Wow, what a week. As I discussed at Monday’s opening show, you all represent the best and brightest in the future of law enforcement in our country. This week you have had the opportunity to hone your skills through the games, competitions and seminars. This opportunity is just one step towards the preparation that is the building block for your success in a career in law enforcement or any path you choose in the future.

This is a very difficult time for law enforcement in our country. The profession is being scrutinized for the actions of a few and for the misconceptions about who we are and what our mission is. This past week, you have had the opportunity to make the commitment to not just make your community better, but to make yourself better.

...Col. Frank L. Milstead, Director, Arizona Department of Public Safety

Arizona Department of Public Safety Director Col. Frank Milstead participates in the bike policing competition on Monday, July 11.

A week to remember!

By Col. Frank L. Milstead

Wow, what a week. As I discussed at Monday’s opening show, you all represent the best and brightest in the future of law enforcement in our country. This week you have had the opportunity to hone your skills through the games, competitions and seminars. This opportunity is just one step towards the preparation that is the building block for your success in a career in law enforcement or any path you choose in the future. This is a very difficult time for law enforcement in our country. The profession is being scrutinized for the actions of a few and for the misconceptions about who we are and what our mission is. This past week, you have had the opportunity to make the commitment to not just make your community better, but to make yourself better.

...Col. Frank L. Milstead, Director, Arizona Department of Public Safety

Arizona Department of Public Safety Director Col. Frank Milstead participates in the bike policing competition on Monday, July 11.

Policing in today’s environment

Wednesday, Explorers participated in a feature seminar focused on policing in today’s law enforcement environment. U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske and current chair of the National Law Enforcement Exploring Committee wanted bring officials in to have a conversation with explorers about community oriented policing, what it is, how to do it, and the importance of it. The officials that led this discussion were Chandler, Arizona, Police Chief Sean Duggan and member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Executive Committee.
2016 Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Brian Archimbaud

The National Law Enforcement Exploring Alumni Association was pleased to award Brian Archimbaud with the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Brian became the first national director of Law Enforcement Exploring in 1976. Nearly 10 years before that he formed his first Law Enforcement Explorer Post while serving as Explorer Executive with Boy Scouts of America in New Jersey. Brian recruited the President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Rick Clement, to lead the Exploring Committee who later recruited the Director of the Secret Service. Forty years later, that committee is still made up of the most prominent Law Enforcement Executives and still guides Law Enforcement Exploring at the national level.

Brian instantly worked well with the National Law Enforcement Exploring Committee and guided the police career interest into the largest area of interest in Exploring, where still today, it is the largest career choice by far among Explorers.

Brian worked hard to find a fit for the federal agencies as most didn’t sponsor a Post, but were the best program resources for them. Guided by his Explorer Representatives at the time, Brian imagined, designed, and created the first National Conference in 1979 and National Academies that continue today. Still today, Brian recruits resources and friends of Exploring from his Austin, Texas home and is attending the conference here in Flagstaff.

We all congratulate and thank Brian on his lifetime of love and achievement with the Law Enforcement Exploring and for starting the conference you are attending now.

The servant mentality is not something that we can simply talk about, it is something that we must show everyday through our thoughts, words and deeds. Although you may not be sworn officers just yet, you still wear a uniform and represent those that wear a uniform. Your interaction with every person speaks not just for you as a person but for our profession. You are the ambassadors of law enforcement through the assistance you provide and the message that is communicated to your friends, family and communities.

Your mission is not an easy one, but is like every obstacle you took on this week. It requires preparation, mental strength and having the right tools – such as communication and decision making skills. As I said on Monday, take time to observe, plan and ask for help in all areas of your life, not just when you are at work with your Post. Become part of the structure of your organization and your community. Make the commitment to not just make your community better, but to make yourself better. This includes making good decisions in preparation for a career in law enforcement or just a productive member of society that encourages healthy dialogue and a sense of community.

