

40th Annual Hostage Negotiation Seminar
Confirmed Presentations 11.1.18

Keynote & Instructional Segment

Eric Maddox speaks to audiences worldwide about learning to influence and lead others through listening. Using these techniques, in 2003, Mr. Maddox collected the intelligence which led to the exact location of Saddam Hussein's underground hideout.

Since then, through many thousands of hours of experience as a 15-year veteran interrogator, Mr. Maddox has fine-tuned his ability to listen to others without common distractions, such as biases, agendas or a simple lack of interest in the other person. He discusses the method he uses and what a powerful tool it is for those who employ it.

Instructional Segment - Trauma, PTSD & Suicide Prevention Awareness

A dynamic, powerful and emotional presentation regarding the reality of the incident rate of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder within the ranks of the Law Enforcement community. Emphasis is placed on the history of PTSD, with a specific focus on police suicide, as well as recommendations for administrative training to prepare, insulate, protect, and treat the expected exposure to trauma.

Las Vegas, Nevada

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 SWAT operators and crisis negotiators worked to resolve the situation. This incident was extremely challenging given the amount of tourists in the immediate area and the casinos being cleared out and shut down. After speaking with crisis negotiators, the suspect eventually surrendered. This presentation includes actual video and audio from the incident.

Mount Vernon, Washington

In December of 2016, while investigating a shooting, Mount Vernon Police Department officers attempted contact at a residence in the area. As officers were attempting contact, shots came from the house striking one officer in the head. Shortly after, the suspect called 9-1-1 saying he had hostages, a bomb, and that he had texted the Mayor. Officers eventually learned that the suspect was a potential third-time convicted felon facing the possibility of life in prison. The negotiation team found itself communicating with someone who had little incentive to surrender, navigating the political stress of having the Mayor on-scene, contending with outside influences from the media, and working through a transition of negotiation teams.

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Stockton, California

In July of 2016, police were attempted to serve an arrest warrant for a felon wanted for shooting at an Oakland Police Sergeant following a traffic crash. Before police could make entry into the home in which he was hiding, the suspect took three children hostage and barricaded himself inside. Stockton Police SWAT and CNT members responded to the scene and began negotiations. After several hours and hundreds of calls, negotiators were able to successfully retrieve two of the children from the home. This presentation will include recordings from the actual negotiation, elements of TPI use, and collaboration with neighboring agencies in a highly emotional environment.

Roane County, Tennessee

In March of 2015, this incident began as a domestic dispute between a former law enforcement officer, his estranged wife, and her boyfriend. During the dispute gunfire was exchanged, the ex-wife was struck multiple times, and was left incapacitated to the rear of the dwelling. The armed former officer, who was known to all responding officers, was under the influence and barricaded inside his house. This presentation will highlight tactical and negotiation challenges of dealing with a formerly trained officer, a victim rescue, and managing the influx of officers wanting to assist with negotiations.

Madison County, Alabama

In April 2018, members from a federal agency and local jurisdiction attempted to serve a murder warrant and three of the four subjects were negotiated out from a dwelling. The wanted murder suspect remained within and was defiant, non-compliant, and communicated threats of arson and self-harm before violently breaching the perimeter with a vehicle. This incident will address concerns with control, containment, intelligence gathering and sharing among agencies, along with communication concerns between the tactical and negotiation elements.