

## Session Summary

Plenary Session - FBI-LEEDA Uncommon Valor Series

### **Unstoppable Mindset - Nick Lavery: Cultivating Resilience to Overcome and Excel**

**Nick Lavery**, Active-Duty Green Beret, United States Army Special Forces; Founder and CEO of Precision Components; Best-selling Author of Objective Secure: The Battle-Tested Guide to Goal Achievement

In this powerful keynote, Nick Lavery shares his personal journey of overcoming adversity and the critical mindset and resilience strategies that enabled him to not just survive, but thrive. Drawing from his own experiences, he offers actionable insights on how to build mental toughness, embrace challenges, and stay focused in the face of uncertainty. Nick's message is one of empowerment, showing audiences how to develop an unshakeable mindset and a resilient spirit to lead through any obstacle.



**Nick Lavery**, born and raised in Massachusetts, is an active-duty Green Beret within The United States Army Special Forces. The Green Berets perform critical missions including direct action, counterinsurgency, foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance, and unconventional warfare. Nick is currently serving as a Special Forces Chief Warrant Officer and is widely recognized as an experienced subject matter expert in special operations, intelligence fusion, mission planning, and complex problem solving across all operational continuums. He is also the first amputee in military history to complete the Special Forces Warrant Officer Technical and Tactical Certification course, the Special Operations Combatives Program Instructor course, and the Special Forces Combat Diver Qualification course.

In 2013, while deployed to Afghanistan, he and his Detachment fell victim to an insider attack ultimately resulting in the amputation of his leg. Following a year of surgeries and initial recovery including the use of a prosthetic at Walter Reed National Medical Military Center, he returned to his unit. Refusing a military medical retirement, Nick set his sights on returning to operational status. In 2015, at the conclusion of a challenging, comprehensive assessment designed to evaluate Nick's abilities to operate, he returned to his Detachment and was subsequently deployed once again to Afghanistan conducting full spectrum combat operations.

Nick's awards include the Silver Star, three Purple Hearts, three Bronze Stars, Bronze Star with "V" for valor, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medal, the OSS Society Peter Ortiz Award, the Bruce Price Leadership Award, and the Special Operations Command Excalibur Award.

Nick is the founder and CEO of Precision Components LLC where he and Team MACHINE train, advise, enable, and inspire organizations and individuals to unlock capacity and increase capability. He is also the best-selling author of Objective

*Secure—the battle-tested guide to goal achievement. Nick is a warrior, leader, teammate, and most importantly a proud husband and father of two young boys. He enjoys reading, writing, lifting weights, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and shooting. Most significantly however, he enjoys building forts, Legos, getting dirty, drawing, and reading with his sons and traveling, eating dinner, and watching movies with his wife.*

Plenary Session - FBI-LEEDA Cop to Cop Series

## **Expert Panel: Challenges Facing Chiefs Today**

**Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick**, New Orleans Police Department; FBI-LEEDA Member

**Commissioner Tenisha Stevens**, Criminal Justice Commissioner, City of New Orleans

**Dr. Anthony Batts**, (Ret), Long Beach Chief Chief/City Manager, Oakland Police Chief; Baltimore Police Commissioner

**Chief Renee Hall** (Ret), Dallas Police Department

**Chief Vera Bumpers**, Harris County Metro Transit Authority

**Curtis Johnson**, Executive Director of Operations, Pulaski County Special School District, City of Little Rock

**Commissioner Michael Harrison** (Ret), Baltimore Police Department; Superintendent, New Orleans Police Department (Moderator)



**Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick** is one of the most tenured police executives in the country, with over 35 years of policing experience and 20 years as a Chief of Police. A Memphis, Tenn. native, Kirkpatrick has a proven track record across a diverse number of jurisdictions for transforming police departments and reducing violent crime.

Kirkpatrick most recently served as Chief of Police in Oakland, where she implemented a significant cultural change in terms of increasing police accountability and transparency, improving Procedural Justice and implementing equity-based decision-making. This cultural shift coincided with a 20-year low homicide rate and a decrease in non-fatal shootings during her tenure.

