



# WSTOA

## Newsletter

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### WSTOA

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## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By: Wayne DuBois, Director of Operations

Moving into the third quarter of 2010, we are seeing continued budget cuts in state, county, and city governments. Inevitably this leads to budget cuts within state, county, and local law enforcement agencies. Some agencies that were planning on beginning a tactical team have put those plans on hold. Some agencies are contemplating discontinuing their team, or in the case of some regional teams, participation with the team. In other cases, law enforcement agencies are cutting training hours from the team, or re-assigning formerly full time officers back to patrol.

How can tactical teams keep the support of their administrations or garner their support?

1. **Identify Administrative Expectations.** The team leadership should approach the agency administration or team governing board and have them clearly define what they expect of the team, in terms of mission capabilities. Any administration that expects a team to execute a specific type of mission should make reasonable attempts to support that mission in terms of equipment and training.
2. **Assess Your Systems.** All team members should assess every aspect of their team operation, discontinuing what is unnecessary and investing in what is important and useful. This will help you streamline how you do business.
3. **Maximize Training Time.** Tactical teams should focus training time on those missions they are expected to perform. Obviously, there are many individual skills that must be trained as well. A yearly training schedule should be created which maximizes the time allotted to the team.

As the economy worsens and departments face further budgetary difficulties, a SWAT teams best service to themselves is to position to weather the “budgetary” storm. A team that does this will be able to gain much more administrative support than the team that has not worked to be as efficient as possible. WSTOA can provide consulting services to members who need help in assessing their “system” and better positioning for the future.

If you any comments or suggestions you feel could help the WSTOA improve, please contact Wayne DuBois at [wdubois@ci.richland.wa.us](mailto:wdubois@ci.richland.wa.us)

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## Tactical Flexibility

By: Mike Martin, District One Representative

I recently attended a swat training course where the instructors stressed tactical flexibility as one of 5 things you need to have to be successful on a mission. What does that mean to you? Would you consider yourself or your team as being able to be flexible when the situation calls for it? Is that evident in the way you train and you’re experience from previous missions you have had?

To me, tactical flexibility means that I have a tool belt filled with good tactical options which will give me the confidence and ability to rapidly change my tactics when needed. It means that I need to be thinking two or three steps ahead for the safety of everyone involved and for the success of the mission. It means that I need to be prepared to fill roles and responsibilities that I may not be accustomed to. It means that whatever my swat team puts forth for training, I need to accept that it is the minimum of what is required of me. To excel and succeed means that I need to take responsibility and take my training to the next level.

Tactical flexibility comes down to training. The tactics we use are constantly evolving and we need to place ourselves in a position where we are more prepared to succeed.

There isn’t a job on the team that I shouldn’t feel somewhat comfortable in doing. If I do feel uncomfortable then the responsibility lies with me to make the adjustments and to work on my deficiencies and expand my knowledge and understanding in those tactics. After all, it’s not about me. It’s about the community I serve and the family I serve with.

The next time you are at training or on a mission, remember to be tactically flexible. Remember that your ability to be flexible and to rapidly change could end up being the success or failure

of a mission. Train hard and train often!

Mike Martin can be contacted at [m.martin@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:m.martin@co.snohomish.wa.us)

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## Training: Is Quarterly Training Back?

By: Jeff Selleg, Director of Training

In an effort to meet the needs of the association and get back to our roots, WSTOA is reinstating the quarterly training events. These training sessions will move around the different regions of the state in hopes of hitting each geographic corner of the state at least once during the calendar year. Our first session will be in the NW corner of the state and hosted by the Mt. Vernon Police Department.

The training will be as low cost as possible in order to maximize participation. You can help the association by letting us know what subjects you are interested in and who in your region would be a good sponsor. This will be a great opportunity to showcase your team to the rest of the state while receiving some great training and networking with your peers.

If you have any good ideas feel free to contact your district representative or me directly at [Selleg.J@portseattle.org](mailto:Selleg.J@portseattle.org)

