

MICHAEL McNEILL, B.A.

Retired Sheriff's Commander

Ramona, California

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Curriculum Vitae

Professional Profile

Michael McNeill is a retired Sheriff's Commander with more than thirty-two years of progressively responsible law enforcement experience with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. During his career, he served in assignments involving detention operations, patrol, criminal investigations, administrative investigations, court services, emergency communications, intelligence-led policing, specialized enforcement, patrol command, and department-wide patrol oversight.

Mr. McNeill progressed through every supervisory rank from Sergeant through Commander after first serving as a Deputy Sheriff and Area Detective. His career combined extensive operational experience with progressively increasing leadership responsibilities, providing firsthand experience in criminal investigations, patrol supervision, administrative investigations, critical incident management, personnel management, and organizational decision-making.

As Sheriff's Commander assigned to the Law Enforcement Services Bureau, Mr. McNeill provided command oversight of patrol operations throughout the department. He supervised seven Patrol Station Captains responsible for approximately 700 sworn and professional staff and routinely reviewed significant operational incidents, including officer-involved shootings, major uses of force, vehicle pursuits, major traffic collisions, and other incidents presenting substantial operational or organizational risk. His responsibilities also included major personnel decisions, operational planning, and providing guidance to Patrol Station Commanders regarding operational and administrative matters.

Earlier command assignments included Captain of the Santee Sheriff's Station and Lakeside Substation, Lieutenant assigned as Commander of the Ramona Sheriff's Substation, Commander of the North County Regional Gang Task Force, Watch Commander for the Sheriff's Department Communications Center, and Lieutenant responsible for the Intelligence-Led Policing Unit, Volunteer Services Unit, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Program.

Before assuming command assignments, Mr. McNeill served approximately ten years as an Area

Detective investigating a broad range of felony and misdemeanor offenses and later supervised patrol operations, administrative investigations, and specialized field operations as a Sergeant. His experience spans nearly every level of law enforcement operations, from frontline policing and criminal investigations to senior command responsibilities.

Mr. McNeill earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego. He is a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP) and earned California POST Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Supervisory, and Management Certificates during his law enforcement career.

Representative Areas of Experience

Police Practices

Experience includes patrol operations, officer supervision, use-of-force review, officer-involved shooting review, vehicle pursuit review, critical incident management, patrol leadership, operational decision-making, organizational accountability, and implementation of departmental policy and procedure.

Criminal Investigations

Approximately ten years assigned as an Area Detective conducting investigations involving burglary, robbery, theft, fraud, assault, vehicle theft, missing persons, and numerous other felony and misdemeanor offenses. Experience includes witness interviews, suspect interrogations, surveillance operations, preparation of approximately one hundred search warrant affidavits, search warrant planning and execution, and coordination with prosecuting attorneys.

Administrative Investigations

Conducted administrative investigations involving allegations of employee misconduct while assigned to the Sheriff's Department Internal Affairs Unit. Responsibilities included review of body-worn camera recordings, investigative reports, witness statements, and preparation of investigative reports for command review.

Patrol Operations and Command

Commanded patrol operations at the station, substation, and department levels, including personnel management, operational planning, budgeting, community partnerships, and oversight of patrol services.

Leadership and Organizational Management

Progressively promoted from Deputy Sheriff through Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Commander, with responsibility for personnel development, specialized units, regional coordination, and organizational leadership.

Professional Experience

San Diego County Sheriff's Department

December 1993 – January 2025

Progressively promoted through the ranks of Deputy Sheriff, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Commander during more than thirty-two years of service. Assignments included detention operations, patrol, criminal investigations, internal affairs, court services, emergency communications, specialized enforcement, patrol command, and department-wide patrol oversight.

Sheriff's Commander – Law Enforcement Services Bureau

December 2023 – January 2025

Served as Sheriff's Commander assigned to the Law Enforcement Services Bureau with command responsibility for patrol operations throughout the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Supervised seven Patrol Station Captains responsible for approximately 700 sworn and professional staff providing patrol services across the department.

Primary responsibilities included review of significant operational incidents, organizational risk assessment, major personnel decisions, operational planning, and providing guidance to Patrol Station Commanders regarding patrol operations, policy implementation, and administrative matters.

Selected Responsibilities

- Supervised seven Patrol Station Captains responsible for patrol operations throughout San Diego County.
- Reviewed officer-involved shootings, major uses of force, vehicle pursuits, major traffic collisions, and other significant operational incidents.
- Evaluated policy compliance, operational decision-making, and organizational risk associated with critical incidents.
- Approved significant personnel movements within Patrol Operations.
- Assisted in establishing departmental patrol priorities and operational objectives.
- Provided guidance to Patrol Station Commanders regarding operational, personnel, and administrative matters.

