In the last week of May, protests and riots that began in Minneapolis spread to cities throughout the country, including Omaha and Lincoln. The actions of four officers of the Minneapolis Police Department sparked outrage across America. Those actions, which resulted in the death of George Floyd, were universally condemned by law enforcement leaders, including in Nebraska.

As the protests reached Nebraska, the NSP was called upon to assist local law enforcement agencies in Omaha and Lincoln. The protests began peacefully, but turned violent multiple evenings in both Omaha and Lincoln, causing millions of dollars in damage to various properties.

The Omaha World-Herald identified the flashpoint in the departure from a peaceful protest as the moment in which several dozen protesters surrounded an NSP Cruiser on the evening of Friday, May 29 in Omaha. Trooper Jake Arnold and Lieutenant Greg Miller were inside the cruiser, working traffic control to block traffic as hundreds of protesters had taken over the intersection of 72nd and Dodge. Lt Miller described the scene, in which protesters covered the cruiser’s windows with signs, climbed on the hood, and attempted to break a window.

“I’ve been in a lot of situations in 21 years. I’ve been on the SWAT team for 14 1/2 years. What was going on in that car was very near the top of my list of uncomfortable situations,” Miller told the World-Herald.

For the next several nights, Mobile Field Force, SWAT, PSD, ASD, and other Troopers from across Nebraska assembled in Lincoln and Omaha to respond to the escalating situation. Troopers worked tirelessly alongside local agencies and the Nebraska National Guard to maintain peace, and arrest offenders when protests turned violent.

(continued on page 6)
Aviation Support Division

In 2020, ASD welcomed two new pilots to their team—Trp. Josh Emhovick and Trp. Barry Hinkle. Both relocated to Lincoln from North Platte in an effort to develop their piloting skills for all missions and aircraft types. Unfortunately, ASD does not have a pilot stationed in the western part of Nebraska for the time being, but that won’t be overlooked. The ASD hopes to have a pilot stationed out west soon. This will better allow ASD to provide services to Troops D and E moving forward.

The ASD also began building a statewide, multiple-viewer receive site for the microwave downlink system with the intent of allowing Dispatch, Command Staff, and any other authorized users being able to view live feed video through fielded equipment and cellular technology. This advanced infrastructure has proven to be a reliable system for several simultaneous receive sites. Authorized personnel are now able to view natural disaster scenes, incident response missions, and surveillance operations in real time.

Getting an aerial view proved to be especially beneficial in the recent protests and riots sweeping the nation. Over the course of four days, ASD personnel worked tirelessly from the air to support their fellow law enforcement personnel on the ground. They logged an incredible 56 hours of flight time!

Police Service Dog

In the second quarter, PSD welcomed one new handler (Trp. Kendall Reed) and one new k9 (Fahn) to the team. Handler Reed and PSD Mallory are currently in the process of training to become certified in Narcotic detection as well as Patrol work. Training alongside them is Handler Sgt. Workman and PSD Fahn.

The PSD Division is set to begin training new teams from across the State beginning August 3rd at the NLETC. Additionally, the Division is in process of developing a multiple-dog deployment program to aid in the locating and apprehension of subjects in difficult terrain and large geographical areas.

Not only is the Division heavily involved in drug interdiction efforts across Nebraska, they are also regularly called out to assist Alpha and Bravo SWAT on their assignments, and have responded to numerous manhunts and civil unrest incidents. These handler-k9 teams work independently, and also assist other Troopers and allied agencies. They are a vital resource for the State of Nebraska.

Professional Standards

The NSP Office of Professional Standards has completed a partnership project working with the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Legal Aid of Nebraska, which produced a study commissioned under LB 154 of the Nebraska Legislature. Legislative Bill 154, which was passed in 2019, tasked the NSP with studying the issue of missing Native American women and children in Nebraska. The bill directed the NSP to identify the scope of the problem of missing Native American women and children within our state, as well as the barriers in reporting these cases, and to create partnerships to increase resources for reporting and investigating these cases.

This year-long project led by Captain Matt Sutter was completed in May of 2020, and the final report was submitted to the Legislature. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Legislature has yet to weigh in on report findings.

The full report is available at the link below:
Tech Crimes

Since its inception in June 2019, the Technical Crimes Division (TCD) has been rapidly growing. The team started with 6, and is now up to 17 full time personnel just one year later!

Under the command of Capt. Jason Scott, the TCD is comprised of 13 sworn personnel and 4 civilian personnel. This team is tasked with investigating child exploitation cases originating from the Internet, using technology to track and arrest fugitives from justice, conducting digital forensic exams, and investigating cybersecurity threats from around the State and across the nation.