Prior to her tenure in Oakland, Kirkpatrick served as Bureau Chief in Chicago, where she was the liaison to the Department of Justice (DOJ) while the Chicago Police Department was under investigation for patterns and practice of civil rights violations, resulting in a consent decree. Kirkpatrick also served as Chief of Police in the cities of Ellensburg, Federal Way and Spokane, all in the State of Washington, as well as serving as Undersheriff of the King County Sheriff's Office. In addition to executive leadership experience, Kirkpatrick is a National Instructor for the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Association's Leadership Training Program, where she instructs on topics including, but not limited to, Bias and Diversity, Emotional Intelligence and Leading Generations.



**Commissioner Tenisha Stevens** leads the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination (OCJC), the office tasked with promoting an accountable, efficient, and effective criminal justice system in Orleans Parish. Her office fosters cross-agency communication and coordination among all sectors of New Orleans' justice enterprise, providing objective research, analysis, and recommendations that benefit the criminal and juvenile justice systems holistically. Under Commissioner Stevens' leadership, OCJC received an additional \$2 million from the MacArthur Foundation to continue its jail population reduction efforts, and allocated and secured over \$7 million in state and federal grants for the City of New Orleans. Most recently, Commissioner Stevens led a coordinated response, involving many criminal justice agencies and stakeholders, to address the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to policy changes to reflect the needs of the City following the Emergency Declaration, Commissioner Stevens also dedicated \$35,000 to address issues related to homelessness of recent non-violent releases from the local jail.

To that end, Commissioner Stevens initiated a hotel and motel voucher program to house individuals in hotel or motels for up to two weeks. Program participants include those that would be homeless upon release from the local jail or would be returning to a home in which they may be at risk of spreading Covid-19 to a loved one. To further assist with the City's Covid-19 response, Commissioner Stevens supplied over a 1,000 masks to citizens throughout the city to ensure that they complied with the mask mandate, assisted the City in facilitating the use of mobile testing sites, and advises the Mayor of all eviction policies provided by 1st and 2nd City Court as it relates to the eviction ban order.

Prior to joining Mayor Cantrell's administration in 2018, Commissioner Stevens dedicated more than twenty years of professional public service in her careers with the New Orleans Police Department, the Louisiana Attorney General's Office and the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office where held the position of Deputy Chief of Investigations.

Commissioner Stevens' decades of experience in the justice system provide her with first-hand knowledge of the challenges faced by local justice professionals. In her current role as Criminal Justice Commissioner, she is deeply committed to bridging gaps, ending outdated practices and forging more effective partnerships to achieve fair outcomes for everyone whose lives are impacted by our justice system.

Commissioner Stevens received her Master of Arts in Criminal Justice from Southern University at New Orleans and completed her undergraduate studies at Dillard University. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - New Orleans Alumnae Chapter. She sits on various Boards and Commissions. She is the devoted mother to Maddie. She is deeply invested in bettering her community so that the next generation can reach their full potential.



**Anthony Batts** served as Chief of two of California's largest police agencies (Long Beach and Oakland), before becoming Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department, the eighth largest agency in the United States. During a career spanning 30 years, he transformed organizations into high performers. Throughout his seven-year tenure as chief in Long Beach, his team dramatically reduced that city's crime rate. In October 2009, Batts was appointed to lead the Oakland Police Department and significantly reduced the level of violent crime despite limited resources. Upon joining Baltimore in 2012, he spearheaded cultural change, improving officer training, resources, and made significant inroads to reducing crime and improving community relations in the city. Batts is a past Governor's appointee and Chair of the California Peace Officer Standards & Training Commission and was Vice President of the Major Cities Chiefs Association. He is a member the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). He holds a Doctorate in Public Administration, a Master's Degree in Business Management, and a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement Administration.

He is a graduate of Harvard University's Executive Development Course, F.B.I.'s National Executive Institute, F.B.I.'s National Academy, and IACP's S.W.A.T. Commander School, among others. Additionally, Chief Batts is a graduate of National Tactical Officers Association's S.W.A.T Commanders Course, and related courses. He was also a Harvard University Fellow, and University Professor in Southern California. He has attended numerous terrorism training courses around the world addressing ports, airports, entertainment venues and light rail transportation systems. Tony joined FBI-LEEDA as an instructor in 2016.



