

INFORMER

Volume 74

2022—First Quarter

NSP Informer Staff

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Sgt. Velte Named IACP Regional Trooper of the Year

Nebraska State Patrol Sergeant Sean Velte has been honored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) as the North Central Region Trooper of the Year. Velte was honored in March at the IACP State & Provincial Police Conference in Seattle, Washington.

"Sergeant Velte is a tremendous leader for our agency," said Colonel John Bolduc, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. "He is a

very worthy recipient of this recognition and we're proud of his daily work to keep Nebraska safe."

The IACP also honored Trooper Philip Pendergrass of the Wyoming Highway Patrol, Trooper Rebecca Seager of the New York State Police, and Trooper Spencer Morris of the Arkansas State Police, each presenting other regions of the United States. The four honorees were finalists for the national Trooper of the Year award. The national award was presented to Trooper Morris of the Arkansas State Police.

"I'd like to thank the IACP for this honor and also to congratulate Trooper Morris of Arkansas and the other finalists," said Sergeant



Velte. "It truly is an honor to represent the Nebraska State Patrol and serve the people of our state."

Among many reasons, Sgt. Velte was nominated for his exceptional response to an incredibly dangerous situation that included a pursuit of two armed-robbery suspects in Lincoln, which culminated in an officer-involved shooting after the suspects rammed Sgt. Velte's patrol unit and pointed firearms at officers.



2022 Gets Off to a Fast Start

After an busy 2021, 2022 got off to a fast start for NSP.

High speeds on Nebraska roadways have continued, with troopers citing double the number of 100 MPH speeders in February than last year.

Troopers have also been active in drug interdiction to start the

year. NSP has made several arrests following seizures of narcotics and illegal firearms. One such case included locating 25,000 fentanyl pills during a traffic stop in Dawson County.

From pursuits, to explosive disposals, to winter storms, to large ongoing criminal investiga-

tions, 2022 has started off on a blistering pace for NSP.



Around the State



Troop A

Troop A has seen record activity in the first quarter of 2022!

The Patrol Division in conjunction with ISO have been focusing efforts on the 108th and L Street corridor to effectively target criminal behavior in and around the hotels in that area. Numerous felony cases involving narcotics, guns, and human trafficking have resulted.

Pursuits continue to be prevalent in Troop A. Summer efforts are being planned to better utilize the Aviation Support Division (ASD) for the purposes of safer apprehension of fleeing criminals.

Troop A's Investigative Services Office continues to see productive results with each and every Task Force position.

Tactical Diversion Squad (TDS) will be partnering with the DEA on a drug amnesty day in Omaha in the upcoming weeks. The Commercial Interdiction Unit (CIU) had one of the best months on record in March of 2022. CIU's efforts led to the seizure of 100lbs of Marijuana, 36lbs of Meth, 2lbs of Cocaine, 5 firearms and \$60,000 in U.S Currency in the month of March alone.

Troop A ISO personnel will also be presenting at the National Association of Drug Di-

version Investigators (NADDI) Midwestern Regional Training Conference in Deadwood, South Dakota in May.



Troop B

Troop B has had a busy start to 2022!

On March 7, 2022, Investigators with Nebraska State Patrol Troop Areas B and C, along with the Trident Task Force, conducted two search warrants and have arrested a man after locating multiple controlled substances at his residence and business in Primrose and Spalding.

Friday morning, March 4, Investigators served a search warrant in Primrose. Another search warrant took place at a business in Spalding. During the searches, investigators located 6 firearms, 20 grams of methamphetamine, smaller amounts of cocaine, marijuana, mushrooms, drug paraphernalia and cash.

The resident and business owner was arrested for possession

of controlled substance in Greeley County and Possession with Intent to deliver in Boone County.

Troop B is still receiving positive feedback from the community on this arrest.



Troop C

First quarter of 2022 in Troop C continues to be extremely busy with great work shown by all. With pursuits on the rise, Troopers continue to provide resources to other agencies for the safest outcomes. These resources include utilization of Drones, PSD, TVIs and tire

deflation devices. One of these cases involved an investigation and cooperation with Wisconsin authorities leading to the arrest of a male subject for sexual assault of a minor.

