

Thank you, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Introduction

Good Morning! It is great to be here. As they say in Texas, this is not my first rodeo nor is it my first Border Security Expo.

-Pause for laughter-

I appreciate the value events like this bring to the Border Security mission as well as supporting the needs of all Agencies that work to secure the Homeland, better known as the United States of America. I also appreciate the invitation to speak here in my new position as the Director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC).

Today, I want to share with you the evolution of training at FLETC and our commitment to seeking cutting-edge solutions for training law enforcement personnel.

As many of you know, FLETC has four training sites. Our headquarters is located at Glynco, GA – and our other domestic training sites are at Artesia, NM – Charleston, S.C., and Cheltenham, M.D.

FLETC serves as an interagency law enforcement training organization, partnering with 127 federal agencies and organizations such as the U.S. Marshal's Service, Bureau of Prisons, TSA, and Pentagon Force Protection Agency, to name a few, and, of course, there's also my former DHS component agency, the US Customs and Border Protection.

However, FLETC's reach extends beyond federal agencies. We provide training to state, local, tribal, and campus law enforcement departments throughout the United States. Additionally, we collaborate with

international law enforcement agencies, exporting FLETC training worldwide.

A few examples of our US exports, and we are really good at these, include:

1. Active Threat Training Program
2. Human Trafficking Awareness Training Program, and
3. Tactical Medical Training Program

Since 1970, we've trained over 1.7 million students, with 67,000 graduating just last year.

Now, (b)(5)

Actually Actual

(b)(5) –I didn't start my career in 1970 when FLETC

was founded –but I wasn't too far behind either...

-Pause for laughter-

In fact, it was 1985 when I joined the U.S. Border Patrol. And I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the U.S. Border Patrol's 100th Anniversary coming up next week on May 28th.

Happy Centennial Birthday to the U.S. Border Patrol!

Out of the 100 years, the U.S. Border Patrol has been in existence, I was the job for 38 of those years. To say that I am personally and emotionally invested in border security is an understatement

I believe it's very appropriate that we are in El Paso, Texas, home to Camp Chigas, the US Border Patrol's first training Academy in 1934. (b)(5)

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FLETC: A Unique Perspective

Speaking of law enforcement academy training, I believe that I have a unique perspective as FLETC's new Director.

While serving 38 years with the U.S. Border Patrol and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, I established many connections with FLETC. The professional bonds I made as a partner agency member gave me an early appreciation for FLETC's mission, its people, and its relationship with its federal partners.

I have experience as a:

- **Former student having gone through the academy in 1985 – as a**
- **Partner – Senior Law enforcement agency representative for the Largest LE agency in US.**
- I have experience as a:
- **Very Proud Parent** of a recent graduate of the U.S. Border Patrol Academy.

- o My Daughter graduated last October as a member of USBP Class 1222 and is currently stationed in the Big Bend Sector. Although a trainee agent may be reluctant to raise concerns through her Chain of Command, a daughter is not afraid to tell her Daddy what is really going on! .
- o As the acting Deputy Commissioner of CBP I had the honor of administering the oath of office when she entered on duty and as the Director of FLETC, I had the honor of pinning her badge when she graduated.
- **And, now I have the privilege of serving as the Director of FLETC.**
- By experiencing FLETC in so many roles and different situations I bring a unique perspective as the Director.
- I have a broad outlook and understanding of what makes FLETC work and makes FLETC the nation's premier law enforcement training enterprise.
- It's safe to say that I'm still here working, in yet another position with a nexus to the border and national security because, I'm invested in protecting America. And what

better place to work than where it all begins at FLETC and the basic training academies.

FLETC's Mission

- FLETC's mission is a noble one.
- FLETC trains all those who protect the homeland .
- To carry out our mission, FLETC serves as an interagency law enforcement training organization.
- **As I stated earlier, it's an impressive 127 federal agencies** or partner organizations.
- Together, we must prepare and equip the next generation of law enforcement.

Curriculum

- Our partners, some are here today, are a valuable resource in curriculum development.
- FLETC involves them to ensure we use the best tactics, strategies, and equipment.
- This valuable partnership helps FLETC better understand their specific needs.