*Renée Hall is a respected thought leader who is recognized for her 21st Century. She is the Founder and CEO of TUU Enterprises, LLC., Law Enforcement Consultancy Firm. She provides assessments of police departments for areas of potential improvement in their policies and procedures, to avoid unnecessary risks and reduce negative outcomes. She also provides strategic recommendations and ideas for modernization and paths in policing that better unite police agencies with the communities they serve. Hall currently serves as the National 1st Vice President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). She also holds the position of Executive Director of the Community Solidarity and Safety Coalition (CSSC), an alliance comprised of non-governmental and non-partisan leaders working to collectively address critical community safety issues, shaping community responses to solidarity and safety challenges and partnering with federal, state, and local governments to keep communities safe from rising threats like domestic terrorism.*

*Renée served most recently as chief of police for the Dallas Police Department, leading a 4,000-member, nearly \$600 million dollar law enforcement agency through proven 21st century best practice strategies. She is most recognized for technology innovation, data driven decision making, community outreach, officer wellness and creating department reform and accountability designed to reduce crime and modernize the effectiveness of the city's police force. Hall was the first woman to ever lead the Dallas Police Department, and one of only a very few African American women to serve as police chief nationwide. She oversaw the department during one of the most challenging, unprecedented, and tumultuous times in modern history. She led through the difficult COVID 19 pandemic shutdowns in early 2020 and steered the department through Dallas's portion of the worldwide Black Lives Matter protests sparked by the killing of Mr. George Floyd, by police. Prior to leading in Dallas, Renee' spent nearly 20 years in the Detroit Police Department in a series of increasingly responsible roles, beginning as a police officer and culminating as the department's deputy chief of police. Renee is a Harvard University Fellow of the 2022 Advanced Leadership Initiative. She also served as a Senior Editor of the Harvard Social Impact Review. Renee' has developed, in collaboration with Harvard Professional Schools and academic departments, a comprehensive program that seeks to provide intergenerational employment, increases literacy, and creates opportunities for wealth building through financial education and training. The program will also address the intersection between law enforcement and economic inequalities in communities of color. While at Harvard, Hall, in partnership with Saul Glick, a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Law School and former London Metropolitan Police Officer, launched "Police for America" an 8-week pre -police academy that prepares recruits to challenge the status quo of policing culture through Ivy League academic training, leadership, organizational management/ development, and mentorship.*



*"I value diversity and believe in treating everyone with respect and dignity. As Chief of Pollice, my goal was to ensure the organization provided professional, fair, and impartial law enforcement services to the entire community."*

*- Vera Bumpers*

***Vera Bumpers** served as Houston METRO's Chief of P olice for 10 years, retiring in 2024. Chief Bumpers was the first woman to lead MPD and is the first woman to have been promoted in every single rank. MPD is a full-time, full-service agency authorized 300 sworn Texas Peace Officers and more than 125 civilian staff members. MPD focused on safety and security for customers, employees and communities surrounding the transit system.*

*Chief Bumpers has been widely recognized both locally and nationally for her leadership. She is a past National President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), has been featured in the African American Newspaper and Houston Women Magazine, was honored as a Top 50 Black Professional and Entrepreneur and Top 30 Houston Influential Woman. She was*

honored when Mayor Sylvester Turner proclaimed November 14, 2014 as "Chief Vera Bumpers Day". She is also the recipient of the 2015 Trailblazer Award from the Women in Transportation Seminar and recipient of the 2022 National Women Law Enforcement Executive of the Year Award from Motorola.



**Michael S. Harrison** was sworn in as the Baltimore Police Department's 41st Commissioner on March 12, 2019. Before coming to Baltimore, Commissioner Harrison served the New Orleans Police Department for nearly three decades. He joined the NOPD in 1991 and ascended steadily through the ranks. He served in supervisory assignments as an Assistant Commander and Commander of a patrol District and the Specialized Investigations Division of the Public Integrity Bureau. He was appointed to Superintendent in 2014 and led the Department for over four years. Commissioner Harrison has been instrumental in the development, implementation and assessment of community policing programs that have led to demonstrably increased partnership and collaboration. Moreover, he is skilled at moving progressive law enforcement bills forward through legislature and effectuating evidence-based crime fighting strategies, many of which assisted in tangible crime reductions. Commissioner Harrison was appointed to the Police Executive Research Forum Board of Directors in 2019, where he now serves as the President. He is a member of the Major Cities Chiefs Association and served as both the Central and Eastern Region Representative. Additionally, he is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives and the Law Enforcement Immigration Task Force.

