



## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### **RICHARD L. (RICK) SWEARINGEN**

Rick Swearingen is a veteran state law enforcement officer with more than 37 years of experience. On December 16, 2014, former Florida Governor Rick Scott appointed him as the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Interim Commissioner. The Florida Cabinet subsequently confirmed his appointment on January 13, 2015.

Before his appointment, Rick served as the Director of Florida's Capitol Police, which included responsibility for the overall safety and security of Florida's Capitol Complex. Rick began his career with the FDLE in 1984 as a crime information technician and crime intelligence analyst. In 1988, he was promoted to special agent and served in both the FDLE's Tampa Bay Regional Operations Center (TBROC) and Clearwater Field Office (CWFO), including approximately ten years as a member of Tampa Bay's DEA Task Force.

Between 2003 and 2014, he was promoted steadily through the ranks at FDLE. During his tenure in the FDLE's Office of Statewide Intelligence (OSI), he was instrumental in strengthening Florida's post 9-11 domestic security by helping to establish the Florida Fusion Center, Florida's designated primary fusion center, and secure Florida's 14 deep-water seaports. In late 2010, he was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge of FDLE's Protective Operations Section, which is responsible for providing 24/7 protective services to Florida's Governor and First Family, the Executive Office of the Governor, and Florida Governor's Mansion.

Rick distinguished himself as a servant leader from his initial appointment at FDLE in 1984 as a criminal justice information input technician through his time as Commissioner through 2022.