- As a career-long provider of law enforcement training, FLETC supports more than 800 diverse program offerings. FLETC's training programs are categorized based on the intended audience from entry-level to experienced.
- These programs include:
 - **The Center Integrated Basic** programs that involve both FLETC and agency instruction. An example is U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Officer Basic Training.
 - FLETC also has three flagship **Center Basic** training programs, which are mission-centered and attended by many agencies.
 - One of the three programs is the:
 - o **Uniformed Police Training Program (UPTP)**
Some examples of partners that attend are:
 - o U.S. Secret Service Uniform Division
 - o Federal Protective Service
 - o Capitol Police, and

- o U.S. Park Police

The next program is FLETC's:

- o **Criminal Investigator Training Program (CITP)**

Some examples of agencies that attend are:

- o U.S. Secret Service Criminal Investigators
- o Homeland Security Investigations
- o ATF
- o Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and
- o CBP Investigators to name a few.

Lastly, is FLETC's

- o **Land Management Police Training (LMPT)**

Some examples of agencies that attend are:

- o U.S. National Park Service- LE Rangers
- o US Fish and Wildlife Service
- o Bureau of Land Management
- o US Forest Service

After graduation, most agencies conduct follow-on training to ensure their new officers and agents learn

agency-specific content necessary to execute their missions successfully.

There are others, but I would like to touch on one more –the **Center Advanced Training Programs**. These are programs in which FLETC provides the instruction necessary to meet specific law enforcement missions from multiple agencies.

Examples of Center Advanced training include:

- o Behavioral science
- o Counterterrorism
- o Investigations, including cyber-crime investigations,
and
- o Law enforcement leadership training.

The success of these programs is based on dedicated instructors and support staff which are critical to success.

- I have witnessed quality staff and their passion and desire to complete the mission.
- They are the Finest professionals, with diverse backgrounds
- The FLETC instructor cadre is made up of:
 - o FLETC staff,
 - o Law enforcement personnel from our partner agencies, and
 - o Retired LE personnel.

Staying Cutting-Edge

We continue to provide world-class service to those who protect our homeland as well as support our international LE partners.

I also know what it needs to evolve, adapt, and improve to be prepared for evolving threats.

While we pride ourselves on being the best, I recognize that we must continuously evolve to remain cutting-edge.

That's why we're committed to staying connected with

industry leaders to incorporate the latest technology into our training programs.

What do I mean by incorporating the latest technology?

I'm glad you asked....

-Pause for laughter-

FBI Incident / FLETC Smart House

A tragic example of why this is important is a result of a 2021 incident that occurred when the FBI attempted to execute a search warrant in Sunrise Florida. The suspect inside the house saw the agents coming with the use of a video doorbell camera and began shooting at them from inside the house, killing two and wounding three others.

This prompted conversations among law enforcement agencies, including discussions between FLETC's Cyber Division and the FBI as to what training is being provided as it relates to "Internet of Things" devices.

FLETC's Cyber Division began researching how the "Internet of Things" devices may be used to harm law enforcement officers and found numerous postings online showing how these devices can interact with the physical world to create potential "booby traps" for law enforcement. These traps can be used to harm officers and/or destroy evidence.

For example

A suspect who has been searched and is under the control of officers can cause these actions to happen with a simple voice command which can start a chain of events

to occur within a house, such as turning off lights, locking doors, activating the HVAC system to introduce chemicals into the environment and cause a fire or explosion to take place. In fact, the suspect doesn't even need to be present. They can start this process remotely by use of a mobile device once they have been notified of entry into the house.

Other uses of these devices include simply monitoring the activities of law enforcement after they have entered a residence or business by remotely monitoring the "Internet of Things" audio/video systems that may be disguised.

TO counter this, maintain FLETC personnel, design & build smart houses, equip with the latest internet of things

The new FLETC Smart House takes students on a walkthrough to showcase the common benefits and uses of "Internet of Things" devices and introduces them to how

these devices could potentially be used against them. They encounter examples of “booby traps” and are shown the evidentiary value of collecting “Internet of Things” devices that may contain important evidence related to their case.

