004, Larry transferred to the Dallas Police Department SWAT where he is currently assigned as a Hostage/Crisis Negotiator. He has successfully negotiated peaceful resolutions to countless barricaded and suicidal subjects. Larry was the Lead Negotiator during the attack on Dallas Police HQ. Larry earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of North Texas and is certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) as an Instructor. In addition to the instructor certification, Larry is also experienced in many other police disciplines and teaches in the United States, Africa and Brazil.

### **Synopsis of Presentation**

July 7, 2016, tensions were high again across the country after police shot two black men, Philando Castile and Alton Sterling. Both incidents are captured in widely circulated videos. A day of protest led to a 25-year old Army veteran, Micah Johnson, taking action. Wearing a steel-plated bulletproof vest and holding an AK 74 semiautomatic rifle, Johnson shot twelve Officers, five fatally. Dallas SWAT cornered the suspect and a four hour negotiation ensued. This presentation outlines how Officer Gordon, as Lead Negotiator, was able to contain the suspect, leading to a resolution.

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### **'Gus'**



LA Ghassan (Gus) Hajjar joined the FBI in 2003, after a professional career with Boeing and Agilent Technologies as a Financial Analyst. Gus grew up in East Beirut, Lebanon during the height of the civil war; an experience that enabled him to skillfully interview and consult on numerous FBI and other Law Enforcement agency investigations. Gus served eight tours in Iraq Functions, from interviewing high-value detainees, to assisting in hostage and criminal investigations. His efforts identified persons of international connections who posed a threat to the U.S. Gus is a certified Interviewing and Interrogations instructor, LAST 2.0 Instructor, and served as a Threat Identification and Mitigation instructor. On the home front, LA Hajjar has been involved, in many high-profile terrorism cases, including the Sami Al-Hussayen case in Boise, Fort Dix Six, in Cherry Hill NJ, Musa Muhammad Salah, Mosa Abut Marzook, and Al Ashqar, in Chicago, Joseph Brice in Spokane WA, and the Hammadi and 'Alwan case in Bowling Green, KY. LA Hajjar is fluent in four languages and has a MBA in Finance.

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## Synopsis of Presentation

'Gus' will present attendees a unique inside look of the culture and ideologies of extreme terrorism and how to properly identify and negotiate with them.

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### **Casey Jackson - Institute for Individual & Organizational Change**

Casey Jackson is the founder and the director of the Institute for Individual & Organizational Change (IFIOC) and is the lead author of the Motivational Interviewing Competency Assessment (MICA). He has been training on Motivational Interviewing since 2002 and is a member of the international Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT). He is internationally recognized for his trainings on effective communications has provided over 3000 trainings to individual agencies, corporations, and government organizations including healthcare, mental health, chemical dependency, law enforcement, juvenile justice, corrections, drug courts, and law enforcement. Mr. Jackson partnered with Frontier Behavioral Health and the Spokane Police Department to develop an Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (E-CIT). E-CIT training adds an additional 40 hours of Motivational Interviewing training onto the existing Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, and has demonstrated significant improvements in department outcomes.

## Synopsis of Presentation

**Motivational Interviewing: Evidence-Based Communication that Reduces Resistance and Improves Outcomes**

There are few eras in history where law enforcement behavior is under the current level of public scrutiny. There is a palpable tension between the support and criticism of law enforcement. With the prevalence of body cams and smart phones, every behavior of an officer is on display, and every response from leadership is analyzed. Methodical and measured communication is an equalizing solution, not only between an officer and a civilian, but also between administration and officers, as well as administration and communities. Good intentions and best efforts are not consistently producing the same results as Evidence-Based Practices.

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is an Evidence-Based method of communication developed in the addiction field and is now used widely in behavioral health, healthcare, corrections, and law enforcement. This course focuses on specific assessment and communication strategies that minimize or eliminate resistance and effectively resolve ambivalence towards productive resolution. Officers who become measurably “competent” in Motivational Interviewing have seen a notable reduction in use of force and improved outcomes with difficult calls. This presentation will focus on the physics of behavior change and how to apply a specific method of communication by assessing and responding to specific language cues.

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### **Dave Shackleton - Mount Vernon Police Department**

Sgt. Shackleton has been with the Mount Vernon Police Department for 21-years. He has served in the Patrol Division, Crime Prevention, School Resource Officer, and as a Detective. In 2016 he was the lead investigator for the Cascade Mall Mass Shooting. He now serves as a Patrol Sergeant. He has been a Crisis Negotiator for 10-years and the Team Leader for past 7-years.

## **Synopsis of Presentation**

In December, 2016, while investigating a shooting, Mount Vernon PD officers attempted contact at a residence in the area. As officers were attempting contact, shots came from inside the house, striking one officer in the head. Shortly after, the suspect called 911 saying he had hostages, a bomb, and that he had texted the Mayor. Officers eventually learned that the suspect was a potential 'third-strike' convicted felon looking at the possibility of life in prison. The negotiating team found itself negotiating with someone with little incentive to surrender. Add to that having the mayor 'on scene', outside media influences, & team transition.

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