

# NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORING CONFERENCE



Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Flagstaff, AZ

## 2006 CONFERENCE OFF TO A GRAND START



Overcast skies, an occasional shower and even lightening off in the distance did not dampen the spirits of about 50 staff members who made the trip from Flagstaff to the Grand Canyon on Sunday evening. Two Explorer Posts from Minnesota took advantage of a bus tour provided by the Northern Arizona University staff. Explorer Post #12 (pictured left) from Rochester, Minnesota was well represented on the excursion. *(More Grand Canyon photos on page 5 of BOLO)*

## LET THE COMPETITIONS BEGIN !!!

Today, Explorers will begin competing in several individual and team events. Individual events include: air-pistol, bike policing, drill, emergency vehicle operations course, police physical performance test and the sample written examination. Seminars will also be held throughout the day at various locations throughout the campus. Topics for the seminars include: bomb investigations, hate crimes and terrorism on the internet, music piracy investigations, fugitive investigations, narcotics trafficking and interdiction, and psychological profiling.





## **BOLO EXCLUSIVE: DEA DEPUTY MICHELE M. LEONHART ANSWERS OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT EXPLORING, HER CAREER, AND MORE !**

In anticipation of this week's conference, The Bolo had a chance to sit down and speak with DEA's Deputy Administrator Michele M. Leonhart about her experiences with Law Enforcement Exploring. Here are some excerpts from our conversation:

**BOLO:** Can you talk about how you became affiliated with Explorers?

**ML:** "I didn't know anything about Law Enforcement Exploring when I was growing up. In high school, I knew I wanted to become a police officer. Had there been an Explorer post in my city, there is no doubt in my mind that I would have been the first one in line to sign-up. So the first time I became involved with Exploring was in the early 1980's when as a young DEA agent, I helped teach several posts in my home state of Minnesota about drugs, search warrants and the way we attack drug dealers and put them in jail."

**BOLO:** Have you continued to take part in Exploring events throughout your career?

**ML:** "I got very involved with the Explorers when I was in Minnesota. I became a role-player and judge in the national competitions. My first national competition was in 1984 at Ohio State University and I was immediately captivated by the experience. We learned very quickly that the Explorers look forward to the DEA Arrest and Search Competition, and DEA has become very popular with them since."

**BOLO:** What advice do you have for the Explorers attending the conference this week?

**ML:** "It's only a week, but in that week Explorers should open their eyes to all of the possibilities. They should look outside their own departments to see what future career opportunities are available to them. For instance, before I was ever a DEA agent, I was a Baltimore Police Officer. I wouldn't be the agent I am today had I not been a Baltimore Police Officer. And I would never have been a Baltimore Police Officer if I hadn't opened my eyes and thought about all of my options. I asked myself a lot of tough questions like: Do I really have to live in Minnesota? Is there more out there for me? Explorers should meet as many people as possible from federal, state and local agencies during their week in Flagstaff."

**BOLO:** Can you talk about Explorers in the context of developing the experience into a professional law enforcement career?

**ML:** "You can't help but recognize that with law enforcement it does not matter where you enter; it doesn't matter if you end up being a federal agent or a deputy sheriff or a local police officer. It's just making that decision to stay in law enforcement and following through with it that matters. Law Enforcement Exploring can be used as a stepping stone and it can really give young people a step up when employers are interviewing for a job. If Special Agent applicants mention in their hiring interview that they have been involved in Law Enforcement Exploring this means something to us. This shows us that they have dedicated themselves, at an early age, to the law enforcement mission. They are not just seeking a law enforcement job on a whim, or for the money, or because they just need to be employed. They are looking for a career."

**BOLO:** Do you have any advice for women seeking a career in law enforcement?

**ML:** "My advice to women seeking law enforcement careers is that the doors are wide open. I graduated from college in the 1970's and at the time there were very few women in the profession. Times have definitely changed and from my perspective there is no more exciting or rewarding career. I'd also like to say that women do just as good a job as men. The good part about DEA is that men and



women do the same job. That’s actually one of the things I like about law enforcement – it doesn’t matter if you are a male or female. Once you put the uniform and the badge on, you are all equal.”