Sheriff's Captain – Santee Sheriff's Station / Lakeside Substation

April 2022 – December 2023

Commanded the Santee Sheriff's Station and Lakeside Substation, providing law enforcement services to the City of Santee and surrounding unincorporated communities. Directed approximately 150 sworn and professional staff, including two Lieutenants and approximately

ten Sergeants. Responsibilities included patrol operations, investigations, personnel management, budgeting, community partnerships, and command of significant incidents.

Selected Responsibilities

- Directed patrol, investigative, crime prevention, and administrative operations.
- Assumed command of officer-involved shootings, major uses of force, pursuits, barricaded suspects, and other critical incidents.
- Maintained collaborative relationships with City of Santee officials and community stakeholders.
- Managed personnel, budgeting, strategic planning, and organizational performance.

Sheriff's Lieutenant

July 2018 – April 2022

Served in four command assignments: Communications Center Watch Commander; Law Enforcement Support Lieutenant; Commander, Ramona Sheriff's Substation; and Commander, North County Regional Gang Task Force. These assignments included department-wide operational support, patrol command, specialized program oversight, and multi-agency investigative leadership.

Selected Responsibilities

- Communications Center: command oversight of department dispatch operations during assigned watch.
- Law Enforcement Support: oversight of the Intelligence-Led Policing Unit, Volunteer Services Unit, and UAV Program.
- Ramona Substation: commanded patrol, investigations, crime suppression, personnel, budgeting, and community partnerships.
- Regional Gang Task Force: directed a federally funded multi-agency task force and approved investigative and operational plans.

Sheriff's Sergeant

April 2015 – July 2018

Served as Patrol Sergeant, Internal Affairs Sergeant, and Court Services Sergeant. Supervised field personnel, conducted administrative investigations, responded to critical incidents, and oversaw specialized enforcement and training functions.

Selected Responsibilities

- Responded as first-line supervisor to critical incidents and directed field operations.
- Conducted Internal Affairs investigations involving allegations of employee misconduct.
- Oversaw the station Field Training Officer program as Training Sergeant.
- Supervised deputies assigned to civil process, court orders, and high-risk evictions.

Deputy Sheriff

December 1993 – April 2015

Served in detention operations, patrol, and approximately ten years as an Area Detective. Also served in collateral assignments as a Field Training Officer and Corporal, developing broad operational and investigative experience before promotion to Sergeant.

Selected Responsibilities

- Investigated thousands of criminal cases as an Area Detective.
- Prepared approximately 100 search warrant affidavits.
- Conducted witness interviews, suspect interrogations, surveillance, and search warrant operations.
- Worked closely with prosecutors and testified in approximately 50 criminal court proceedings.
- Mentored and evaluated new deputies as a Field Training Officer.

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science
University of California, San Diego
1992

Professional Development

Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP)

Graduate of the nationally recognized executive leadership program for senior law enforcement leaders, focused on organizational leadership, strategic planning, ethics, executive decision-making, and contemporary policing issues.

California POST Certifications

- Basic Certificate
- Intermediate Certificate
- Advanced Certificate
- Supervisory Certificate
- Management Certificate

Court Experience

During his law enforcement career, Mr. McNeill regularly worked with prosecutors and testified as a fact witness in criminal proceedings involving investigations and enforcement actions.

- Approximately 50 court appearances.

- Dozens of preliminary hearings.
- Multiple jury trials.
- Prepared approximately 100 search warrant affidavits.
- Worked closely with prosecuting attorneys throughout criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Professional Memberships

- California Narcotic Officers' Association (CNOA)
- California Homicide Investigators Association (CHIA)
- Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)

Selected Qualifications

Mr. McNeill's qualifications are founded on more than three decades of progressively responsible law enforcement service, culminating in department-level patrol command. His experience spans frontline policing, criminal investigations, supervision, command, and organizational leadership.

- 32+ years of sworn law enforcement experience.
- Progressed from Deputy Sheriff to Sheriff's Commander.
- Approximately 10 years as an Area Detective.
- Commanded patrol stations, specialized units, and a regional gang task force.
- Conducted Internal Affairs investigations involving allegations of employee misconduct.
- Reviewed officer-involved shootings, major uses of force, pursuits, and incidents involving organizational risk.
- Graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP).
- California POST Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Supervisory, and Management Certificates.