



Chris Connell

Chris Connell began his 33 plus year law enforcement career in 1986 after earning his Associate of Arts Degree at Tallahassee Community College. He attended Florida State University working on his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice/Police Science and later finishing at St. Leo University. Initially hired as a patrol officer with the Tallahassee Police Department, Connell served in varying positions of increasing responsibility within the TPD and retired after 28 years as a Major.

While at TPD Connell was a patrol officer, a Field Training Officer, Investigator with the Vice and Narcotics Unit, and Investigator with the Robbery Task Force. As a Sergeant he served as a Patrol Sergeant and worked with the Career Criminal Unit; he was also the TAC Entry Team Leader. As a Lieutenant, Connell was a

Tactical Team Commander, Criminals Investigations Assistant Division Commander and Shift Watch Commander. As a Captain, Connell was Division Commander for Uniform Patrol, Special Operations and Homeland Security/Special Operations, and the TAC Team Commander, among other positions. Promoted to Major four years prior to his retirement from TPD, Connell served as Commander of the Operations and Support Bureaus.

Upon retirement from TPD, Connell began work as an Inspector-Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Coordinator with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). In December 2014, he was selected to serve with FDLE as the Director of Capitol Police.

Connell held many ancillary leadership roles during his career. He was one of the longest serving members of the TAC team and wore an on-call pager for over twenty years. Connell was a member of the Florida SWAT Association, serving as both its Vice-President and President, and Executive Editor of the Florida SWAT News Magazine. He served on the Police Officers Pension Advisory Committee, and as the Legislative Representative for the Florida Police Chiefs Association.

Known for his professionalism and dedication, Connell was a role model for younger officers throughout his career.

Watch the video presented at the 2020 Heroes in Public Safety Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony of Jack Adkins speaking on behalf of Chris Connell [HERE](#).