Despite the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the TCD has managed to stay safe and healthy. The team continued to provide quality services to the public and officers both inside and outside the NSP.

The TCD has had an impressive first half of 2020. Since January, the TCD has made 34 arrests, conducted 19 residential warrants, provided 396 assists, and handled 99 computer exams and 232 phone exams.

The TCD is committed to providing quality services and encourages anyone to reach out for assistance as needed. They are happy to serve.

The NSP says “Thank you”

The Nebraska State Patrol has been saying “thank you” several times throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the protests and riots. As the worldwide pandemic hit Nebraska, citizens across the State began stepping up and donating various goods to the NSP as a token of their appreciation for the essential work Troopers do on a regular basis. Similarly, when protests and riots swept the nation following Memorial Day, citizens again began showing their appreciation for NSP personnel.

From Scottsbluff to Omaha and beyond, Nebraska citizens have donated cases of water and Gatorade, provided nonperishable snacks, and have even delivered fresh pizzas, fruits, and sandwiches. We have also received several donations of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and masks. Several NSP offices have been receiving letters of appreciation and complimentary phone calls from the general public as well.

The NSP is grateful for the support, encouragement, and generosity shown by Nebraska citizens. We are proud to serve Nebraskans and everyone who passes through. There is truly no place like Nebraska.
Intern Spotlight

The NSP welcomed three new interns to the team during the second quarter of 2020—Troop H had one and Troop C had two.

Eduardo Renteria Jr. began interning with Troop H on June 8, 2020. He is a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in criminal justice. Renteria Jr. desires to do something where he can help people and make a difference. Eduardo was eager to get first-hand law enforcement experience through his internship with Troop H.

Kenzie Hubl is currently working towards attaining her Bachelor’s degree in criminal justice at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. As a young adult, Kenzie participated in the NSP’s Junior Law Cadet program which sparked her interest in being a Trooper someday.

The Nebraska State Patrol looks forward to working with aspiring college students looking to get into law enforcement.

NIAC

The NIAC has welcomed one Research Manager, one Cyber Threat Analyst, and two new Crime Analysts since May 2020. Ellis Collins (Research Manager) and Cassie Hongs-ermeeier (Crime Analyst) are stationed in Grand Island. Dee Lang (Cyber Threat Analyst) is stationed in Lincoln, and Dylan Leslie (Crime Analyst) is stationed in North Platte.

Additionally, the NIAC played a vital role during the protests and riots. The team quickly stood up support, from Chadron to Omaha, sharing information with local, state, and federal partners, and analyzing emergent threats to support field operations providing crowd control and counter riot efforts. They quickly spun up daily round table discussions with key partners to ensure timely flow of intelligence and embedded analysts with communications and local partners. NIAC analysts assessed open source information for threats to law enforcement and peaceful First Amendment activities, and identified several disinformation threads.
Public perception may be that only front line sworn personnel are “essential workers” in a law enforcement agency, but that’s far from reality for the Nebraska State Patrol. Essential employees come in all makes and models throughout every Division. For instance, the our VIB teammates.

The NSP Vehicle and Installation Building (VIB) is the branch of the Agency that is responsible for building and maintaining the equipment in our emergency response vehicles, which is a vital link between our Troopers and those that they serve.

During the recent national events, the importance of our civilian staff has been highlighted beyond recent memory. With a nationwide shortage on vehicles and parts, the VIB crew has been innovative, resourceful, and dependable to keep Troopers equipped with a functioning cruiser.

Safety and service best describes VIB’s mission. Regardless of the circumstances, the staff at VIB has shown their ability to deliver.

The VIB recently welcomed two new teammates—Alex Gardner and Karl Hammond—and are very excited about the talents each one brings to the table.

In-Car and Body Worn Cameras

The installation of new Getac Video Solutions in-car and body worn camera systems began on May 18th in Troop H. In 6 short weeks, Mobile Installation Technologies installed just under 300 in-car systems after removing the old systems which were past end of life. Getac also installed new cameras in 16 interview rooms in 9 NSP locations throughout the State of Nebraska. Thirty-five Trooper and Supervisor training sessions were held and 350 body worn cameras were deployed during this time as well.

This advanced, new system integrates the body worn and in-car cameras, employing numerous features which include a greatly enhanced resolution, a wide field of view, live streaming videos from the in-car camera, uploading via cellular signal to cloud-based servers, and allows links to be shared within the justice system replacing the antiquated practice of saving files to disc. Added protection and situational awareness to users of the system will be paramount in the changing era of law enforcement, a time where many law enforcement agencies in the nation are hurrying to meet expectations of the public in their communities.

