You’ll know when Veid Muiznieks enters a room. His upbeat persona and driving voice easily draws attention, not to mention his thick, well-groomed flowing mustache.

But what really draws attention is Muiznieks’ vast law enforcement experience and, as a member of the National Law Enforcement Exploring Committee since 2002, his dedication to exploring.

After spending decades serving and protecting the public, he retired as chief of police of Newport, Minnesota. This year, Muiznieks head’s up security for the 2016 National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference.

The position allows him to work closely with G.T. Fowler, Northern Arizona University’s chief of police, where they share daily information on campus activities and incidents.
As the conference’s security director, however, Muiznieks said he mostly separates complaints from criminal activity.

It’s the difference between a stolen laptop and an Explorer who may be missing from a few events. Just the alleged theft would involve the campus police. Conference security prevents the campus police from being overwhelmed with reports that may be a concern to the conference but don’t require a police investigation.

“We are a central repository,” explained, Muiznieks, who shares his job with his deputy, Justin Burl from the U.S. Customs and Border Protections. “Call us and we will make a determination if campus police should be involved. We are a filter for the organization.”

It’s not all work and no play at the 2016 Law Enforcement Exploring Conference. Participants will groove tonight to The San Diego quintet Brothers Gow. The concert combines rock, funk, jazz and reggae with thoughtful lyrics and an ear for improvisation that keeps each show fresh and unique. Add to this mix an awe inspiring light show, and you have a recipe for a great time.
Three Explorers receive top awards for life-saving efforts

*The National Law Enforcement Exploring Committee approved the Law Enforcement Exploring Special Recognition Awards for Valor, Bravery, Lifesaving, and Meritorious Service in April 2015. These awards are exclusively for law enforcement Explorers who perform an extraordinary action demonstrating valor, bravery, lifesaving or meritorious service either within or outside of their exploring activities.*

David Kim
David Kim from post 908, sponsored by the Scottsdale, Arizona Police Department, rushed to aid a seriously injured motorcyclist struck by a car outside his workplace on January 25, 2016.

Arriving at the scene Kim saw the motorcyclist was bleeding severely from a partially severed foot. He knew immediately that unless the bleeding was stopped the victim would die. Kim immediately ran back to his workplace, found an apron and rushed back to the injured motorcyclist, fashioning the apron into a tourniquet.

Kim remained with the motorcyclist and continued to offer first aid and comfort until an emergency medical services unit arrived. His quick and focused actions under great pressure made the difference between life and death.

Kim’s emergency medical training and fast actions were credited with saving the motorcyclist’s life. A firefighter who responded to the scene as part of the emergency medical services unit stated, “if not for the tourniquet, the motorcyclist would have bled out”.

In recognition of his heroic act of lifesaving under extraordinary circumstances, Explorer Kim earned the Law Enforcement Exploring Lifesaving Award.

Jacob Ursin
When Explorer Ursin learned a car just crashed into a retention pond in his Vero Beach, Florida, neighborhood, he quickly reacted. First, he called a 911 dispatcher and then started running to the location.

Ursin, a member of the Law Enforcement Explorer Post 556, sponsored by the Indian River, Florida, County Sheriff’s Office, immediately drew on his training. Arriving at the pond, he spotted a Buick Lacrosse bobbing about 50 yards off shore. Without hesitating, Ursin removed his boots, sweatshirt and shirt and plunged into the 22-foot deep pond.

While it was Florida, it was also January 23 and the water temperature was a skin-prickling 57 degrees, the air a brisk 48 degrees with a driving 20 mph wind.

Without concern for his own safety, Ursin swam to the car and discovered three people in the vehicle. He pounded on the window to alert the occupants—the mother handed her two-year old child to Ursin. Ursin then swam to shore, saving the child’s life. The child and Ursin were both treated for hypothermia.

Arriving sheriff’s deputies rescued the mother and the driver. The driver died the following day.

In recognition of his heroic act of lifesaving under extraordinary circumstances, Explorer Ursin earned the Law Enforcement Exploring Lifesaving Award.

Michael Lawson
Explorer Michael Lawson was a member of Law Enforcement Explorer Post 2100, sponsored by the Plattsburgh, New York, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

On June 26, 2014, Explorer Lawson was swimming with friends at the Flume Falls on the Ausable River near Wilmington, New York. Currents were stronger than normal due to recent rainfall and Explorer Lawson noticed one of his friends was in distress, struggling to make it back to shore against the swift-moving water.

Explorer Lawson, who was on shore at the time, did not hesitate to react and, without regard for his own safety, jumped into the river to save his friend.

Sadly, Explorer Lawson and his friend were overpowered by the strong and swift current and both tragically lost their lives.

Explorer Lawson consistently demonstrated his initiative, selflessness, courage, determination and strong values in all aspects of his life. He enjoyed being an Explorer and learning law enforcement and leadership skills. In recognition of his extraordinary bravery in a moment of clear and obvious danger and without regard to personal risk, Explorer Lawson was posthumously presented with the Law Enforcement Exploring Bravery Award.
Conference scenes