Accident Reconstructionist have also seen a busy first

quarter. Reconstructionist have been utilized to assist with crash investigations and crime scenes for prosecution. Two major cases in Troop C were in Hamilton County for a vehicle that was going the wrong way on the interstate and caused a fatality accident. The

other case was to assist York County with a pursuit of a stolen patrol unit in which the subject was involved in a fatality accident and involved another vehicle and train.

Most recently Troop C's Criminal and Drug Division, along with our area's Technical Crimes Investigators, took over the case investigation for a kidnapping victim that was being transported across the state. The vehicle was located by a Trooper in Troop A and surveilled westbound on Interstate 80. The NSP SWAT team developed a rescue plan which culminated in Troop C. Drug Investigators were actively involved with maintain-

ing surveillance of the vehicle while continuing westbound on Interstate 80 between Lincoln and Grand Island. As the vehicle neared the Grand Island area the suspect of the vehicle was stopped by SWAT operators with the application of a TVI. The suspect was arrested and the kidnapped victim was safely rescued. Troop C Investigators were tasked with taking the case over, completing interviews of the involved parties, coordinating interviews with the law enforcement agencies in Indiana, obtaining and serving a search warrant for the suspect vehicle, and processing the involved evidence.

The Troop C Drug Division is an active participant and leading agency in the newly named TRIDENT Drug Task Force, formerly referred to as the Central Nebraska Drug and Safe Streets Task Force. Our investigators work regularly with members of the local field agents of Federal Law Enforcement, deputies with area Sheriff's Offices and officers of the Police Departments in Troop C with efforts in drug enforcement. Investigators are involved in case work ranging from street level drug offenses to multi-state federal level investigations, and investigations leading directly to the international source of drug supply.



Colonel's Corner

Dear Friends,

This past year (2021) proved to be another year of challenges, accomplishments, and service throughout the Nebraska State Patrol team. Our 700+ teammates worked hard to deliver great service in Patrol, Investigations, Carrier Enforcement, Capitol Security and our civilian support. In 2021, we surpassed annual records for fingerprint based background checks, crime lab submittals, felony arrests, and customers served in our multiple locations. This outstanding public service was accomplished with fewer people, and against the backdrop of a global pandemic. To every member of the State Patrol, I say thank you and job well done!

Two major accomplishments in 2021 included the opening of the new State Patrol Headquarters in Lincoln, and the consolidation of Communication Centers in Lincoln and Omaha. The consolidation of several facilities in Lincoln has been on the "drawing board" for nearly 40 years. Many of our

forbearers recognized that having operational components spread out over several miles was inefficient and sometimes led to communication gaps. In fact, several attempts to consolidate were initiated over the years, with no results. The challenges of being spread out over several buildings didn't decrease with time. Fortunately with the support of the Governor and the Department of Administrative Services, along with a favorable fiscal climate, a new plan was introduced in 2018 that ultimately culminated in a new building in 2021. The Nebraska State Patrol now occupies 85,000 square feet of the former Verizon building on Innovation Drive. This is the new home of Troop H Patrol and Investigative Services, Carrier Enforcement, Administrative Services, Criminal Identification, Communications East, Nebraska Information Analysis Center, and the Superintendent's Office. New efficiencies, utilization of space, and increased communication have all been positive results of the consolidation, not to mention the increased comfort and

accessibility to the public for conducting business with NSP.

The second component of the consolidation included upgrades to our new communications centers. Closing the Omaha center allowed NSP to create two state of the art dispatch centers. Communications East (Lincoln) services Troop areas A, B and H. Communications West (North Platte) services Troop Areas C, D, and E. Both centers are capable of handling the entire state in the event of an emergency. I'd like to give a special thank you to our dedicated dispatchers and site managers who worked tirelessly to bring both consolidations to a successful conclusion.

Like many previous years, 2021 was a year in which teamwork, innovation, and service to the public stood out as key accomplishments for NSP. It is a privilege for each of us to serve this great state.



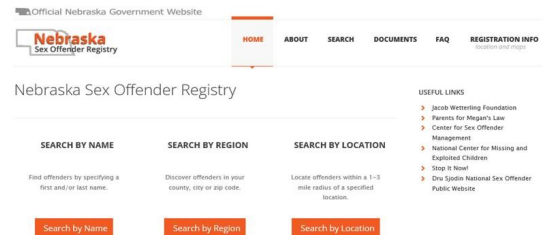
Troop D

During the First Quarter of 2022, Troop D wrapped up a project that they have been busy working on. Sgt. Wiebelhaus and Lt. Elwood organized a compliance check for the sex offender registry in Troop D. Our 27 counties showed 456 people on the list. Traffic Troopers were assigned a list of names and were able to complete 420 checks. 38 offenders were found to be in

violation. Those violations were referred to the respective County Attorney for prosecution.