This process began two years ago and relied upon the cooperative efforts of many divisions within NSP and State government. These included the Superintendent’s Office, Administrative Services, Vehicle Installation and Supply, Purchasing, Legal, Information Technology, Accounting, Nebraska Department of Administrative Services, and the Office of the Chief Information Officer. Getting this project wrapped up wouldn’t have been possible without the cooperation of the Troopers who participated in the pilot run of this new technology.
Honoring His Memory

June 20, 2020 marked the one year anniversary of Trp. Jerry L. Smith’s passing. Trp. Smith (#373) was killed in the line of duty when a vehicle crossed the center line and collided with his patrol unit nearly head on outside Bridgeport, NE in Troop E.

Beginning shortly after his death, Trp. Smith’s daughter, Mechelle, set a goal to run 373 miles to honor her father. “After I returned home from his funeral, I was reading through emails that he had sent me when he was in Iraq. In one he stated, “If you’re bored and you can’t find anything to do, go run,” said Mechelle Smith. “I stared at that email for a while thinking about how one of the things that I love most in life was introduced to me by my dad. I was going to keep running, but for him.”

The last mile on her 373 mile journey started one mile from the crash site that claimed Trp. Smith’s life. The crash location was her destination. The Nebraska State Patrol proudly escorted her along her last mile while family, friends, and colleagues cheered her on.

At the conclusion of the run, the Nebraska State Patrol unveiled a new sign along the highway, created by the Nebraska Department of Transportation to honor Trp. Smith. Trp. Jerry L. Smith will forever be in our hearts.

Laid to Rest

On May 13th, the Nebraska State Patrol honored the life and service of Lt. Craig Loveless (#172), who passed away on March 27, 2020 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Lt. Loveless served the State of Nebraska in a number of ways during his 33 year career with the NSP.Lt. Loveless’ family chose to delay the funeral service until May so that more family, friends, and colleagues to attend.

Those who were not able to attend the funeral service were able to participate in a procession and/or watch live-stream footage of the service. The procession covered more than one mile from beginning to end.

“Craig’s impact on our Agency, and more specifically the people of the State Patrol, will be felt for generations to come.

He was a leader and mentor in the truest sense. His dedication to service and tenacious desire to help others will serve as a model for all Troopers and others privileged to know him.”— Col. John A. Bolduc.

Protests and Riots

(continued from page 1)

Through several consecutive days and nights of deployment, Troopers conducted themselves with professionalism throughout the protests. In one notable case, Trooper Amanda Gardine provided medical aid to a protester who suffered a seizure outside the State Capitol Building.

While sworn personnel were out in the field, civilian office staff handled everything behind the scenes. Crime Analysts, Administrative Assistants, Public Relations, Legal, and several others were taking care of items in the office. The Nebraska State Patrol truly displayed teamwork, professionalism, compassion, and dedication as they served to protect their fellow Nebraskans.
Camp 62

The newest class of Officer Candidates gained the Trooper title as they received their badge and took the Oath of Office on June 19, 2020. Fifteen new Troopers were sworn in during a ceremony at the Nebraska State Capitol.

Unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Camp 62’s graduation ceremony looked a little different. The only people allowed to attend were the graduating recruits, their families, a limited number of Command Staff, and those who were personally invited by the Colonel or Training Academy to take part in the event. However, people were able to watch live footage via the Nebraska State Patrol Facebook page.

Throughout their time in camp, recruits had to continuously adapt to changes brought on by COVID-19. This worldwide pandemic posed new challenges for this recruit class that no other recruit classes have had to overcome. With the support and guidance of NSPTA Command Staff and Instructors, these fifteen recruits embraced the Patrol’s adaptability core value and progressed rapidly through their training cycle.

The Nebraska State Patrol proudly welcomes the fifteen newest Troopers to the ranks as they begin their career with their first assignment noted in the chart below.

During the ceremony, NSP Command Staff presented a few recruits with awards for outstanding performance in various areas. Recruit Madison Reynoldson received the R.J. Buchholz Physical Fitness Award for showing the greatest improvement in physical fitness. She also displayed significant determination, motivation, and physical courage throughout training.

Recruit Joshua Schwarz was presented with the Donald Scherer Marksmanship Award for his excellence in range performance. Schwarz got the highest score in shooting assessments.

Three awards were given to Recruit Michael Guth as he showed outstanding performance and growth in a variety of areas. The O.H. Witt Academic Award was given to Guth for having the highest grade point average (GPA) throughout camp. He finished with a GPA of 98.235. The next award given to Guth was the Superintendent’s Leadership Award. Guth was chosen by his campmates as displaying incredible leadership in and out of the classroom. Lastly, Recruit Guth received the Mark Williams Achievement Award for embracing and demonstrating the NSP core values.

