

Lessons Learned From the ROCIC Spring Training Conference

How do you dismantle a Colombian drug cartel? Attendees obtained valuable information at the ROCIC Spring Membership Training Conference held on March 18–21, 2018, in St. Augustine, Florida. Former U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Agents Steve Murphy and Javier Peña chronicled their contributions in the takedown of the infamous Colombian narco-terrorist Pablo Escobar and his Medellin Cartel, who was the largest cocaine distributor in the world in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The former DEA agents became pop-culture icons in the fall of 2015 when Netflix launched its first season of the critically acclaimed television series *Narcos*.

“Relevant training is a critical mission for ROCIC and the RISS Program,” said ROCIC training coordinator Jarrett Miller. The lessons learned from Mr. Murphy and Mr. Peña remain applicable today for officers dealing with drug traffickers and distributors. Attendees also learned from experts regarding the dangers of fentanyl to first responders; the activities of gangs and extremists, such as the Patron Saints, sovereign citizens, and MS-13; the evolution of criminal gang activity, from narcotics into profitable fraud; and useful tactics for law enforcement personnel to consider when testifying in court.



The 315 law enforcement professionals also shared their experiences and expertise at networking sessions. The conference, held in the oldest city in America, was graciously cohosted by the St. Johns County, Florida, Sheriff’s Office.

ROCIC’s 27th Annual Homicide Conference will be held on September 30 – October 3, 2018, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, close to ROCIC headquarters in Nashville. Conference topics include Death Investigations, DNA Forensic Technology, Solving Cold Cases, Ballistic Evidence and Resources, Prosecution of Narcotic-Related Deaths, and The Mindset for Survival: Sikh Temple Massacre.

For more information, please visit the ROCIC training page at <https://rocic.riss.net/Training>, contact the ROCIC Training Department at (800) 238-7985, extension 535, or email training@rocic.riss.net.