

John Nelson - Biography

Lt. John Nelson began his career in law enforcement in 1988 with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. After he completed the Oakland County Sheriffs Corrections Academy, Lt. Nelson, then Deputy Nelson, served as a Corrections Officer until he joined the Novi Police Department one year later.

Lt. Nelson served as a patrol officer, FTO and a domestic violence officer. He was promoted to the rank of Detective in 1997 where he served as a plain clothes investigator working on crimes ranging from homicide to home invasions. While serving as a Detective, he continued to train other law enforcement professionals in the area of Domestic Violence, Conditional Bond Violations and Personal Protection Orders.

In 2000, Lt. Nelson was promoted to Sergeant within the Uniform Division. As a Uniform Patrol Sergeant, he was responsible for a shift of patrol officers and three dispatchers. It was as a Shift Sergeant, responding to and supervising others during critical and high-profile incidents, that he learned the responsibility and weight of leadership and the critical importance of the first line supervisor in law enforcement.

In 2014, Lt. Nelson was selected to become the FTO Sergeant for the Novi Police Department. As the FTO Sergeant, John was responsible for the training provided to the recruit officers as well as the selection and development of the Field Training Officers.

In 2015, Sergeant Nelson was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. He was assigned to the Uniform Division where he continues to serve. John leads a platoon of patrol officers and four sergeants. He is responsible for scheduling, personnel management and the internal investigations involving officers and supervisors under his command. In addition to the responsibilities of platoon lieutenant, Lt. Nelson is responsible for policy development and review, and he serves as the Field Training Unit Commander supervising two sergeants and ten Field Training Officers. John is responsible for the review, selection and testing process for police applicants. John believes that the selection and training of new personnel is critical for the success of every police agency.

Lt. Nelson earned his Bachelors of Science degree in 1988 from Eastern Michigan University in Psychology and Criminology. He also earned his Master's degree in Public Administration from E.M.U. in 2008. He is also a graduate of the School of Police Staff and Command at Eastern Michigan University. Mr. Nelson also successfully completed the Instructor Development Training offered by the Michigan Sheriff's Association in January 2021.

Lt. Nelson's professional affiliations are with the National Association of Field Training Officers (NAFTO) and the Command Officers Association of Michigan (POAM).