

Richard L. Whitehead



Joining the Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO), Austin TX, in 1986 Rick worked his way up through the ranks to a Commander as the agency grew from a few hundred to over fifteen hundred personnel. Command positions included: Homicide, SWAT, White Collar Crime, Computer Forensics, Family Violence, Child Abuse, Intelligence, Crime Lab, 911-Communications, School Resource Officer, Canine, Lake Patrol, Traffic, Patrol Platoons, and the Field Training Program. After retiring from TCSO, Rick accepted the CEO position at Columbia 911. Among his accomplishments were the adoptions of a multi-million dollar budget after one meeting and a dispatcher contract in two. He now provides professional public safety services and consulting for corporations and agencies across the country.

Rick's administrative experience includes: directing high profile investigative units, SWAT, managing multi-million dollar budgets, employee compensation programs, and equipment solutions. Incident Command during natural disasters such as the Jarrell tornado, hurricanes Rita and Katrina, and events with influxes of over 60,000 attendees. As a member of the Operations Board for the Combined Transportation Emergency Communications Center (CTECC), Austin TX, he was part of a multi-jurisdictional team which brought to realization a regional digital radio and mobile data system that serves over a million people.

His technical expertise includes: assessing unit efficiencies, design, review and implementation of training programs, instructor development, and investigative training and consultation in Forensic Statement Analysis (FSA). He trained in FSA at the FBINA and then used it working major crimes cases for several years before developing the curriculum and adding it to his training. As a mentor and trainer, he created a Field Training Program singularly used by TCSO and widely adopted by agencies across the country.

Rick holds a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree from Midwestern State University focused on Public Administration and Criminal Justice; is a graduate of the FBI National Academy; and the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute Leadership and Command College. He is a Certified Public Manager, and trains internationally.

With 40 years in public service, Rick has been working with agencies of various sizes across the nation. At 18 years of age, he served his country in the US Army as a Military Policeman and after Honorable Discharge began his civilian career as a Patrolman for Baytown, a suburb of Houston, then 25 years with the Travis County Sheriff's Office.