I am encouraged by what I have seen and heard this week. You represent the best and brightest of not only the future of the law enforcement profession but also of our country. Thank you for participating this week and I look forward to all the great things that you will do to take law enforcement to the next level in the coming years.

Cheers.

Colonel Frank L. Milstead, Director
Arizona Department of Public Safety

Milstead, from Page 1

to overcome obstacles in controlled environments. You have grown as individuals, teams, and leaders. Now you must take this momentum back with you to your communities and demonstrate that the mission of law enforcement is to serve our communities. The servant mentality is not something that we can simply talk about, it is something that we must show everyday through our thoughts, words and deeds. Although you may not be sworn officers just yet, you still wear a uniform and represent those that wear a uniform. Your interaction with every person speaks not just for you as a person but for our profession. You are the ambassadors of law enforcement through the assistance you provide and the message that is communicated to your friends, family and communities.

Your mission is not an easy one, but is like every obstacle you took on this week. It requires preparation, mental strength and having the right tools – such as communication and decision making skills. As I said on Monday, take time to observe, plan and ask for help in all areas of your life, not just when you are at work with your Post. Become part of the structure of your organization and your community. Make the commitment to not just make your community better, but to make yourself better. This includes making good decisions in preparation for a career in law enforcement or just a productive member of society that encourages healthy dialogue and a sense of community.

I am encouraged by what I have seen and heard this week. You represent the best and brightest of not only the future of the law enforcement profession but also of our country. Thank you for participating this week and I look forward to all the great things that you will do to take law enforcement to the next level in the coming years.

Cheers.

Colonel Frank L. Milstead, Director
Arizona Department of Public Safety
Assistant Director Deborah Spence, and Lieutenant Tarrick McGuire from Arlington, TX Police Department and IACP Fellow.

“This is one of the safest times in the United States, but lately and sometimes, it doesn’t feel that way,” Assistant Director Spence said. Police Chief Duggan added that “today, our law enforcement officers are better trained and better educated than they ever have been before. And while there are some communities that are seeing upticks in violent crime, overall and as a whole, we are safer than we ever have been.”

Chief Duggan continued that “the biggest change for us in law enforcement is the change of community expectations. Communities demand information and immediacy of that information, and the other demand is for transparency. People want to know what we’re doing and why we are doing it.” He continued that “in policing, it’s not a matter of if something is going to happen, it’s a matter of when and how bad. And in those times, you can’t build those compassionate relationships. Compassionate relationships have to be built before an incident occurs.”

Discussion largely focused around the notion that community oriented policing isn’t something you do to people, it’s something you do with people, and there are countless ways for law enforcement to build and earn the trust of their community. Chief Duggan stressed that every interaction a law enforcement officer has with a citizen is the chance to earn their confidence and support. Lt. McGuire added that just because during a traffic stop, for example, it likely will be a negative experience for the individual getting the ticket, the interaction does not have to be negative because you can still treat people with respect while enforcing the law.

There is no shortage of programs and tools that can aid law enforcement in building strong community relationships. Assistant Director Spence highlighted the Coffee with a Cop program as a great program that encourages law enforcement to meet and interact with residents. Lt. McGuire used the example of the “Coach 5-0 program” used in the Arlington, TX Police Department where police officers participate in high school football and other athletic practices and games to coach and motivate players. It’s these kinds of interactions that allow for trust and support to be built.

Police Chief Duggan closed by saying that “as a police chief, I could not be more proud of everyone in this room. We’re in good hands. This torch will be passed to you eventually. And if this is the indication of the officers that are coming into the profession, the country will be much better off.”
Cindy Garcia reflected on her time as the national youth representative for law enforcement exploring. She, as well as Sabrina Capriotti, the vice national youth representative, are leaving those positions.

In two short days Sabrina and I will be passing on the torch.

We are proud, however, of the strides Law Enforcement Exploring has made and are eager to watch its growth. None of this would have been possible without the guidance, input and support of our Explorers and National Committee, and for that, we thank you.