He received a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Phoenix and a Masters of Criminal Justice from Loyola University New Orleans. He is also a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police, as well as Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command. He is a graduate of the F.B.I.'s National Executive Institute. He has considerable experience in navigating a policing agency through the rigors of operating under a federal consent decree, having led two large police departments under such oversight. A firm believer in civic duty, he honorably served eight years with the Louisiana Air National Guard. In 2010, Commissioner Harrison was ordained as a minister at City of Love Church in New Orleans. Commissioner Harrison has been married to his high school sweetheart since 1992, and they are the loving parents of two adult children. Commissioner Harrison and his wife have made Baltimore home and have become proud residents.

Plenary Session - FBI-LEEDA Officer Safety & Wellness Series

## **Building Officer Resilience in Uncertain Times**

**Judy Pollard**, Business Development Officer, Justice Federal Credit Union

**Vernon Herron**, Director, Baltimore City Police Department, Office of Health and Wellness and Early Intervention

In today's volatile economic climate, financial resilience is more critical than ever. The first part of the session will delve into practical strategies and tools that individuals can adopt to strengthen their financial foundation. We'll explore the importance of emergency savings and debt management. Attendees will gain insights into risk management techniques and long-term personal financial planning ensuring they are better prepared to navigate economic uncertainties and protect their financial well-being.

Police officers are often exposed to trauma and stress that overtime, if gone untreated, leads to physical and mental illnesses amongst police officers. The strain and stress associated with the profession of police leads to a high rate of divorce, alcoholism and more police officers commit suicide, than are killed in the line of duty. The second part of this session will focus on the

causes and effects of trauma and highlight strategies police departments can use to protect their employees' physical and mental health.



**Judy Pollard** has worked in the finance industry for over 4 decades, mainly in the areas of Collections, Underwriting, Bankruptcy, and Training and Development and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Western Governors' University in 2011. She has presented on the topic of Financial Resiliency at several Law Enforcement conferences across the United States such as FBILEEDA, FBINAA, IACP Officer Wellness, The GBI Symposium, MAAWLEE and the Concerns of Police Survivors, National Conference; and is a member of the National Financial Educators Council.

Business Development Manager for Justice Federal Credit Union, Judy has had the pleasure of cultivating new members and strong partner relationships within the Justice and Law Enforcement community. Judy embodies the Credit Union philosophy of "People helping People." As a certified Financial Counselor, she is passionate about helping Members align the financial products and services they need to establish a degree of financial stability to lead a more enjoyable life, and work towards achieving their future goals.



**Vernon Herron** has more than 35 years of experience in public safety and law enforcement. He currently serves as Director, Baltimore City Police Department, where he manages the Office of Health and Wellness and the Office of Early Intervention. The Office of Health and Wellness promotes both, physical and mental health, through training, seminars and health publications.

Director Herron's "New Approach to Early Intervention" was published by the International Association of Chiefs of Police Magazine.

<http://www.policemagazine.org/new-approach-to-early-intervention-baltimore-police-department-case-study/>

Prior to joining the Baltimore City Police Department, he served as the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Public Safety in Prince George's County, Md. Mr. Herron also served more than 27 years in the Maryland State Police. He joined the Maryland State Police in 1977 and progressed through the ranks from Trooper to Major Mr. Herron received the highest honor bestowed upon a Maryland State Trooper, "The Governor's Citation of Valor," when he prevented an armed suspect from shooting several people and other police officers at a crowded restaurant. Throughout his career, he has lectured across the United States on Officer Safety and Wellness and Early Intervention. He holds a Master's of Science in Management from Johns Hopkins University. He also holds a Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland, University College. Mr. Herron is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Session 187.