Quadruped Unmanned Ground Vehicle (Q-UGV)
“NEO”

Another great initiative led by FLETC’s Cyber Division is the **Quad-ru-ped** Unmanned Ground Vehicle, more commonly known as our robot K-9 – NEO.

To make NEO work, FLETC Cyber Division created a fully enclosed “mesh” radio network that is used across portions of the facility for a variety of training functions. This includes setting up a self-contained communications

network to capture audio/video/cellular and Wi-Fi communications during a major event.

The capabilities of this type of network are limitless and FLETC Cyber Division is continuing to expand its capabilities to incorporate this technology into training across the Center.

NEO is fully controlled using the mesh network, which gives the instructors the ability to control it from anywhere as long as they can access the network.

NEO can enter a potentially dangerous environment to provide video and audio feedback to the officers before entry and allow them to communicate with those in that environment. NEO's camera systems provide a

360-degree view and can locate persons or other items through the use of infrared cameras.

NEO carries an onboard computer and antenna array that will allow officers the ability to create a “denial-of-service” event to disable “Internet of Things” devices that could potentially cause harm while entry is made.

We are still learning about the capabilities that NEO has and plan to implement these advanced technologies into many training environments across FLETC.

SUAS

Next, I'll talk about our Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems or sUAS led by FLETC's Enforcement Operations Division. FLETC saw an opportunity to develop a law

enforcement-focused sUAS training program. We developed an 80-hour course that qualifies students as sUAS pilots.

sUASs are a “force multiplier” that gives officers a multifunctional tool capable of assisting them in their duties.

By Leading Our Shot

How can we get there? We get there by Leading Our Shot

- The same as in skeet or clay shooting.
- The target is moving fast, but you don't aim at the clay target,
- You lead it and anticipate the direction of travel.
- Being ahead, proactive, and anticipating the needs
- This ensures that FLETC is at the forefront of law enforcement training.
- That is how we become cutting-edge.

Future at FLETC

- It is my priority to ensure that FLETC continues to build upon past successes.
- FLETC needs to be cutting-edge!
- We are good – but I envision more capabilities and advancements.
- We must be nimble and change to our partner's needs.
- Or we are never going to be there.
- Cutting-edge means always moving – always chasing.

Technological Advances

- That is why we must remain connected to you – Industry! To remain educated on the latest technology.
- Ensure our partners have access to the latest technology and tools.
- Cutting-edge technology helps us accomplish our mission more efficiently and effectively.

Collaboration with Industry

- Collaborating with industry leaders ensures FLETC stays updated on the latest technologies and methodologies to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement training.
- We need your knowledge and tools to ensure we are at the forefront of issues involving AI, Crypto Currency, S-UASs or Drones, and, as I mentioned earlier, the Internet of Things devices to name a few.
- Working together ensures FLETC training aligns with real-world scenarios and improves our:
 - Equipment
 - Facilities
 - and Capabilities that collectively shape a training environment and prepare our students for the complexities of their roles.

Closing: Looking Towards the Future

I am here today because it's an investment in FLETC's future.

Being cutting-edge ensures that our graduates are not only well-trained but are resilient, agile, and ready to safeguard our communities.

Collaborating with industry leaders ensures we're equipped to tackle emerging threats. By leveraging industry knowledge and tools, we can enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement training and prepare our personnel for any situation they may encounter.

Together, we foster a culture of continuous improvement, staying ahead in developing relevant, cutting-edge training programs.

Together, we forge the path to excellence, ensuring our graduates are resilient, agile, and ready to safeguard our communities.

Final Statement

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- I encourage you to follow FLETC on social media.
- We share who we are and what we do on a daily basis.
- We also feature one of our 127 partners every week.
- In closing, I announce our plans to reinstitute a FLETC Industry Day, inspired by the success of similar events throughout my career, to further enhance collaboration and information exchange between FLETC and industry partners.

- More on that via social media.

Your continued interest and participation are essential as we work towards our shared goal of advancing law enforcement training.

Thanks again for the invitation to speak here today with the goal of improving Homeland Security!

Time Permitting

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