“Law Enforcement Exploring is more than just getting exposure to law enforcement. It teaches you leadership; it teaches you how to work with other people. Law enforcement is very much a team experience and Exploring is just the best preparation for a law enforcement career – male or female.”

**BOLO:** Can you tell me about your best and worst days at work?

**ML:** “My best at work was graduation (DEA Academy) in March 1981 because it meant that I was sworn in as a Special Agent, and I could now carry the badge and the credentials. I knew that my life had just started.”

“The worst day at work is always when we learn that we just lost colleagues. One day I found out that Eugene McCarthy, a DEA Special Agent who had worked with me in San Diego, had died in Desert Storm. Eugene was a dedicated DEA Special Agent who volunteered to go back to active duty with the Marine Corps to help liberate Kuwait.”

“Although the good days always outnumber the bad days at DEA, it’s the bad days that make you continue coming to work. When we lose somebody on the job that puts it all in perspective – it’s why we do what we do. So, although the bad days are very few, they help me grow as an agent and they help to revitalize my commitment to DEA and to the American public.”

**BOLO:** When are we going to see a DEA-based television show?

**ML:** “In the almost 26 years I have been with DEA, there have been series’ that have started out but never really went anywhere. I was a Special Agent recruiter in the early 1980’s during the Miami Vice days and with that one program you knew the positive impact a show could have on recruitment. Even though our job wasn’t what was portrayed on that particular series, it did just as “CSI” does now...it gets young people interested in the law enforcement profession. It did send a number of applicants our way - thankfully not dressed like the characters – and that was probably because it wasn’t about wearing the fancy suits or driving the fancy cars - it was about wanting to go after the bad guys. There is always someone trying to put together a series about DEA and I’d love to see it happen someday.”

“With all the things that happen to our enforcement groups all around the world, there are a lot of very unique experiences that would play well on television. However, what I think would make a DEA-based series even more unique is the camaraderie of the agents and the people who make up the groups and task forces. (The show) could range from a daily sitcom to a primetime drama because of the range of emotions that come with the job. I know one time someone asked me what TV show best portrayed what it’s really like to be in law enforcement, especially at DEA, and I said *Barney Miller* because it was a comedy. The show was about a bunch of detectives at a precinct and how close they were. But they did (the show) with humor. There hasn’t been anything close to that on TV since.”

**BOLO:** Who would play you in the series?

**ML:** “Hopefully somebody younger and prettier.” (After a long pause) “Halle Berry would be outstanding – she would be on my wish list.”

QUICK FACTS ABOUT MICHELE M. LEONHART	
Favorite television show:	The Sopranos
Favorite movie:	The Wizard of Oz
Favorite hobby:	Going to the Movies
Favorite meal:	Italian or Mexican
Biggest Pet Peeve:	Laziness
Favorite Sports Team:	Minnesota Twins
Best vacation:	The Jolly Fisherman Resort (in Minnesota)
Role Model:	Mom



# N.J. POST #188 PART OF REAL-LIFE DRAMA ON ARIZONA HIGHWAY

14 Roxbury Township Police Explorer Post #188 members and their 2 advisors left New Jersey on Wednesday, July 5th never realizing that the last thing they packed would turn out to be the most important.

"We decided to pack the first-aid kit, just in case something happened," said Roxbury Police Officer and Post Advisor Silvio Vandes.

Four days and several thousand miles later, something did happen. As the group was traveling West on Interstate 40 in the vicinity of Houck, Arizona, they came upon an accident scene that Officer Vandes described as "one of the worst he has ever scene" due to the nature of the trauma and the number of victims (eight). "I immediately realized that I needed all of the Explorers to help, so I started directing them to administer first-aid to the victims," said Vandes.



*Explorer Post #188 from Roxbury Township take a break from the conference to pose for a quick photo for the BOLO.*

Post #188 were the first responders on the scene and would later be joined by the Arizona Highway Patrol. For two Explorers, Jonathan Romeo, 20, and Michael Zarro, 20, their training was immediately called upon.

"Scene safety is one of the courses we teach and with the amount of debris scattered all over the place, our training helped keep the scene secure," said Romeo.