Plenary Session - FBI-LEEDA Cop to Cop Series

## **SRO Success Stories**

**Mo Canady**, Executive Director, National Association of School Resource Officers / NASRO



**Mo Canady** holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Jacksonville State University. He is a former lieutenant with the City of Hoover Police Department in Hoover, Alabama. The last twelve years of his law enforcement career were spent as the supervisor of the School Services Division. After 25 years of service, he retired from the Hoover Police Department in 2011. He was appointed as an instructor for the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) in 2001 and a NASRO board member in 2005. He also served as president of The Alabama Association of School Resource Officers (TAASRO) in 2004. Mo has served as the executive director for NASRO since 2011. Under his leadership, the organization has become the premiere training agency for school resource officers (SROs) across the country and around the world, establishing national standards for school-based policing. With his guidance, the organization's Basic

SRO Course became the only SRO course to receive national certification and to be recognized by the federal government as the gold standard of training for SROs. Canady's expertise as a school safety expert is sought after by many major news outlets including Fox News, CNN, and National Public Radio. At a national level, Canady has testified on the matter of SRO national standards before the Federal Commission on School Safety in 2018 and the matter of school safety before the United States House Committee on Education and the Workforce in 2013. He is a co-author of the national report; "To Protect and Educate – The School Resource Officer and the Prevention of Violence in Schools," released in 2012. He is widely recognized for his advocacy of carefully selected, specifically trained, and properly equipped school resource officers and is a respected voice in the school safety arena.

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## **NLEOMF: Making It Safer for Those Who Serve**

**Bill Alexander**, Chief Executive Officer, National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund / NLEOM



**Bill Alexander** initially joined the NLEOMF in early 2022 as the Executive Director of the Memorial. He was later selected as the organization's Chief Executive Officer in the fall of 2023. Alexander joined the NLEOMF following nearly 30 years of law enforcement experience, beginning as a Security Police Officer with the United States Air Force and then transitioning to the Prince George's County Police Department, which serves a Maryland community just outside of Washington, D.C. He started as a patrol officer and was quickly promoted, initially as a patrol sergeant and patrol lieutenant, and then through a variety of command-level roles to include media relations, internal affairs, the police training academy, and commander of a major district station, which included the University of Maryland and surrounding area. He also served as the department's lead legislative liaison, forging strong relationships with local/state elected leaders, government officials, and advocacy groups across MD and the broader Washington DC metro area. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Management and a Master's degree in Leadership from Johns Hopkins University. Alexander now remains focused on ensuring the Memorial Fund does not falter in its mission: to honor the fallen, tell the story of American law enforcement, and make it safer for those who serve.

Plenary Session - FBI-LEEDA Officer Safety & Wellness Series

## **Responder Mindset, Resiliency and Peer Support**

**Officer Lindsay Long** (Ret), Tempe Police Department (AZ)



**Lindsay McCall Long** is a retired law enforcement professional from Arizona. Having survived multiple gunshot wounds during a critical incident, she credits her mindset, resiliency, and peer network ahead of the incident for helping her to create the environment from which to recover from the injuries and continue her path toward helping others understand the necessary path of peer support and mental health in law enforcement. Lindsay engages executive leadership to provide encompassing programs for officers as she herself provides critical training and response for officers in crisis. As a wife, mother and valued member of her community and family, Lindsay instills the importance of clarity, perspective and healing in her training and presentations. She is a recognized public speaker and presenter on mindset, resiliency and peer support, as well as numerous law enforcement topics in which she maintains her expertise. Lindsay is actively pursuing better education and support for law enforcement prior to critical events and following trauma to sustain lives of officers, their families and the communities who need them!

## Use of Force: Moment of Threat vs. Totality of the Circumstances

Eric P. Daigle, Esq., Attorney/Principle, Daigle Law Group LLC



**Eric Daigle** practices civil litigation in federal and state courts, with an emphasis on municipalities and public officials. His experience includes defending municipal clients in civil rights actions, including police misconduct litigation and employment actions, as well as premises and general tort liability. Attorney Daigle also defends the rights of officers charged with criminal acts and has brought civil actions against those who have violated the legal rights of officers. Attorney Daigle acts as a legal advisor to police departments across the Country. He provides legal advice to law enforcement command staff and officers in the areas of legal liability, internal affairs, discipline, policy drafting, employment issues, use of force, laws of arrest, and search and seizure. His experience focuses on officers' use of force, specifically in the training, investigation, and supervision of force, as well as deadly force incidents.