An unexpected result from this project was the public's awareness of uniformed Troopers knocking on doors of the

SOR's. The public called and emailed into the North Platte office with their appreciation of Troopers making contact. It was satisfying to know the public is keeping vigilant too.



Troop E

It has been a busy start for Troop E during the First Quarter! Troop E assisted Chardon P.D with an anonymous bomb threat that was called into Chardon State College. The area was evacuated and a search was conducted throughout campus. No contraband was located as a result of the search. The phone number was forwarded to the FBI to attempt to retrieve caller identification for further follow-up.



Troop E Patrol Division assisted Deuel County

Sheriff's Office with a shooting at the Flying J Truck Stop in Big Springs, NE. The incident began with road rage on I-80. The two Commercial Motor Vehicles pulled off at Big Springs. One driver pulled a firearm and shot at the other driver. There were no injuries from the shooting. Deuel County had the shooter in custody when troopers arrived on scene. Troopers assisted Deuel County at the scene and the suspect was transported and jailed.

Troop E received a go-cart, called the Sidne Effect, that was donated by State Farm &

NESC, to the State Patrol. The go-cart is an educational tool used to educate the public about impaired driving. This is a go-cart that the operator can impact by delaying operating time through the steering and braking system. We are really excited about receiving this equipment and are anxious to start scheduling educational programs with students throughout the Panhandle communities. We look forward to keeping this equipment busy and are excited to see the response from the public we serve.

Troop H

The Troop H Uniform Patrol Division proudly serves the 14 counties in Southeast Nebraska. Troop H began 2022 with a mild winter and remained very busy on the roadways. The Troopers remain committed to serving the citizens of Nebraska. During the 1st quarter of 2022, Troopers removed 106 motorists off the streets for DUI, along with 166 citations for drug and alcohol violations. Additionally, they

made 41 felony arrests for various law violations and 77 were arrested for outstanding warrants.

On January 24th, The Gage County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence in Adams that involved a domestic violence incident where the suspect shot his wife. The victim and her two small children were able to escape the residence. The Sheriff's Office



requested assistance and Troop H Patrol Troopers responded. The Troopers were able to set up a perimeter and requested additional assistance. The NSP SWAT team along with Negotiators responded. NSP personnel endured hours of cold

weather temperatures while negotiators tried to make contact with the suspect. The suspect was found deceased inside the residence due to a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Troop H Sergeant Sean Velte #673 was awarded the Regional Trooper of the Year by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for a critical incident he was involved with in 2021.

In March, Investigators completed an unprecedented three-day search operation as part of the ongoing investigation into the disappearance of Linda Dillard. Although the search effort did not locate Dillard's

remains, significant ground was covered that will assist in the investigation. Throughout the three-day operation, teams searched more than 1,100 acres of land in and around the Table Rock State Wildlife Management Area. 24 miles of roadside ditches, 1.5 miles of river, 2 local farms, and a local lake area. The search team consisted of 44 law enforcement officers, 65 volunteers and support personnel, 15 mounted patrol teams, and 8 dog teams trained for human remains detection. The search operation included partners from multiple states, including the Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska Emer-

gency Management Agency, NecroSearch International, Brown County (KS) Mounted Search and Rescue, Saline County (KS) Mounted Patrol and Rescue, Sedgwick County (KS) Emergency Management, HRD Canine Search and Rescue Teams, University of Nebraska Department of Forensic Anthropology, Kawasaki of Lincoln, and the Tiger Pride Community Group of Table Rock. We appreciate all who took the time to help out!



Carrier Enforcement

Lt. Mike Maytum with Carrier Enforcement is extremely happy to report that our Citizen Academy held on March 17, 2022, in conjunction with the Nebraska Trucking Association was a resounding success. We hosted 17 safety officials, representing 12 different motor carriers from the state here at SHQ, as well as 2 offsite locations including the NSP Airwing and Waverly Westbound Scale. Officers from the agency presented an inside look at the Carrier Division, including our history and our unique function as Carrier Enforcement troopers. Topics included History, Authority, State Law and Federal Regulatory framework, Compliance Reviews, Safety Audits, DataQ process, Substance Abuse Awareness, and the basic expectations during a roadside stop.

