**JOHN THOMPSON**

John Thompson is the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer at the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA). Mr. Thompson has operational responsibility for NSA’s programs and services. In 2004, he initiated and led the development and implementation of NSA’s nationally recognized Homeland Security training programs in Community Preparedness, First Response to All Hazardous Events and Jail Evacuation in Disasters among other widely used NSA training programs in disaster preparedness.

Mr. Thompson’s service in public safety began in 1970 when he became a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician. In 1972, he joined the Federal Fire Service as a firefighter at the Quantico Marine Corps Base. Two years later, Mr. Thompson enlisted in the United States Army, serving as a military police officer, canine handler and military intelligence officer before being honorably discharged.

After his military service, he continued to work in law enforcement and in 1989 was appointed Chief of Police for the City of Mount Rainier, a diverse Maryland community bordering Washington, D.C. As Police Chief, Mr. Thompson reorganized the department and its priorities, placing an emphasis on community policing, training and implementing innovative crime reduction programs that won the department two “Award of Excellence” commendations from the Maryland Municipal League. In 1998, he was appointed Assistant Sheriff for Prince Georges County, Maryland, where he worked until 2002.

Over the years, Mr. Thompson has strived to broaden his expertise and reputation as a law enforcement and homeland security professional. In addition to his degree in criminal justice, he is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, as well as the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development School.

In 2013, after learning about the link between animal abuse and violence against people, Mr. Thompson went on a mission to ensure law enforcement became aware of this horrible evidence and to bridge the gap between law enforcement and animal advocates. He lead a movement that established the National Coalition on Violence Against Animals, an independent collective of local, state and national organizations that focus on animal cruelty and its relationship to other forms of violence. Additionally, he established and led the development of the National Law Enforcement Center on Animal Abuse, a clearinghouse at the NSA for law enforcement on all animal abuse issues they may face.

He also led the NSA’s petition to the FBI to include animal abuse crimes in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which was approved and signed by FBI Director Comey in September 2014. Currently, he is working with other organizations and partners to create a top notch training program for law enforcement to address a growing problem with officer/dog encounters.