## Strategic Communications for Leaders in Public Safety

Sarah Connolly, FBI-LEEDA Instructor

Matt Fagiana, FBI-LEEDA Instructor

Stephanie Slater Goldfuss, FBI-LEEDA Instructor



**Sarah Connolly** has over 25 years of experience in law enforcement. She rose through the ranks with a focus on innovation and leadership. Her expertise in media relations and communications strategy was honed during her time as a department spokesperson, FOIA Director, and later as Communication Strategist. Sarah is dedicated to fostering stronger relationships between police departments and the communities they serve. She focuses on aligning police objectives with community priorities by developing and implementing strategies that promote transparency, ensure accountability, and build trust.

Sarah is a graduate of the Police Executive Leadership Program where she received her master's degree in management from Johns Hopkins University, her bachelor's degree is in Sociology from Gordon College, and she obtained a certificate in Criminal Justice Leadership from University of Maryland University College. Sarah Connolly is the recipient of a Bronze Star for exceptionally meritorious service clearly indicating abilities and judgement well above the expected standard. She has been recognized on a national level regarding her work as a wellness advocate. While an expert in her field and a master instructor, Sarah is a firm believer in being a continual student.



**Matthew Fagiana** retired from the Loudon County Sheriff's Office in May 2022 as a Patrol Sergeant and Public Information Officer, following 22 years of distinguished service in law enforcement. His career began in 2000 with the Gatlinburg Police Department before he transitioned to the Tennessee Highway Patrol shortly after the events of 9/11. Over the course of his career, Matthew held a variety of specialized roles, including serving on the Motor Unit, Crash Reconstruction Team, Riot Squad, Honor Guard, Tennessee Highway Patrol Funeral Detail, the state Critical Incident Stress De-Briefing Team, and the Regional Gang Investigations Unit. In his final years with the Loudon County Sheriff's Office, he was appointed Squad Commander, overseeing the midnight shift operations. In addition to his patrol supervisory responsibilities, Matthew managed the agency's social media presence, coordinated public events, and administered both state and federal grant programs. He also served as the primary point of contact for media relations, handling interviews, news conferences, and media inquiries. Matthew is a highly experienced trainer and consultant in crisis communications, media relations, and brand management for law enforcement agencies. His expertise has been honed through years of serving as the



agency's Public Information Officer and leading public-facing communications efforts. He currently serves as an instructor for the FBI- LEEDA, where he delivers training to law enforcement executives nationwide on these critical subjects.

In addition to his work in communications and leadership, Matthew serves as an Academy Instructor, overseeing scenario-based training, and as an assistant instructor for Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) at the Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy in East Tennessee. He has also been a Teaching Associate for the University of Tennessee's Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC), instructing courses on Cultural Competency and Advanced De-escalation Techniques. In 2005 he attended the prestigious Federal Law Enforcement Training Academy (FLETC) where he obtained his Physical Security Specialist Certification. Additionally, Matthew has been featured on several nationally recognized law enforcement podcasts and has contributed to Fox News Digital as a law enforcement expert. Matthew holds a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Services Management from Bethel University and is a licensed Advanced Emergency Medical Technician. Beyond his law enforcement career, he served as Chairman of the Loudon County Local Emergency Planning Commission from 2016 to 2022. His leadership and community involvement earned him recognition as one of Knoxville Business Journal's "Top 40 Under 40" in 2017, and in 2021 he was named Patrol Supervisor of the Year by Sheriff Tim Guider.



