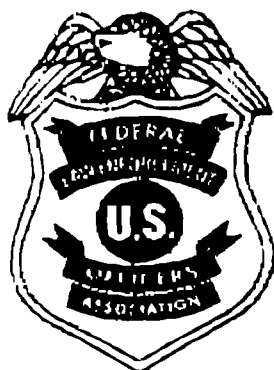


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FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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FLEOA Decries Characterization of Federal Agents as "Storm-Troopers"

Representing Members of:
AGENCY for INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
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Export Enforcement, OIG
& National Marine Fisheries

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Federal Aviation Administration

OIG

TREASURY

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RULES BERNSTEIN

On behalf of the more than 17,500 members of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), we wish to express our strong disgust and dismay over the use of the term "storm-troopers" to describe federal agents, over the recent events in South Florida.

FLEOA will not comment on the debate concerning the government's decision to use or not use law enforcement. These are policy decisions made by individuals (appointed by the President and confirmed by the United States Senate) above our position in the chain of command.

However, to hear politicians describing career law enforcement officers; Americans who have taken an oath to serve, protect and uphold the Constitution of the United States and who are willing to, and in many cases do, give their lives as a consequence of taking this oath, as "storm troopers" totally shocks and befuddles FLEOA members.

FLEOA wishes to remind all politicians, as they go about reviewing whether or not appointed government officials should have continued negotiating, used improper self imposed timetables to determine whether action should be taken, or turned prematurely to the use of law enforcement, to remember:

once a law enforcement operation is ordered by people duly elected or appointed to their position by the Constitution we are sworn to uphold, we look to achieve our mission with minimal loss of life to private citizens, participating law enforcement officers, and the people whom the action is directed at, as well as minimal injury to those same parties.

The professional law enforcement action taken on the morning of April 22, 2000, in South Florida accomplished all of these directives.

To stigmatize career law enforcement officers because they utilize every tactical advantage during a law enforcement operation (including looking "mean") shows a total lack of knowledge and understanding of tactical training; training authenticated and accredited over the years to achieve results and minimize danger for all. Anyone who does not believe law enforcement carry weapons, and look "mean" during the execution of a lawfully obtained warrant does not realize how many of our comrades we have buried because they were killed in the line of duty during these operations. We believe anyone using this term owes law enforcement an apology.

Chaw

POST-ELIM