

# 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  
5:00pm – 7:00pm

Conference Registration Check-In– **Embassy Suites Hotel**  
Welcome Reception - **Embassy Suites**

## Tuesday May 5, 2026

7:30am – 8:30am  
8:30am – 5:00pm

Georgia Executive Credit classes are indicated by GEAC in the class location

Registration – **Gatlinburg Convention Center**  
Program – **Mills Auditorium & Mills Room 2**

**Victim Services Track sessions indicated by a light purple background** will deliver targeted training and resources for professionals engaged in direct support of crime victims. These sessions emphasize best practices, effective victim support strategies, and emerging trends in victim advocacy, enabling participants to strengthen their expertise and capabilities within this essential sector. All sessions are open to all registered attendees.

Time	Conference Opening				Location
8:30 AM 9:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tribute to Fallen Officers – Mrs. Beverly Razor, Louisville, KY</li> <li>Invocation: Officer Brian Huff, Chaplain, Gatlinburg Police Department</li> <li>Presentation of Colors, Gatlinburg Police Department Honor Guard</li> <li>National Anthem: Naomi O'Shea, Dispatcher, Sevierville Police Department</li> <li>Welcoming Remarks:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ronnie Barrett, Chief of Police, Gatlinburg Police Department</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				Mills Auditorium
9:00 AM 10:00 AM	<b>Keynote – Honorable Todd Blanche</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deputy Attorney General, United States Department of Justice</li> </ul>				Mills Auditorium
10:00 AM 10:30 AM	Break				
	Class and Instructor		Time	Class and Instructor	Location
10:30AM 12:00 PM	<b>Responding and Investigating Hoax Bomb Threats and Swatting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brian LaBlanc, Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Office</li> </ul>	Mills Auditorium <u>GEAC</u>	10:30AM-12:00 PM	<b>Professional Ethics in Victim Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alejandro Palacios, Victim Advocacy Training Manager, National Organization for Victim Advocacy (NOVA)</li> </ul>	Mills Room 2
12:00 PM 1:30 PM	Lunch on your own				
1:30 PM 3:30 PM	<b>Drug-Related Death Investigations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lt. Josh Shaffer, Knoxville Police Department</li> </ul>	Mills Auditorium	1:30 PM-3:30 PM	<b>Technology Safety for Victims of Crime</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alejandro Palacios, Victim Advocacy Training Manager, NOVA</li> </ul>	Mills Room 2
3:30 PM 4:00 PM	Break				
4:00 PM 5:00 PM	<b>Emerging Threats in Terrorism: Nihilistic Violent Extremism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Max Wooten, Veteran Law Enforcement Officer and Expert Investigator, Winston Salem North Carolina</li> </ul>	Mills Auditorium <u>GEAC</u>	4:00pm-5:00pm	<b>Emerging Topics in Victim Services Roundtable Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alejandro Palacios, NOVA</li> <li>Jenny Parker, Victim Witness Coordinator, USAO-EDKY</li> <li>TBA</li> </ul>	Mills Room 2
5:00 PM 7:00 PM	<b>Evening Reception</b> Embassy Suites				
6:30PM 8:30 PM	<b>Conference Networking Cookout</b> Embassy Suites				

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**Wednesday, May 6, 2026**

Georgia Executive Credit classes are indicated by GEAC in the class location

7:30am – 8:30am Late Registration Check- In – **Gatlinburg Convention Center**  
8:30am – 5:00pm Program – **Mills Auditorium & Mills Room 2**

