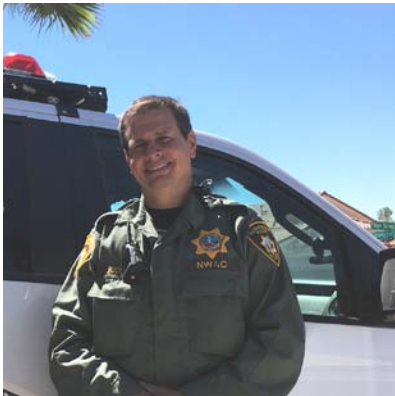


WESTERN STATES HOSTAGE NEGOTIATORS' ASSOCIATION

2020 Featured Presenters
April 20, 2020 - April 22, 2022



Officer John Woosnam - Las Vegas Metro Police Department

Officer John Woosnam is a 25-year police veteran. He began his career in law enforcement in 1994 as a patrolman with the Upper Moreland Township Police Department in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, where he served for five years. He joined the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department in 1999. John was assigned to LVMPD's Organized Crime Bureau, Criminal Intelligence Section in 2002, investigating the criminal activities of outlaw motorcycle gangs. In 2016, he was one of the first six detectives hand-picked for the Department's newly formed Central Intelligence Unit, supporting valley-wide anti-violent crime efforts. In 2017, John transferred to Metro's Northwest Area Command where he served as the Area Command Intelligence Officer and a member of the Flex Team, a plain clothes squad, responsible for proactive patrol, narcotics buys and criminal investigation. John is currently assigned to the Mt. Charleston Resident Officer Detail, providing police services throughout 2200 square miles of rural Clark County. In addition to his principle duty as a Resident Officer, John is an assistant team leader on LVMPD's Crisis Negotiation Team and has been on the team for 11-years.

Officer Woosnam holds a Master's degree in crisis and emergency management from University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Lock Down On The Las Vegas Strip

On March 25, 2017, a mentally ill individual boarded a regional transportation bus near the Cosmopolitan Hotel and Casino on the Las Vegas Strip. The suspect shot 2 people, killing one of them. He then remained barricaded on the double-decker bus for several hours as the SWAT and CNT Team worked to resolve the situation. This incident was extremely challenging given the amount of tourists in the immediate area and the casino's being cleared out and shut down. After speaking with crisis negotiators for some time, the suspect surrendered to police. This presentation includes actual video and audio from the incident.

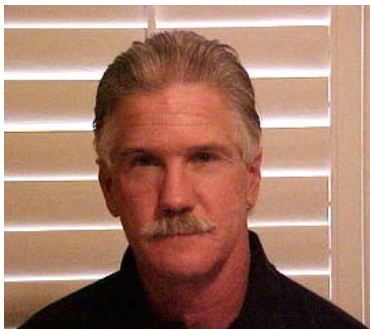


National Alliance on Mental Illness

In Our Own Voice (IOOV) presentations change attitudes, assumptions and stereotypes by describing the reality of living with mental illness. People with mental health conditions share their powerful personal stories.

This presentation adds a critical perspective to the popular understanding of what people with mental illness are like. Following the IOOV presentation we will have a group of family members speak to

their experience dealing with their loved one with mental illness and Law Enforcement. Both presentations have ample time for questions and discussion. IOOV will give you a first-hand account of what it's like to live with a mental illness. Presenters humanize this misunderstood topic by demonstrating that it's possible, and common, to live well with mental illness. A chance to ask the presenters questions, which allows for a deeper understanding of mental health conditions and dispel stereotypes and misconceptions. The understanding that every person with a mental illness can hope for a bright future.



Robert Ragsdale - Phoenix Police Department - Retired

Bob Ragsdale is a retired Phoenix Police Department negotiator. He began his career as a negotiator in 1988 while assigned to the department's full-time tactical team, the Special Assignments Unit. He has taught hostage/crisis negotiations around the country and been a speaker at state, regional and national conferences. He remains active in the field of hostage/crisis negotiations today.

Lewis Prison Hostage Incident and Siege

It began on January 18, 2004 with a failed escape attempt that resulted in two armed inmates holding two correction officers hostage in a multi-level prison yard tower that was designed to keep people out. The incident went on for 15 days, the longest incident of its kind in U.S. corrections history. A team of 30 negotiators, from multiple agencies, descended on the prison to help resolve the incident. This presentation is told from the perspective of negotiators, many of whom never thought they would ever be negotiating at a prison. It follows the ups and downs of the negotiation process that ultimately brought about the release of the two hostages, the surrender of the two inmates, and a peaceful resolution. More than 16 years will have passed by the time this is presented at the conference and there are many new negotiators who may have heard this account, but need to hear.



