

Keith A. Ternes, Chief of Police (retired) – Fargo, ND Police Department

Keith Ternes began his law enforcement career in 1985 as a sheriff's deputy with the Morton County Sheriff's Department in Mandan, ND. After serving as a patrol deputy for 1½ years, Keith accepted a position with the Fargo, ND Police Department where he started as a uniformed patrol officer in January of 1987. In January of 1990, Keith was promoted to sergeant where he served in both the uniformed patrol division and narcotics investigations unit. In 1997, Keith was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and in September of 1999 he was assigned to manage the Fargo Police Department's Office of Professional Standards where he was responsible for the organizations internal affairs and human resource functions. In January of 2001, Keith was promoted to the rank of deputy police chief and assigned as the department's field operations commander. In March of 2004, Keith was promoted to the rank of assistant chief, a position he held until April of 2006 when he was appointed chief of police for the Fargo Police Department. Chief Ternes served as Fargo's police chief for 8 ½ years before retiring in November of 2014.

Keith holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management & Organizational Behavior from the University of Mary in Fargo, ND and is a 1991 graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command. He also attended and graduated from the FBI National Academy (Session # 190) in 1997, and is also a 2012 graduate of the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development (LEEDS) program.

In 2004, Keith was appointed by the North Dakota attorney general to serve on the North Dakota Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, where he served until 2010. He is currently a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), the North Dakota Chiefs of Police Association, and the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association.

As an advocate for traffic safety, Chief Ternes has been recognized by the North Dakota Department of Transportation for his efforts towards combating impaired driving, and for being one of the first Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) in the state. In addition to his knowledge on the subject of impaired driving enforcement, Chief Ternes has had his work published, specifically as it relates to reducing the errors associated with impaired driver breath-testing. Chief Ternes provides instruction on behalf of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to other law enforcement agencies throughout the United States on the principles of utilizing data-driven approaches to reduce crime and enhance traffic safety.