

**WESTERN STATES HOSTAGE NEGOTIATORS' ASSOCIATION**

**2024 Featured Presenters  
April 29, 2024, to May 1, 2024**



**THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION WELCOMES YOU TO BOISE, IDAHO**

*Negotiations are the most noble of police endeavors.*



**Detective Jason White - City of Tulsa Police Department**

Det. Jason White is a 25-year veteran of the Tulsa Police Department. Throughout his career he has worked in uniform patrol, along with serving as a member of the Street Crimes Unit, undercover investigator in the Special Investigations Division Narcotics Unit, School Resource Officer, and Crime Scene Detective.

He currently is assigned to the Homicide Unit where he has served for more than 14 years and has been featured in several episodes of The First 48 on A&E Entertainment Network.

Detective White was also assigned to the Special Operations Team as a Crisis Negotiator where he served for over 10 years and is a current member of the Critical Incident Response Team where he has served for the past 16 years.

Over the course of his career, he has received multiple commendations including a Citation of Recognition from the State of Oklahoma House of Representatives in 2022 and 2012, Medal of Valor in 2011, and the Chief's Unit Award in 2022 and 2009 along with several additional commendations.

Detective White has a B.S. Degree in Professional Law Enforcement from Oklahoma City University, and an A.S. Degree in Police Science from Oklahoma State University.

Finally, he is a sought-after presenter who has spoken throughout the United States & Canada.

**Incident Synopsis**

In March 2016, officers were called to investigate a violation of a protective order. The complainant reported that she saw her husband and son via security camera enter her apartment. When an officer attempted to enter the apartment, a single gunshot was heard, followed by several other shots. A 16-hour standoff ensued in which negotiations were established to work toward a peaceful resolution.





### **Mynda Ohs, PhD - Mental Health Awareness for First Responders**

Dr. Mynda Ohs currently has a private practice in Nevada where she specializes in first responders and their families. Additionally, she holds contracts with several agencies nationwide to respond on scene to critical incidents to provide crisis support. Critical incidents that she has participated in are, San Bernardino Terrorist attack, 1 October shooting, Montecito mudslides and numerous LODD for the forests service and Cal Fire. She recently joined the Las Vegas Metro Police Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) as a mental health consultant. As a former first responder herself and married 26 years to a now retired Battalion chief she is passionate and committed to educating and improving the beliefs about getting help.

#### **Synopsis of Presentation**

This presentation will explore and discuss the long term affects a career in law enforcement can have on you and your family. We will discuss the differences between work brain and home brain, burnout, compassion fatigue, suicide awareness, communication issues with family and the additional impact extra assignments can have on you. Once we have explored the affects, we will look at healthy coping strategies to minimize these impacts on you and share tools that can be used to improve communication with your significant other and families.



### **Scott Robertson – Brimfield, Ohio Police Department – Retired**

- LAPD Basic SWAT School
- LAPD Advanced SWAT School
- TEES Explosive Entry & Handler
- NTOA Tactical Command Course
- Basic and Advanced Negotiator Class
- Summit County SO from 1986 to 1989
- Fairlawn PD from 1989 to 2011
- Metro SWAT 1991 to 2007
- Assistant Commander 1998 to 2001
- Team Commander 2001 to 2007

#### **Synopsis of Presentation - "Two Hour Break"**

This activation takes place in January of 2005 in Brimfield, Ohio. The incident begins as a domestic and results in the death of the suspect's 42-year-old girlfriend and her 7-year-old son. The suspect (James Trimble) then exits the residence and eventually breaks into a duplex, taking a 22-year-old female hostage. The drama plays out for approximately 45 minutes, as the Metro SWAT's negotiator (Mike Korach) mediates a release of the female hostage. The suspect agrees to a two-hour break and then he will release the female. This entire incident is captured on audio recording through the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

***WSHNA - TRAINING CRISIS NEGOTIATORS SINCE 1986***



### **Holly Miktarian - Oakwood Village Police Department – Retired**

I am a retired Police Officer of a suburb of Cleveland called Oakwood Village PD. It was my hometown and that is where I started as a dispatcher and went to patrol. I was an Officer for 8 years. I was also on the local Swat Team as a negotiator, I was still very new to that position when my career ended.