Jan Dubina - Phoenix Police Department - Retired

Jan Dubina served 30-years with the Phoenix Police Department and spent 25-years with the full-time Special Assignments Unit (SAU). During her tenure with the unit, Jan was a full-time negotiator, team lead and training officer. Jan continues to remain active in the field of hostage/crisis negotiations, teaching and presenting at state, national and regional negotiation conferences.

Courtroom Testimony for Crisis Negotiators

Jan will discuss and review challenging courtroom and legal considerations for negotiators.

Joe Campagna - San Jose Police Department



Joe Campagna has been in the law enforcement field for over 26 years. The first three years of his career with the Santa Clara County Department of Corrections. Joe joined the San Jose Police Department in 1995 and has worked in a variety of assignments. Joe has been a member of the SJPD Tactical Negotiations Unit since 2003. Joe also served four years with the FBI on the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Seven Hour Hostage-Barricade

This incident started due to a couple going through a divorce. The wife and her three children moved out of the family home. The husband went to her new residence and attempted to gain entry by forcing himself into the residence. As the wife fled the residence, the suspect pulled out a handgun, and pulled the trigger. For some miraculous reason the gun did not fire. The wife fled to a neighbor's residence. The suspect barricaded himself in the residence with their 3 year old daughter. The negotiation lasted seven hours. The debrief consists of a walkthrough of the negotiation and an interview with the suspect discussing the incident.

Eric L. Honea - Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department - Retired



Eric Honea retired from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department with 18+ years of service where he was assigned for 10 years to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Street Gang Task Force, Violent Crime Task Force, and Organized Crime Task Force. Eric worked in a variety of investigative units during that time, to include Commercial Robbery Investigations, Narcotics, and Central Intelligence. Eric joined the LVMPD's Crisis Negotiator Team (CNT) in February of 2012 and has responded to hundreds of crisis and hostage related barricades. Eric has taught numerous classes related to Crisis Negotiations and in 2014 developed the current curriculum on 'Negotiating with PTSD' for LVMPD's CNT. Prior to Eric's employment with LVMPD, he served our country in the Marine Corps, where he was deployed to Somalia during Operation United Shield in 1994. Eric has a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and is currently attending the University of Missouri, Kansas City School of Law. Eric maintains his dedication to teaching law enforcement and military about Robbery, Task Force operations, CNT related subjects and PTSD through his company E. Lee Consulting and Solutions.

Armed Veteran in PTSD Crisis

In December of 2014, Kyle Purdue, an Army veteran, found himself in a PTSD crisis in a major intersection of Las Vegas. Kyle knew he was going to jail as a result of a probation warrant stemming from a previous PTSD related incident. Kyle believed suicide by cop was his only out. This debrief consist of audio and video interview with Kyle following the incident as well as live video clips recorded by one of the team members as Crisis Negotiator Eric Honea negotiated with Kyle.



Dr. Shannon Meyer

Dr. Shannon Meyer is a Clinical and Forensic Psychologist with expertise in crisis negotiation, law enforcement and the mentally ill, and operational stress injuries, including PTSD. She provides trainings locally, nationally, and internationally to law enforcement agencies and organizations, teaches at the FBI Academy, and is a faculty member in the Department of Criminal Justice at Seattle University. Dr. Meyer is a Psychologist in the West Coast Post Trauma Retreat (a brief residential program for first responders with PTSD) and she and her Crisis Response K9 are members of the Skagit County Critical Incident Stress

Management Team. Shannon is currently employed by the FBI as a Victim Specialist, and is a member of the Seattle Division's Crisis Negotiation Team. Dr. Meyer also is a member the FBI's Victim Assistance Rapid Response Team, which deploys to almost all mass shooting and mass casualty events in the country. Shannon is happily married to a retired LEO (but wishes he would do a little more vacuuming in his free time), and plans to eventually open a specialty psychology practice serving law enforcement officers and their families.

Operational Stress and Resilience

While we all know that this work impacts us, we rarely discuss the emotional costs of policing. Negotiators bring a specialized skill set to their work, but it's these same strengths that can create a unique vulnerability to the negative effects of bad incidents and negotiation "losses". In this way negotiators can become particularly susceptible to operational stress injuries, which includes PTSD. We will talk about the emotional impact of negotiating, why it can become toxic, and how to identify our individual operational vulnerabilities. This includes what to look for in ourselves, how to look out for each other, and where to turn if things get bad.

We will also cover advances in brain science that reveal that operational stress injuries — and in particular PTSD — are the result of a brain injury. This injury physically alters several key brain structures and significantly impairs their functioning, all of which is biologically driven and of which an individual has no control.

Finally we will discuss the ways that we can cultivate resilience and protect ourselves from operational stress injuries in the first place, as well as the established methods that enable recovery and a return to optimal functioning should they occur.
