

Biography

Willie began his career in the law enforcement field, at the Illinois Department of Corrections. He transitioned, in 1992, to the Kane County Sheriff's Office as a Corrections Officer for two years. There, he gained valuable knowledge of the correctional system at the county level.

In 1994, Willie tested for and was hired as a Sheriff's Deputy in the patrol division. He transitioned into the property control section of investigation; where he gained knowledge in the processing, collection and storage of evidence at crime scenes; a critical point in the chain of custody. This paralleled assignments to SWAT, and shortly thereafter, the Bomb Squad.

1999, Willie was one of the original members of a division, with specialized skills, created under the umbrella of an investigation division titled, "Bomb, Arson, and Evidence". He was: Certified as a Bomb Technician, Arson Investigator and Crime Scene Technician.

The certification as a Bomb Technician was acquired at the Hazardous Devices School (HDS), at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. For the Arson Investigator certification Willie attended the National Fire Academy in Emmittsburg, Maryland. Willie was already certified as a Crime Scene Technician, which set him apart as a specialist. Willie honed his skills as an expert with the Bomb, Arson, and Evidence group earning him the Officer of the Year Award in 1999.

In 2003, Willie was promoted to Sergeant, and Commander of the Bomb Squad. Since that time he has worked to bring tools and equipment to better protect the community in critical situations, and in processing crime scenes. Additionally, the strategies and tactics developed nationally, Willie has adopted, engaged and provides ongoing input. He attends the National Bomb Squad Commanders Conference annually to remain current and receptive to nuances in this area of defense and protection.

Willie's leadership and management style with the bomb squad are on display daily. He works closely with state and local agencies, as well as federal partners, i.e., ATF, FBI, and the Secret Service. Working within the framework of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), Willie has been involved in several incidents and pre-planned events as part of the incident command. He is also currently serving in the capacity in the Planning and Training Division, as well as, works in the Civil Department. Working in each of these divisions has given Willie insight into the internal department functions and what each requires to get the job done correctly.

In May 2014, Willie was promoted to Lieutenant of the Planning and Training division where he ensures the effective use of sheriff's Office personnel and equipment. He also interprets, communicates and ensures training in all sheriff's office policies and procedures.