Several outstanding achievements took place within these past two years.

With the help of our national steering committee, two memorandums of understanding were signed with the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives Association and the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association. It will be exciting to see the future result of this partnership. In addition, an opportunity to speak to President Barrack Obama about Exploring was made possible through Boy Scouts of America and members of our LEE Committee. Exploring only continues to grow!

Today, there’s now a new regional command structure that will help the continuance of current projects and those to come. And, for the first time in Law Enforcement Exploring, I am thrilled to report the making of a 2017 CBP Explorers Leadership academy.

For future representatives, my biggest advice is to always remember why you decided to run. Our past national youth representatives have made outstanding contributions to our program and have paved the road for us that we currently are on. Take the time to appreciate them and get to know them, for many of them still sit on our national committee board. Remember, a good leader passes on the torch with fire as it’s always been done. I enjoyed every moment I spent with every one of you, whether from visiting your posts, attending state conferences to learning your new methods in different scenarios. It was such a pleasure seeing many of you grow personally and tackle your dreams as I got to know many of you. I wish each of you the best in your future endeavors, and most importantly, continue to dream big!

I hope to see you all someday in this amazing profession, together contributing to an important mission and to our communities. Remember to always pay it forward and give back to those that have done onto you. You guys are amazing and unique in so many ways. It’s been a blessing. It’s been an honor. Thank you.
**This leadership seminar is on queue**

Explorers attending Robert Clemens and Janet Ambrisco’s leadership development seminar not only learn from these seasoned law enforcement professionals but get a performance to boot. Clemens, a retired CBP officer, has been in law enforcement 42 years, starting as an Army military policeman in 1963. Ambrisco is a 19-year FBI supervisory special agent assigned to JFK International Airport in New York.

They teach the class together, taking turns instructing. The seminar mixes lecture, slides, and movie clips the class can identify with to illustrate good and bad leaders. But the trade-offs every few minutes keeps the material lively as each instructor continues the seminar in their own style and demeanor.

There’s also humor. In one segment, as Ambrisco defines autocratic leadership as “my way or the highway,” Clemens points to her from behind, drawing laughs. Aside from the levity, the forum covers the basics: integrity, commitment and understanding people. Explorers learn about the different styles of leadership and that leadership isn’t something you’re born with but must be practiced. While the seminar motivates Explorers to take leadership roles in their post, it also covers the necessary skills to advance in any career—and gets a few laughs as well.

**Former Explorer reaches his goal, excels**

Whoever thinks growing up in a tough neighborhood holds you back should look at William Whitfield. Whitfield spend his youth in one of Chicago’s most crime ridden area where drugs, crime and other troubles were part of a typical day.

But Whitfield was focused. He let nothing stop him from reaching his goal—becoming a police officer. “He knew what he wanted and he made all the right decisions,” said Jose Venegas, a supervisory officer at CBP’s Chicago office and the Explorer advisor who guided Whitfield to his goal.

Now as Officer William Whitfield with the Freeport, Illinois, Police Department, that drive and commitment hasn’t let up. He was recently credited with a 24-pound marijuana seizure and making neighborhood inroads within seven months of joining the force. The drug bust also was the largest marijuana seizure in Freeport’s history.

Venegas credited much of Whitfield’s success to his Explorer experience. “He served in many leadership roles,” he said.

Recently, Whitfield won praise for his community outreach when he stopped his patrol car along side a mother and two children strolling down a neighborhood sidewalk. It was only to say hello and get to know his constituents. He even let one of the children turn on the car’s flashing lights. The event was termed “a random act of kindness,” by the local newspaper.
Conference scenes

Mingling on the exhibit hall floor, explorers see what's on display during the Explorer USA Event.

A group of explorers enjoy a light-hearted moment as they sit in on a law enforcement seminar.

Gathered around an exhibit table, a group of explorers chat.

An explorer gets an opportunity to drive a vehicle on the non-emergency vehicle operations course.