**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	<b>Undercover Stressors, 1% Motorcycle Clubs, and mental health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)</li> </ul>	Mills Auditorium			
10:00 AM 10:30 AM	Break				
10:30AM 12:00 PM	<b>Undercover Stressors, 1% Motorcycle Clubs, and mental health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)</li> </ul>	Mills Auditorium			
12:00 PM 1:30 PM	Lunch on your own				
Time	Class and Instructor	Location	Time	Class and Instructor	Location
1:30 PM 3:30 PM	<b>Safety Through Mental Health and Resilience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ret. Capt. Brandon Post, Provo, Utah PD, VALOR Program</li> </ul>	Mills Auditorium	1:30 PM – 3:30 PM	<b>Department of Homeland Security Resources, Programs &amp; Partnerships for Victims</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarissa Whaley, Victim-Witness Program Manager, USAO-SC</li> <li>Robin G. Chapman, DSW, LCSW, National Victim Assistance Program Manager, HSI</li> <li>Eia Richardson, Victim Assistance Specialist, HSI</li> </ul>	Mills Room 2  <u>GAEC</u>
3:30 PM 4:00 PM	Break				
4:00 PM 5:00 PM	<b>Cracking Cold Cases: How AI is Transforming Investigations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jim Penrose, CEO, Tranquility AI</li> </ul>	Mills Auditorium  <u>GAEC</u>	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>The VINELink.com Experience: Delivering Resources to All Victims!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brad Jeffries, Kevin McKinney, &amp; Karen Adams, Equifax Workforce Solutions</li> </ul>	Mills Room 2
5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Evening Reception Embassy Suites				

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**Agenda May 4-7, 2026**

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**Thursday, May 7, 2026**

Georgia Executive Credit classes are indicated by **GAEC** in the class location

7:30am – 8:30am

Late Registration Check- In – **Gatlinburg Convention Center**

8:30am – 5:00pm

Program – **Mills Auditorium & Mills Room 2**

Time	Class Title and Instructor	Location	Time	Class & Instructor	Location
8:30 AM 9:30 AM	<b><i>Tren de Aragua (TDA): A Brief History, Tactics, Techniques, Procedures, and Recent Activity</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Michael Walters, Special Agent, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation</li></ul>	Mills Auditorium	8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	<b><i>Helping the Helpers: Fostering resilience and reducing trauma in victim service professionals</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Angela Moreland, Ph.D., Associate Director, National Mass Violence Center (NMVC)</li></ul>	Mills Room 2
9:30 AM 10:45 AM	<b><i>Leveling up your leadership, 1 Degree; by LIVING your legacy, not leaving one.</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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</li></ul>	Mills Auditorium  <b><u>GAEC</u></b>	9:30 AM – 10:45 AM	<b><i>Trauma-Informed Victim Services &amp; Interviewing</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Angela Moreland, Ph.D., Associate Director, NMVC</li><li>Cassidee Carlson, C3 Strategies, LLC</li></ul>	Mills Room 2
10:45 AM 11:00 AM	Break				
11:00 AM 12:00 PM	<b><i>From Chaos to Control: Critical Incidents and Officer involved Shootings</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>L.S. Miller Law, Scott Miller</li></ul>	Mills Auditorium  <b><u>GAEC</u></b>	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<b><i>Victim Service Responses in Mass Violence Incidents</i></b> National Mass Violence Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Angela Moreland-Johnson, Ph.D., NMVC</li><li>Cassidee Carlson C3 Strategies LLC</li><li>Clarissa Whaley, Victim-Witness Program Manager, USAO-SC</li></ul>	Mills Room 2
12:00 PM 1:15 PM	Lunch on your own				
1:15 PM 2:30 PM	<b><i>Integrated Response: A Case Study of the Laguna Woods Mass Shooting</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Scott Dierdoff, Orange County Fire Authority (SLATT Program)</li></ul>				
2:30 PM 2:45 PM	<div><b><u>GAEC</u></b></div> Mills Auditorium				
2:30 PM 2:45 PM	Break				
2:45 PM 3:45 PM	<b><i>The Impact of Transnational Organized Crime on National Cargo Theft Trends</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Steve Hall, Supervisory Special Agent, National Insurance Crime Bureau</li></ul>				
3:45 PM 4:45 PM	<b><i>Inside the Digital Hunt for Darknet Child Sex Offenders</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ryan Heethuis, Investigative Analyst,</li><li>United States Secret Service</li></ul>				
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.