**Stephanie Slater Goldfuss** spent 15 years as the Public Information Officer at the Boynton Beach Police Department, serving as a strategic communications advisor and community engagement liaison to the Chief of Police. As the agency's only spokesperson, she managed the department's media strategies, conceptualizing and creating content for traditional, digital and social media. She spearheaded the agency's rebranding, recruitment campaigns, website redevelopment and podcast production. She worked closely with media representatives to provide clear, timely and concise information to keep the public informed, empowered and engaged. Stephanie is a graduate of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, where she majored in print journalism. Stephanie is a sought-after law enforcement media training consultant and has been teaching strategic messaging, crisis communications, and public relations best practices nationwide for more than a decade. She is a two-time Past President of the National Information Officers Association and was honored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police with the 40 Under 40 award. Stephanie serves as the Director of Communications for Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith, PLLC, a third-generation personal injury law firm in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Plenary Session - FBI-LEEDA Cop to Cop Series

## **How Remote Guarding Enhances Officer and Community Safety**

**Mitch Tavera**, Law Enforcement Liaison, Elite Interactive Solutions Law Enforcement Advisory Board

**Sergeant II Tom Stone**, Los Angeles Police Department (CA)



**Mitch Tavera** retired in 2017 after spending 39 years with the El Segundo, California Police Department, the last seven as chief of police. His other involvement included serving as a police officer, narcotics investigator, team leader in a countywide narcotics task force and captain, and commander of the South Bay Mobile Field Force Platoon. He holds a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from California State University Long Beach and is graduate of the FBI National Academy, Senior Management Institute of Police, West Point Leadership Institute and the Delinquency Control Institute at U.S.C. Tavera continues to participate in several law enforcement and community organizations.

As a current member of remote guarding and crime prevention specialist Elite Interactive Solutions' Law Enforcement Advisory Board (LEAD), Tavera is the primary

outreach leader to establish new public-private relationships when Elite begins serving a new city or region. He ensures agencies are educated about remote video guarding and monitoring, and how it proactively prevents crime, acts as a force multiplier, and provides live eyewitness advisors for crimes in progress that keep responding officers better informed and safer.

**Tom Stone** has served in law enforcement for more than twenty-eight years. Tom currently serves as Sergeant II with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Tom has worked a variety of assignments including patrol, gang enforcement, counter terrorism special operations, crime suppression, and parole and compliance. Tom currently commands the LAPD Metropolitan Division Armory. Additionally, Tom teaches Multi-Assault, Counter Terrorism Action Capabilities nationwide and consults on law enforcement and security issues.

Tom served in the US Army/Army National Guard/Army Reserves for twenty-five years and retired as an Operations Sergeant Major. Tom was deployed to Operations Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom and was the recipient of numerous combat medals including the Bronze Star "V" Device, two Bronze Stars Meritorious, and Purple Heart.

## Master of Ceremonies

**Paul Butler**, Paul Butler Presentations



**Paul Butler** is a speaker, presenter, instructor, and entertainer. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communication with a concentration in Culture and Communication, as well as an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. He excels in the areas of motivation, leadership, customer service, and attitude empowerment. During his 27 years of law enforcement, he has been a public servant, training officer, sergeant, crisis negotiator, chief of police, and chief deputy. These opportunities have given him a unique perspective on a vast array of situations and circumstances that many people find themselves in every day. These experiences have helped him to develop the answers to questions and cures to problems most people are facing at work and in life on a continual basis.

Paul became the chief of police of the Aynor Police Department at 22 years of age, making him the youngest police chief in the history of South Carolina. Born and raised on a small farm, his parents served as examples of hard work, common sense, personal responsibility, and respect for self and others. This has played heavily in his success in life and within each organization in which he has served. He believes the power of a positive attitude can take you to the top or help you simply find happiness and pride in the current role you fill. A healthy attitude is often the key to both personal and professional success – this has certainly been the key to Paul's success. As Chief Deputy of the Horry County Sheriff's Office, he was selected to attend the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia in 2005 for the 220th Session. This 10-week, executive level course was host to 250 attendees from all 50 states and 29 countries around the world. Paul was selected by his class to be their graduation day speaker alongside then-FBI Director Robert Mueller. He continues to serve on the national level with the FBI National Academy Associates as their official Master of Ceremonies. He has performed with them in Orlando, Philadelphia, Seattle, St. Louis, Washington, D.C., Quebec City, and is already scheduled to appear in Phoenix in 2019.

To increase his outreach, Paul Butler Presentations was formed, and he has been traveling the nation speaking, instructing, and entertaining for all types of groups, organizations, and events. He is consistently one of the highest-rated presenters on the market today and comes with strong references and a list of past and future, exciting events on his website: [www.Paul-Butler.com](http://www.Paul-Butler.com).