I married my husband, Twinsburg, OH K9 Police Officer Joshua Miktarian, and two years into our marriage my husband was viciously killed on a traffic stop. Our daughter was 3.5 months old at the time and it was a very difficult time to say the least. We miss him very much. That was 15 years ago this past July. I tried returning to the road but just could not stop thinking if it happened to my Josh it could happen to me too and I did not want our daughter completely parentless. Since the trial ended in 2010, I started talking to police cadets about my husband's story. I would show them the funeral footage because a lot of them had not been to a police funeral, and I would also tell them about that traffic stop that took my husband and changed our lives forever.

I eventually started moving my story to Police Citizen Academy's, I currently do about four or five of those a year. I am also asked to speak at various events throughout the year like area Police Week memorials.

I share my husband's story because it helps to keep his memory alive. Josh did not deserve what happened to him, he was in all honesty a really good guy.

We established a scholarship in my husband's memory, we give three scholarships every year to students wanting to study a law related field of study. The annual fundraiser keeps me busy and can be quite chaotic. The website is [www.josh45.com](http://www.josh45.com).



### **Joe Campagna – San Jose Police Department – Retired**

Joe Campagna has been in law enforcement for over 29 years. Five years with the Santa Clara County Department of Corrections and 26 years with the San Jose Police Department.

Joe retired from the San Jose Police Department in November 2021. Joe has worked as a Graffiti Detective, Internal Affairs Unit, Field Training Officer, Gang Detective, Academy Training Officer, Detective in the Covert Response Unit and was with the FBI for four years on the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Joe was the coordinator and a member of the San Jose Police Departments Tactical Negotiations Unit since 2003. Joe wrote an article for the National Tactical Officers Association (Tactical Edge) on a bridge jumper negotiation he was involved in. Joe is also a graduate of the two-week

FBI National Negotiator Course in Quantico Virginia. Joe has testified as an expert in the field of Crisis/Hostage Negotiations.

### **Synopsis of Presentation - Bridge Jumper**

Several 911 calls were made about a suicidal subject on a highway overpass bridge. San Jose PD patrol units responded and talked to the subject for several hours to no avail. Officer Campagna, from the department Tactical Negotiations Unit, was called to assist. He uses Axon video in his presentation to show how the two negotiations compare. Officer Campagna also interviews the subject, asking him various questions regarding; why he wanted to kill himself, what patrol did (right or wrong), and what Ofc. Campagna did (right or wrong). The various questions asked to the suicidal subject are played throughout the debrief. Very powerful presentation.



## **Rebecca Houston - Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor**

Rebecca Houston, LCPC has been a Licensed Professional Counselor since 1999 and has a private practice in Boise, ID where she works exclusively with First Responders and Military. Throughout her career, she has worked with survivors of abuse and domestic violence, in several psychiatric settings as well as addiction recovery programs. She has served in the role of Program Director for an 8-bed Mental Health Crisis Center as well as running Dual Diagnosis and Intensive Out-Patient Addiction Recovery programs. She has been an EMDR and trauma recovery practitioner for 18 years.

She began her private practice in 2005 and three years later in 2008 was recruited to work within an off-the-record counseling program, developed by the Department of Defense, helping support military members and their families. From 2009-2014 her life was permanent TDY CONUS and OCONUS completing 21 rotations on 19 installations. (FYI Ft. Irwin is considered OCONUS) While supporting the military, Rebecca received 9 commanders' coins including from two Army Garrison Commanders, The Adjutant General of the state of Indiana, and in 2012, while embedded with an Airborne Infantry Battalion, Rebecca was coined by The Sergeant Major of the Army.

In 2018 Rebecca was recruited to assist within an Israeli Security and Intelligence Company participating in a 2-week Tactical Defense Training program where she taught meditation and its benefits for security personnel and soldiers. Program participants included German military officers, Israeli soldiers and police, and other European security personnel.

Rebecca has been a meditation and yoga practitioner since 2006. She has taught meditation and yoga in various mental health programs and in her current practice continues to teach practical meditation and breathing techniques for nervous system regulation. She also teaches Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga in community settings. Rebecca lives in Boise, Idaho full-time and if she's not working, you'll find her teaching or practicing yoga, hiking the foothills and Boise River, dancing Flamenco or spending time with her mother, daughter and grandchildren.

