

Book Review : W.I.N. Critical Issues in Training and Leading Warriors

By: Ed Nowicki

W.I.N. Critical Issues in Training and Leading Warriors edited by Brian Willis. This review isn't a tribute to Brian, a flowery testimonial or a 'puff piece' disguised as a book review. If you ever met Brian or received training delivered by Brian you know what a treasure he is to law enforcement.

Brian Willis, literally, put his money where his mouth is. "How," you ask?"

He does this by donating thousands of dollars to The ILEETA Scholarship Fund and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF). Brian is also making donations to The ILEETA Scholarship Fund and the NLEOMF for each book sold. I know of no individual who gave as much money to The ILEETA Scholarship Fund as Brian. Brian's wealth isn't monetary, so his donations have even more value.

A professional law enforcement trainer is a leader, and not necessarily a manager. We manage figures, data, equipment, scheduling and other tasks where the focus is not on people. Law enforcement officers are today's warriors, and warriors need trainers who are leaders, not managers. I'll take a leader over a manager any day.

"W.I.N." is a simple, but powerful acronym for "What's Important Now". This is a critical question for warriors and warrior trainers to ask themselves to ensure they remain focused on what is important in their actions, words, decisions, and training. This book contains a collection of thoughts and ideas from top warriors in North America. Contributing authors include Shannon Bohrer, Jeff Chudwin, Dave Grossman, Chris Lawrence, Steve Mosley, Dave Rose, Rocky Warren, and Brian Willis, in addition to many others who share their insights gathered from decades of leading and training Warriors.

I know that Brian Willis could have done an admirable job of writing this book on his own. Brian actively displayed his leadership, by wanting to tap into the knowledge, skill and expertise of the best law enforcement trainers, not just his insights. The list of contributors is somewhat of a “who’s who” of law enforcement trainers, and a majority of these authors are ILEETA members

Remember, trainers are leaders in every respect. They are the men and women who are given the responsibility, honor and, at times, the burden of “Protecting the Protectors.” You will draw from the wisdom of many leader-trainers in this book. You will get the best from some of the best.

This is also the type of book that does not require you to read each chapter or sub-chapter. The topic of each sub-chapter is self-contained. There is no chronological order, and that’s a good thing. This is a pick and choose book. Think of this book as a buffet of law enforcement training knowledge. You may only want to read certain parts of the book, and that’s fine. The maximum benefits will come together like the final pieces in a jigsaw puzzle if read the entire book.

The three hundred twenty-on page book is divided into six main chapters with a total of twenty-nine sub chapters. The chapters consist of: The Mind of a Warrior (four sub-chapters); The Warrior Spirit (three sub-chapters); Warrior Trainers (four sub-chapters); Leading Warriors (eight sub-chapters); Tactics for Warriors (three sub-chapters); and finally, Training Warriors (seven sub-chapters).

Most sub-chapter authors submitted one sub-chapter, but a few submitted two or even three sub-chapters. Still, with the focused insights of these various experts, readers will truly receive, “the best from the best!”

I highly recommend this book to all trainers and law enforcement officers. If you read *W.I.N. Critical Issues in Training and Leading* © 2008, you cannot help but be a better trainer and, a better

leader. Keep W.I.N. (What's Important Now) in the forefront of your mind, and both you and your students will "Win!" As we know, everyone loves a winner.

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