

2026 GATLINBURG LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE



The Premier Training Event for U.S. Law Enforcement Professionals in the southeast region



Agenda May 4-7, 2026

“Enhancing Public Safety through Law Enforcement Excellence”

Monday May 4, 2026

2:00pm – 5:30pm Conference Registration Check-In– **Embassy Suites Hotel**
5:00pm – 7:00pm Welcome Reception - **Embassy Suites**

Tuesday May 5, 2026

7:30am – 8:30am Registration – **Gatlinburg Convention Center**
8:30am – 5:00pm Program – **Mills Auditorium**

Time	Class Title and Instructor	Location
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Conference Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tribute to Fallen Officers – Mrs. Beverly Razor, Louisville, KY• Invocation: Officer Brian Huff, Chaplain, Gatlinburg Police Department• Presentation of Colors, Gatlinburg Police Department Honor Guard• National Anthem: Naomi O’Shae, Dispatcher, Sevierville Police Department• Welcoming Remarks:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ronnie Barrett Chief of Police, Gatlinburg Police Department	Mills Auditorium
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Keynote – Honorable Todd Blanche (Tentative) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deputy Attorney General, United States Department of Justice	Mills Auditorium
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Break	
10:30AM – 12:00 PM	Responding and Investigating Hoax Bomb Threats and Swatting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brian LaBlanc, Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Office	Mills Auditorium
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch on your own	
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Drug-Related Death Investigations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lt. Josh Shaffer, Knoxville Police Department	Mills Auditorium
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Break	
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Child Exploitation and Violent Extremist Case Study <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Max Wooten, Veteran Law Enforcement Officer and Expert Investigator/ FBI-FTO, Winston Salem North Carolina	Mills Auditorium
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Evening Reception	Embassy Suites
6:30PM –8:30 PM	Conference Networking Cookout	Embassy Suites



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Wednesday, May 6, 2026

7:30am – 8:30am Late Registration Check- In – **Gatlinburg Convention Center**
8:30am – 5:00pm Program – **Mills Auditorium**

Featuring Scott Payne, Author of Code Name: Pale Horse, How I went undercover to expose America’s Nazis

New York Times bestseller • Code Name: Pale Horse tells the true story of Scott Payne, an undercover FBI agent who infiltrated the dangerous neo-Nazi group The Base. Payne, known as “Hillbilly Donnie Brasco,” also worked against the Outlaw Motorcycle Club, tackled the opioid crisis, and infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan. Despite the risks, he balanced his career with family and faith. This book offers a timely look at threats facing America, sharing an honest account of one agent’s dedication to justice.

Time	Class Title and Instructor	Location
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	<i>Undercover Stressors, 1% Motorcycle Clubs, and mental health</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scott D. Payne, FBI - Retired (JTTF/Gangs/CEI, Undercover Coordinator, Principal Tactical/Active Shooter/ Defensive Tactics Instructor), ALERRT Adjunct Instructor and Former Deputy, Greenville County Sheriff's Office (South Carolina) 	Mills Auditorium
10:00 PM – 10:30 PM	Break	
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<i>Undercover Stressors, 1% Motorcycle Clubs, and mental health</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scott D. Payne, Retired (JTTF/Gangs/CEI, Undercover Coordinator, Principal Tactical/Active Shooter/ Defensive Tactics Instructor), ALERRT Adjunct Instructor and Former Deputy, Greenville County Sheriff's Office (South Carolina) 	Mills Auditorium
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch on your own	
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	<i>Safety Through Mental Health and Resilience</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ret. Capt. Brandon Post, Provo, Utah PD, VALOR Program 	Mills Auditorium
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Break	
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<i>Cracking Cold Cases: How AI is Transforming Investigations</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim Penrose, CEO, Tranquility AI 	Mills Auditorium
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Evening Reception	Embassy Suites





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Thursday, May 7, 2026

7:30am – 8:30am
8:30am – 5:00pm

Late Registration Check-In – **Gatlinburg Convention Center**
Program – **Mills Auditorium**

Time	Class Title and Instructor	Location
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	<i>Tren de Aragua (TDA): A Brief History, Tactics, Techniques, Procedures, and Recent Activity</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Walters, Special Agent, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation 	Mills Auditorium
9:30 AM – 10:45 AM	<i>Leveling up your leadership, 1 Degree; by LIVING your legacy, not leaving one.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Cowan, Executive Director of the Excellence in Policing and Public Safety Program at the University of South Carolina's Rice School of Law and Director of Professional Development, Jim Hudson Automotive Group. Former Chief of Police in Cayce, SC 	Mills Auditorium
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Break	
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<i>From Chaos to Control: Critical Incidents and Officer involved Shootings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> L.S. Miller Law 	Mills Auditorium
12:00 PM- 1:15 PM	Lunch on your own	
1:15 PM – 2:30 PM	<i>Integrated Response: A Case Study of the Laguna Woods Mass Shooting.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scott Dierdoff, Orange County Fire Authority (SLATT Program) 	Mills Auditorium
2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	Break	
2:45 PM – 3:45 PM	<i>Cargo and Metal Thefts</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Insurance Crime Bureau 	Mills Auditorium
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM	<i>Inside the Digital Hunt for Darknet Child Sex Offenders</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ryan Heethuis, Investigative Analyst, United States Secret Service 	Mills Auditorium
4:45 PM – 5:00 PM	Conference Closing	Mills Auditorium

The agenda for this event is finalized; however, session times, classes, and presenters remain subject to revision. All presentations and speakers are currently confirmed.

We extend our gratitude to all presenters for their dedication to upholding the distinguished standards of this training event. The Gatlinburg Law Enforcement Conference is sponsored, organized, and funded by the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police.

