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Ronald S. Colburn, Border Patrol Deputy Chief, Announces Retirement

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Washington - After 31 years of dedicated government service with the U.S. Border Patrol, a component of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Deputy Chief Ronald S. Colburn announced that he will retire in early November.

"I am honored to have served with some of the greatest men and women in law enforcement and I depart with the knowledge and confidence that our country is being protected by the very best," noted Deputy Chief Colburn.

"Deputy Chief Colburn truly epitomizes the Border Patrol," said National Chief of the Border Patrol David V. Aguilar. "He has been a strong and visionary leader for the Border Patrol for many years and has been instrumental in developing and implementing strategies that have strengthened control of our borders and the security of our nation."

In July 2007, Colburn was appointed to the Senior Executive Service as Deputy Chief of the Border Patrol, the second highest-ranking official in the Border Patrol.

Deputy Chief Colburn began his career in 1978 as a Border Patrol agent in Douglas, Ariz. He quickly promoted through the ranks, adding more duties, responsibilities and hours to his work day as the Border Patrol grew in size and sophistication. In January 1983, he was promoted to supervisory Border Patrol agent and served as a law instructor and course developer at the Border Patrol Academy.

In May 1984, Deputy Chief Colburn became a founding member of the Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC), a global special response team that soon gained the reputation as one of the premier tactical units in law enforcement. He served as a team leader on numerous missions, both domestically and internationally. From 1992 to 1994 he served as a field operations supervisor at BORTAC headquarters in El Paso, Texas.

Deputy Chief Colburn served in many different leadership roles in New York, Texas and Arizona before transferring to Washington, D.C. as an associate chief at Border Patrol headquarters in 2002. During that time, he worked as the director of Law Enforcement on the Homeland Security Council – Executive Office of the President. In this capacity, he worked in The White House and developed policy and crafted national law enforcement initiatives. Deputy Chief Colburn witnessed first-hand the drafting and passage of the Homeland Security Act.

From March 2005 through July of 2007 he took responsibility for Yuma Sector in Yuma, Ariz., where he was able to transform the sector into a model of border control. During March 2007, he served as the CBP's acting deputy executive director of the Secure Border Initiative.

The Colburn Border Patrol legacy did not begin with the current deputy chief. The Colburn Family has a uniquely powerful and personal connection with the Border Patrol and its history. Beginning in the early 1900's, William Colburn, the deputy's grandfather, patrolled the border on horseback as a member of the "Mounted Guard." In 1956, his father Richard followed suit and joined the Border Patrol, serving in various positions until 1981. Lastly, the deputy's son entered on duty as a fourth generation agent in June 2003 and is currently serving as a supervisor in Arizona.

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Upon his retirement, Deputy Chief Colburn will reside with his family in Arizona.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

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