



WESTERN STATES HOSTAGE NEGOTIATORS' ASSOCIATION

Training Crisis Negotiators Since 1986

MEET YOUR WSHNA PRESIDENT – JOE MILLER

Joe Miller is a highly accomplished public safety expert, veteran, and consultant with 34 years of dedicated service spanning military operations and civilian law enforcement. Specializing in crisis intervention, tactical response, and de-escalation, he currently uses his extensive field experience to train the next generation of first responders and provide expert legal consultation.

Military Service & Tactical Foundations

Miller began his career of service in the United States Air Force, where he served as a member of the Emergency Services Team (EST). During his enlistment, he was stationed at Clark Air Base in the Philippines and was on the ground during the historic 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo. This foundational military experience instilled a deep ability in high-stress disaster response, tactical positioning, and crisis management under catastrophic conditions.

Law Enforcement Career & Commendations

Following his military enlistment, Miller transitioned into civilian law enforcement, embarking on a career marked by exceptional leadership across three Pacific Northwest agencies. He served with the Quincy Police Department (WA) and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (WA), before spending his final 25 years of service with the Salem Police Department (OR). His decisive actions and commitment to preserving human life earned him three Lifesaving Awards over his career. His sustained performance, tactical proficiency, and agency leadership culminated in his selection as Officer of the Year. Throughout his decades of service, he routinely applied advanced communication and crisis negotiation strategies to resolve high-risk critical incidents safely.

Training, Entrepreneurship, & Expert Witness Services

An advocate for physical and mental preparedness, Miller founded the Saxon Jiu-Jitsu Club to provide essential defensive tactics and physical conditioning to law enforcement and community members. As an entrepreneur, he is the founder and principal of J. Miller Consulting, a professional advisory firm originally established as Thane Training. Capitalizing on his 34 years of operational experience, he now provides specialized expert witness services nationwide. He offers objective analysis, case reviews, and court testimony specifically in the critical areas of law enforcement tactical response and de-escalation practices.



WSHNA is on Facebook, X, LinkedIn & www.wshna.com
2027 Training Seminar & HNT Challenge - April 25 to April 28, 2027
Salem Convention Center & Holman Riverfront Park Hotel by Hilton
Hosted by Marion County Sheriff's Office

Institutional Leadership at DPSST

Currently, Miller serves as a Program Coordinator for the Center for Policing Excellence at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) in Oregon. In this capacity, he helps shape the state's law enforcement standards by translating evidence-based research into actionable training curricula and leadership programs. His work ensures that public safety professionals are equipped with the modern tactical, ethical, and communicative tools necessary to serve their communities effectively.

Personal Life

Beyond his professional endeavors, Joe has been happily married to his wife, Lisa, for over 30 years, and together they have two adult daughters. Outside of training and consulting, Joe and Lisa love to travel and can frequently be found on the road following their favorite bands on tour.