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Only five hostage negotiators have been honored with a lifetime membership in the Texas Association of Hostage Negotiators (TAHN) since the group formed in 1989. On Nov. 12, Burleson Police Sgt. Bob Sherman became the fifth recipient during the TAHN awards banquet in San Antonio.



Max Howard, Victor Bazan, Toni Adams, Sgt. Bob Sherman and Kenneth Clarida

An honorary lifetime membership is awarded to those who have demonstrated exemplary contributions in the field of hostage/crisis negotiations.

Recipients must be nominated by an active member of TAHN. Approval of the nomination must be done by a majority vote of the board of directors.

TAHN is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality training to hostage negotiators and first responders. TAHN consists of six state regions, each providing training and education for crisis negotiations from El Paso to Texarkana and Brownsville to Wichita Falls. Sgt. Sherman is currently the vice president of public relations for TAHN.

Other honorary lifetime members include Special Agent London (Max) Howard, FBI retired; Special Agent Victor Bazan, FBI Retired; Deputy Kenneth Clarida, Tarrant County Sheriff's Office; and Officer Toni Adams, Frisco Police Department.

Sgt. Sherman has served as a police officer since 1981 when he joined the United States Air Force as a law enforcement specialist. He served at Hahn Air Base in Germany and Carswell Air Force Base (now Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base) in Fort Worth. He became interested in crisis negotiations after volunteering as a counselor with a Fort Worth suicide hotline in 1985. When TAHN formed in 1989, Sgt. Sherman designed the first official logo.

Sherman subsequently served in Korea and south Florida, then was honorably discharged from the Air Force and returned to Texas. He attended Tarrant County Junior College's (now Tarrant County College) Criminal Justice Training Center where he graduated as valedictorian and as a distinguished recruit in December 1992. He was then hired by the City of Burleson. Sherman was promoted to corporal in 1996 and sergeant in 1999. He is currently the senior sergeant at the Burleson Police Department.

The sergeant earned a master TCLEOSE (Texas Commission Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education) peace officer's certification and is a field training sergeant, TCLEOSE instructor, standardized field sobriety test practitioner and an intoxilyzer operator. He is the leader of the Burleson Police Department's five-person crisis negotiations team. The honoree is married and has two daughters.

For more information, call the public information office at 817-447-5400, ext. 286.