"My immediate reaction was that a lot of people needed help," said Zarro. "We had just conducted a review of our first-aid procedures the night before at the hotel in New Mexico, so we knew what to do."

The condition of the victims was not available at press time, however Officer Vandes has no doubt about the role the Explorers played in the incident.



## Cop Trivia:

Who was the first female to have powers of arrest in America?  
What year was it?  
(answer in tomorrow's BOLO)

# THE BOLO QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What is your favorite cop movie?



(Left to right):  
“Swat”

Amanda Trevathan  
Helena, Alabama Post #790

“Training Day”

Cory Jackson

“COPS (the TV Show)”

Bo Savelle



“Blue Streak”

James Blue

Prince George’s County,

Maryland Post #555



“Police Academy”

Sophia Rodriguez

Lake County, Indiana

Post #121



“SWAT”

Ryan Rnshall

Egg Harbor Township,

New Jersey

Post #94

## MINNESOTANS TAKE CANYON BY STORM



*(left to right) Teresa Frissora, Advisor Ryan Manguson and Kally Marquardt decided that it wasn't enough of an adventure to just tour the Grand Canyon on Sunday. These members of Explorer Post #12 from Rochester, Minnesota successfully scaled the Southern Rim in less than 2 minutes! The BOLO staff is researching to see if this is actually some kind of world record.*

IN CASE OF A MINOR MEDICAL PROBLEM, CALL HEALTH & SAFETY AT 928-523-8591



# SEE THE LATEST IN TECHNOLOGY



Interact with the most advanced law enforcement technology now on display at the 16A South Parking Lot, University Union. See the Postal Inspection Service's x-ray van, ATF's National Response Team truck, a Minijet and Raptor Trailer from the U.S. Air Force, and the Border Patrol's armored vehicle. Police Units from across the United States are on display. Officers from federal, state, and local law enforcement will be providing demonstrations on these fully equipped vehicles. Come by the 16A South Parking Lot at the University Union and check it out!



**NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE**

# Have Fun and Look to the Future at The Career Fair

Have you taken your turn on the Postal Inspection Service's "Shoot/Don't Shoot" FATSs? Have you explored career opportunities with local, state, and federal departments? Visit the career fair Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and develop an understanding of the employment opportunities available to you. The career fair offers experiences for *all* conference attendees – explorers, advisors, and volunteers.

**Explorers**, start your career experience at the Chameleon Obstacle Course. Once you complete the course, visit the exhibiting agencies and learn about career opportunities. Finish your career fair experience at Laser Shot. Take your turn firing laser weapons in a non-competitive environment.

**Advisors**, stop by the IACP Police Chief display to receive your complimentary subscription to the Police Chief Magazine.



BOLO is brought to you by:

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*(and lots of caffeine)*

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW....



## YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE VOTING UPDATE!!!

**NOTE: There have been changes to the schedule**

The new youth representative will represent YOU! Stay informed about your candidates and voting times:

Meet the Candidates at the career fair 9 am-12 noon on Tuesday.

Voting is at both dining halls (University Station and South Dining) Thursday during all meal periods: 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

## PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE



Don't leave Flagstaff without the perfect memento - a professional photo of you and/or your group. Arizona Photo and Video is accepting appointments today through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. To make an appointment, call 928-699-6658 or visit Alan Kelso in the Cop Shop (Kaibab Room, located in the Student Union.) Prices begin as low as \$10.00.

## Event Location Change!

New location for the team competition:

Event–Traffic Stop is now at the **Ashurst Building Parking Lot 2A**

## DRI NK PLENTY OF WATER AND APPLY THE SUNSCREEN



Temperatures can climb into the upper 80's or low 90's this week, so be sure to drink plenty of water. Water will be available outside the dining halls throughout the day, so be sure to pick up a bottle after your meal. Also, be sure to apply plenty of sunscreen. It is important to protect your skin if you will be out in the sun for extended periods of time.

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**IN TOMORROW'S BOLO:** Look for complete coverage of the opening show; photos from the cookout and early competitions and more feature articles on Explorers from around the country. If you would like to submit an article or photo to the BOLO, stop by the Sycamore Room in the Student Union and ask for either Katie or David.