### **Presentation Synopsis - Police Work and the Nervous System**

- Design of the first responder brain
- How the autonomic nervous system works
- Keys to regulating the autonomic nervous system
- The power of dopamine, harness it for good
- The mission-focused brain
- Chronic stress and trauma effects on the brain





### **Tara Simmelink – Pierce County Sheriff’s Department**

The Pierce County Sheriff’s Department has six members on their Crisis Negotiation Team with Detective Sergeant Tara Simmelink serving as the team leader. She started her law enforcement career in October of 1996. Since being employed by the Pierce County Sheriff’s Department she has served in patrol, as an investigator in the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), and Domestic Violence unit. She served as a detective in general property crimes, special assault unit, homicide, and missing persons. She was promoted to Detective Sergeant in 2017 and served as the supervisor for the special assault unit. She currently supervises the robbery and assault unit. Detective Sergeant Simmelink has also served in various additional duty assignments to include: a field

training officer, peer support, mobile field force, and air operations. In 2010 Detective Sergeant Simmelink joined the SWAT team as a crisis negotiator and currently serves as the team leader.

### **Presentation Synopsis – Has Your Training Become Stale?**

Sergeant Simmelink & members of her team will present some new & refreshing ideas on how to ‘not have the same old training day.’ I mean, after all, how many times can you practice connecting the throw phone? This presentation will be about some innovative way to improve your training day.



### **Suzie Kroll – King County Sheriff’s Office Nathan Obregon - King County Sheriff’s Office**

Susie earned her Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from City University of Seattle. She is an alum of the University of Washington having earned Bachelors degrees in Speech Communication and Zoology with a Marine Emphasis in 2001. Susie started as a Clinician with a local community behavioral health agency upon earning her Masters. While employed with that agency, she was promoted to Clinic Manager, Regional Operations Director, and Division Director overseeing the day-to-day operations of six outpatient behavioral health clinics in King County, Washington.

Susie was the founding Mental Health Professional for the Law Enforcement and Mental Health Professional Co-Response Programs in Shoreline, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Bothell, Redmond, and Duvall police departments. She is a national educator and speaker on Crisis & De-Escalation, Mental Health, Co-Response, and Crisis Negotiation. She instructs at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (police academy) and is the Mental Health Advisor for Crisis Systems Management. She volunteers yearly at the Seattle King County Clinic as the Crisis Response Director. Currently, she is employed with the King County Sheriff’s Office (KCSO) as the Co-Response Program Manager and Mental Health Professional. She has been on KCSO’s Crisis Negotiation Team since 2016 serving as the Mental Health Professional for the team. More importantly, she is the fur-mom to two rescued kittens and a very clownish Umbrella Cockatoo.

***WSHNA - TRAINING CRISIS NEGOTIATORS SINCE 1986***



Nathan Obregon is a Patrol Sergeant with the King County Sheriff's Office (Washington), currently working with a transit contract in Seattle. He has been with the sheriff's office for over eight years and a member of the county's Crisis Negotiation Team since 2018. During that time, he has received several awards and recognitions for negotiations involving active shooters and hostage situations. Nathan is a Patrol Training Officer instructor for Washington State, teaching police officers across the state how to train new recruits who are out of the academy and fresh on the streets. He is also involved with CIT, crisis management, and patrol tactics training.

Prior to Law Enforcement, Nathan worked in the mental health field as a psychotherapist in inpatient, outpatient, and residential settings for over a decade. He earned a Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy from Seattle Pacific University as well as Bachelor's of Arts degrees in Theology, Educational Ministries, and Psychology.

Nathan has an amazing wife, three brilliant kids ages 5, 9, and 10, and a Great Dane lapdog who will find your cheese.

### **Presentation Synopsis**

On May 19, 2022, a mentally ill and enraged son opened fire on his family's home and neighbors after his dog died. Multiple jurisdictions respond and find themselves engaging specialty units, and carrying out a hostage rescue of aging and medically unstable and non-ambulatory victims. Come along with us as the King County Sheriff's Office Crisis Negotiation Team, SWAT/TAC30, and police work to negotiate, gather critical intelligence, harness drone technology, overcome booby traps, and utilize every available technique and tactic to communicate with a mobile subject with caches of munitions hidden around a heavily forested rural property.



*Plan Ahead*  
*2025 WSHNA Training Seminar & HNT Competition*  
*Sunriver Resort, Sunriver, Oregon*  
*Hosted by Bend Police Department & Deschutes County Sheriff's Office*  
*April 26<sup>th</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025*