

Foreword

by

Ed Nowicki

You need to read this book, but first I need to let you know why I agreed to write this foreword and why it is such an honor for me to do so. Since the inception of the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association (ILEETA) in 2003, I had the opportunity to interact with Brian Willis on a somewhat regular basis. I knew of Brian before that time, but I didn't really know him. Fortunately, for me, I had the pleasure of getting to know Brian much better, both as a law enforcement training professional and as a friend.

This foreword isn't a tribute to Brian or a flowery testimonial. The foreword is something that I want you to read, in case you haven't met Brian or received training delivered by Brian. This way, you'll have a foundation of understanding of why this book was written and who put the book together. In essence, you'll get to understand Brian and what makes him a special leader.

This book is edited by someone who will do whatever it takes to get the job done. For example, at each year's ILEETA Conference, we call upon the association members, and the ILEETA Advisory Board in particular, for their help. Typically, two or three well know trainers strut around like peacocks, instead of pitching in and helping do some physical labor. Apparently, bending down or getting their hands dirty isn't acceptable. (You know who you are – and so do I!)

Shirts need folding, an LCD projector needs to be delivered to a room, or boxes need to be picked up and thrown out at each ILEETA Conference. Sound like a menial task. Maybe so, but it's also an important task. In fact, it's very important. Who is volunteering to help? Brian Willis is there at each and every conference!

I really don't think that there's anything that Brian won't do to get the job done when it comes to law enforcement training. He does this without complaining and with a constant smile. Brian clearly understands the importance of doing what needs to be done when it come to law enforcement training. That is leadership. "Leading" is part of this book's title.

Somehow we have too many managers in law enforcement and not enough leaders. I have a Master of Arts Degree in Management. Why wasn't an M.A. available in "Leadership?" We manage figures, data, equipment, scheduling and other tasks where the focus is not on people, but people need to get the job done. 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.

"What's Important Now (W.I.N.)" is part of this book's title. So, "When is 'Now'?" The issues and information contained in this book will make you realize that "Now" is always important, at any time. "Now" should be part of the psyche and persona of each leader of warriors. "Now" is now!

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 the book. You will get the best from some of the best.

I am sure 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. Clearly, he has done so.

This is also the type of book that does not require you to read each chapter. The topic of each 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.

Brian has already donated thousands of dollars to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and The ILEETA Scholarship fund. Through ILEETA, Brian has donated more dollars than any other individual to both the NLEOMF and The ILEETA Scholarship Fund. Again, this is Brian Willis showing his leadership through his actions. Brian wants no special

privileges or pats on the back. He does this because he understands how important it is for law enforcement trainers to, “Honor Life. Prevent Death.”

You are a leader already by reading this book. That doesn't mean that you can't improve. All of us need to keep informed, re-energize our mindset and expand our breadth of knowledge. Reading this book will surely validate the saying, “Knowledge is power.” Take care and STAY SAFE. - Ed

About the Author: Ed Nowicki is the executive director of ILEETA (www.ileeta.org). Ed can be reached at ed@ileeta.org