Congratulations to every Recruit in Camp 62. The hard work has paid off, and the Nebraska State Patrol proudly welcomes you to the team. We look forward to watching you thrive while serving the State of Nebraska.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trooper</th>
<th>Badge #</th>
<th>Duty Station</th>
<th>Troop Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Dolezal</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>Scottsbluff</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Dostal</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>Ogallala</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniela Gonzalez</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>Kearney</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuno</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Guth</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>Sidney</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Healy</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>Omaha</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Kavan</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>Beatrice</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Martinez</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>Lexington</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel McClung</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>Omaha</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Meyer</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>Omaha</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth Miller</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>Scottsbluff</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashdonn Nolte</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Osuna-</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>West Point</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salazar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison Reynoldson</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Schwarz</td>
<td>691</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Winters</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>Beatrice</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NSP Foundation

Written by Judy Jansen

Public safety goes beyond law enforcement—it’s about identifying problems and making connections in the community to create innovative solutions. With support from the Nebraska State Patrol Foundation, the NSP’s Community Service Education Program reaches thousands of Nebraskans each year, covering such diverse topics as personal safety, drug, alcohol, and gang resistance, Internet safety, and reducing motor vehicle fatalities. The program’s ability to adapt to the changing times and engage audiences with fresh ideas makes it one of the Patrol’s most valuable assets.

The Nebraska State Patrol Foundation (NSPF) has long supported the NSP’s community education efforts, and we’re excited to announce that so far in 2020, we’ve received $29,750 in donations from State Farm, Union Bank & Trust, Sam’s Club, and Walmart. Gifts from these community partners will help expand the NSP’s education presentations across the state. The NSPF has also been active in assisting the Community Service Officers with the planning and funding of the 2021 Uniformed Safety Education Officer’s Workshop (USEOW), scheduled for June 2021 in Omaha.

Other funding news:
- The NSPF participated in the 2020 Give to Lincoln Day fundraising event, sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation, and received nearly $900 in donations, our highest total yet.
- Looking for the easiest way to support the NSP Foundation? The next time you shop online, log into smile.amazon.com and select the NSP Foundation as your favorite charity. There are no extra charges, and no changes to your usual Amazon experience – the AmazonSmile Foundation will automatically donate .5% of the cost of your eligible purchases to the NSP Foundation. We’ve received nearly $650 thanks to shoppers like you!

Please remember that the NSPF is always here to provide support to you, the members of the Nebraska State Patrol. Please don’t hesitate to contact us at nspfoundation@gmail.com with any questions.
COVID-19 Efforts

For the last several months, all of the NSP has had to deal with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Many NSP civilian team members transitioned to working from home when possible, while sworn personnel adjusted their daily activities to maintain safety while continuing to serve the public.

Troopers took on new tasks to assist in Nebraska’s response to COVID-19, including setting up teams of Troopers who traveled the State with members of the National Guard to work at testing sites in numerous communities.

Troopers also took on the task of relaying samples from Test Nebraska testing sites around the State to the State testing lab at St. Elizabeth’s hospital in Lincoln.

In addition to the new responsibilities related to COVID-19, Troopers also faced the challenge of a dramatic increase in excessive speeding on Nebraska roads.

Troopers issued nearly double the number of speeding citations for 100 miles per hour or more in the months following the issuance of directed health measures, compared to the same period last year. This increase in excessive speeding can be attributed to the decreased volume of traffic on Nebraska roadways.

Carrier Enforcement Troopers were all hands on deck as well. All across Nebraska CE Troopers participated in a Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) program where they distributed 100,000 masks to truck drivers just a two-day period.

Carrier Enforcement personnel hand out COVID-19 masks to Truckers
New Hires

April 2020
- Ya Botti N'DA, Records Technician
- Ashley Elrod, IT Infrastructure Support Analyst
- Clay Shepherd, Buyer II
- Theresa Jones, Security Comm. Specialist

June 2020
- Ellis Collins, Research Manager
- Allision Gegzna, Staff Assist. I
- Alysha Thomas, Comm. Specialist
- Brayan Moreno, Security Guard
- Valentina Estrada, Staff Assist. I

May 2020
- Cassandra Hongsermeier, Crime Analyst
- Natalie Collins, Forensic Scientist II
- Sean Kassmeier, Comm. Specialist
- Karl Hammond, Electronic Technician
- Dylan Leslie, Crime Analyst

