

2017 FASRO Conference

PRESENTER INFORMATION

Captain Christopher M. Vanghele – Newtown Police Department

Presentation Working Title:

The Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting: An Emergency Response Retrospective (4-hour presentation)

Presentation Description:

On 12/14/12 the Newtown Police Department responded to one of the worst school shootings in history. A lone gunman shot his way into the Sandy Hook Elementary School and within minutes killed six teachers and twenty children. As a first responder to the scene and as a leader within the Newtown Police Department, Captain Vanghele will share his experiences from that day and in the weeks and months that followed. From a retrospective and lessons learned viewpoint, he will discuss the emergency response and the investigation as well as the aftermath of the event. Captain Vanghele will discuss the various aspects regarding this tragic incident to include; the overwhelming outpouring of assistance, the mental health effects of trauma, community resiliency, law enforcement training issues, school security, active shooter response, and charting a course for the “new normal”.

Presenter Bio:

Captain Christopher Vanghele has been a Newtown Police Officer since June of 1993. He has held various assignments and ranks within the Department including; patrol officer, Statewide Narcotics Taskforce officer, School Resource Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Administrative Sergeant and Administrative Lieutenant. During his tenure he was a founding member of the Connecticut School Resource Officer’s Association, served as the Department’s grant writer, coordinated the Citizen Police Academy and chaired the Department’s Awards and Decorations Committee.

Captain Vanghele is currently acting as his department’s Deputy Chief. He manages and coordinates the patrol and administrative services divisions, supervises the crisis intervention team, honor guard, canine unit and emergency services unit. Lt. Vanghele is a certified domestic violence instructor and was a past president and treasurer of the Fairfield County Police Training Officer’s Association.

Lieutenant Vanghele is the recipient of his Department’s Bravery Award, Merit Award, Chief’s Service Award, Commissioner’s Service Award, and Education Award. He has numerous MADD awards for his proactive drunk driving enforcement efforts. He is the recipient of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families “Community Partner Award”, and he has received the 2013 “First 100 Plus” award for his leadership and commitment to improving the lives of domestic violence victims in Connecticut. He has most recently been awarded the Courage of Connecticut Award for his actions during the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy.

Lieutenant Vanghele graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor's degree in English literature and has a master's degree in Public Administration from American Military University. He attended the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management's Command Training Program, the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, and the Sacred Heart University Police Leadership Institute.

Captain Vanghele responded to the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012 and led the initial entry team. He then acted as the on-scene incident commander for the Newtown Police Department. Captain Vanghele has given presentations regarding his experiences at the following conferences:

- 2013 Maine Emergency Management Annual Conference (Augusta, ME)
- Baystate Medical Center's Victim's Rights Conference (Springfield, MA)
- Rural County Summit on School Safety & Emergency Preparedness (Tallahassee, FL)
- 2013 Urban Shield Conference (Oakland, CA)
- 2014 Vermont Chief's and Sheriff's Association annual conference (Fairlee, VT)
- 2014 Baker County Active Shooter Conference (Macclenny, FL)
- 2015 State of Missouri DARE Conference (Kansas City, MO)
- 2015 ALERRT Active Shooter Conference (San Marcos, Texas)
- 2016 Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference (Grand Rapids, MI)
- 2016 Florida Police Accreditation Coalition Conference (Orlando, FL)
- Waterford Police Department Active Shooter Training (Waterford, CT)
- Old Saybrook Police Department Active Shooter Training (Old Saybrook, CT)
- The 2016 Virginia Gang Investigators Association Conference (Virginia Beach, VA)