Promotions

April 2020
- Brian Buxbaum, Patrol Division Sergeant to Patrol Division Lieutenant
- Nicholas Frederick, Investigator to Investigative Sergeant

May 2020
- Courtney Horak, Patrol Division Trooper to Patrol Division Sergeant
- Megan Roberts, Staff Assist. I to Crime Analyst
- Michael Korte, Patrol Division Sergeant to Patrol Division Lieutenant
- Dee Lang, Research Manager to Cyber Threat Analyst

June 2020
- Ashdonn Nolte, Officer Cand. to Patrol Division Trooper
- Jordan Dostal, Officer Cand. to Patrol Division Trooper
- Daniela Gonzalez Nuno, Officer Cand. to Patrol Division Trooper
- Michael Guth, Officer Cand. to Patrol Division Trooper
- Ryan Healy, Officer Cand. to Patrol Division Trooper
- Thomas Kavan, Officer Cand. to Patrol Division Trooper
- Andrew Martinez, Officer Cand. to Patrol Division Trooper
- Nathaniel McClung, Officer Cand. to Patrol Division Trooper
- Seth Miller, Officer Cand. to Patrol Division Trooper
- Jacob Meyer, Officer Cand. to Patrol Division Trooper
- Alexander Winters, Officer Cand. to Patrol Division Trooper
Transfers

April 2020
- Travis Ahrendt, Chadron Crim. Inv. to Chadron Patrol Trp.
- Joshua Emhovick, Lexington Patrol Trp. to ASD Trp.
- Zane Sackett, McCook Patrol Trp. to McCook Drug Investigations Trp.
- Kendall Reed, York Patrol Trp. to PSD Trp.
- Laura Jimenez, Troop B Staff Assist. I to CID Staff Assist. I
- Donald Fritch, Fairbury Patrol Trp. to Beatrice Patrol Trp.
- Eric Janssen, Lincoln Patrol Trp. to Beatrice Patrol Trp.
- Lawney Knuth, Hastings Patrol Trp. to Holdrege CE Trp.
- Jordan Pella, York CE Trp. to York Patrol Trp.
- Michael Wamsley, Waverly CE Trp. to Nebraska City CE Trp.

May 2020
- Mark White, Criminal Inv. to Lincoln Patrol Trp.
- Michelle Wachter, NIAC Crime Analyst to Tech Crimes Crime Analyst
- Andrew Ecklund, GI Patrol Lieutenant to GI TA Lieutenant
- Nathan Eymann, Omaha Patrol Trp. to Lincoln Drug Inv.
- Peter Rutherford, North Platte Tech Crimes Inv. to Omaha Tech Crimes Inv.
- David Pohl, Kearney Patrol Trp. to Kearney Tech Crimes Inv.
- Greg Miller, IA Lieutenant to Omaha Patrol Lieutenant
- Bryan Woods, Scottsbluff Patrol Trp. to Scottsbluff Crim. Inv.
- Jeremy Hampton, Neligh Patrol Trp. to Neligh Crim. Inv.
- Miguel Del Toral, Omaha Patrol Trp. to Omaha HSI Task Force Inv.
- Zechariah Rose, Beatrice CE Trp. to Hebron CE Trp.

June 2020
- John Hadaway, North Platte CE Trp. to Broken Bow CE Trp.
- Justin Podany, Chardon Patrol Trp. to Lincoln Crim. Inv.
- James Pederson, GI Drug Inv. to Waverly CE Trp.

Resignations & Retirements

Resignations
April 2020
- Jessica Bowder, Crime Analyst
- Jennifer Hendrick, Comm. Spec. Supervisor
- Krystal Jelinek, Staff Assist.

May 2020
- Krisandra Shields, Records Analysis Supervisor

June 2020
- Kayla Farrell, Investigator
- Georgianna Gibson-Daw, Forensic Scientist
- Ashley Murphy, Comm. Spec.

Retirements
June 2020
- Gerald Schmidt, Sergeant
All images were taken by various NSP personnel and friends around the State during the second quarter of 2020!
For further information about what it means to be a Trooper, visit https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/nebraska-state-patrol-0.

In memory of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving the State of Nebraska

Loyal M. Zink (#43)
John T. Meistrell (#67)
Vernon C. Rolfs (#129)
Marvin L. Hansen (#98)
Duane F. Nichols (#133)
Raymond M. Koerber (#108)
George W. Amos Jr. (#9)
Michael D. Farber (#427)
Robert J. Chad (#221)
Donald Matejka (#192)
Mark P. Wagner (#168)
Jerry L. Smith (#373)