After the classroom portion of our day, we took everyone to the Airwing hangar at the Lincoln Airport, where we highlighted the SOD's Airwing and K9 through presentations, vide-

os and live demonstrations. We met K9 Ezra and got to see active training for our newest addition to the K9 division. Shout out to Trp. Wilkie for stepping up on short notice, and for Airwing pilots for being great hosts during our working lunch, which was provided by the Nebraska Trucking Association.

Our final stop for the day was the Waverly westbound scale, where we highlighted SOD's Drone program with live flights and demonstrations, as well as presenting a full vehicle inspection demonstration to many who had never seen one. We were able to highlight the newest technology at the scale including the DOT/LPR and tire anomaly detection system and view these systems in action. Based on the comments, questions, and curiosity, the visit was extremely well received. The day ended with presentation of certificates of attendance to all who participated.

Thanks to all the companies who invested their personnel time in this program and to the NSP staff who assisted! Without the efforts of everyone, this day would not have been the overwhelming success it was!



Featured Divisions: IT and CID

Information Technology (IT)

This past year the NSP IT Division has been moving our 81 NSP applications to the STN domain. This project is near completion! The data files servers move on April 19.

Next we will begin moving your computers to STN. We will be contacting you after April 20 to schedule your computer move. This process requires you to be hard-wired to the network and logged off your computer. The process can take from 30 minutes to a few hours. Want to speed up the process? Move your documents from your desktop and C drive to your network drive – the conversion will run much faster.

Once your computer is moved to STN, you will log in with First.Last user name and your Outlook password (that is your STN account). After logging in, you will NOT need to log in to POLAR, NSP Internal, Share-Point, Rolodex, CAD Reports, or the Service Portal. You will have fewer logins for applications!

The TraCS/MACH/Niche team has been busy with several forms. Improvements have been made to the Crash form to streamline the data entry

and we will continue to make improvements to that form. Keep sending your suggestions through the Ticket Portal! With the new Crash Form, many of our Partner Agencies switched to using TraCS for e-citations. At this point, we have 145 Partner Agencies using TraCS for Crash Form and 89 of those are using it for e-Citations too; 3 agencies are using the TraCS RMS product. NSP is sharing TraCS with more than 2,000 other officers throughout the state.

The Fusion Center is looking forward to their new system that will replace Memex. The NSP IT Developers are creating a replacement application to meet the Fusion Center's specific needs. The base program will be completed in July this year. Enhancements will be made as the Fusion Center uses it and identifies more features and improvements.



This spring we will post our Request for Proposals for a new Message Switch. This will be a large conversion project. We anticipate the purchase by the end of the calendar year with installation beginning in early 2023.

This summer the IT Division will have some personnel changes. Bruce Luhr, our AFIS System Administrator will retire June 2 after 38 years of service. We thank Bruce for his dedication and for sharing his expertise with us for so many years! Pam Kunzman, our IT Manager will retire July 1 after 8 years at the Patrol.

Criminal Identification Division (CID)

In 2021, CID completed 34,138 fingerprint based background checks for applicant categories which includes adoption, foster care, child care, Medicaid, nursing, teaching, liquor commission, and many others. This was a 19% increase over the prior year.

CID also issued a total of 27,758 concealed handgun permits, a 20% increase over 2020.

Additionally, a total of 64,283 name checks were completed, which was a 23% increase over the previous year.

In 2022 and beyond, CID is involved in several large technology and IT projects. Some projects include working with the Administrative Office of the Courts to modernize the statewide court database, working with DHHS to upgrade the mental health record reporting system for firearms

disqualifiers and the development of automated reporting systems to send firearms prohibiting felony and misdemeanor crime of domestic violence records to the FBI's NICS indices database. There are many other projects that CID will be involved in this year.

As with most divisions, we have struggled with the hiring and retention of staff. Currently 4 out of the 5 front desk positions are vacant, and we are hiring! CID has several different teams with multiple positions open, so if you know anyone who is searching for interesting and

rewarding employment with a fantastic team, great benefits, and a flexible work environment - please send them our way!

Intern Spotlight

The NSP welcomed five new interns to the team during the first quarter of 2022. Interns get the opportunity to visit and learn several different Divisions throughout their time with the agency. They get a close-up look at what it means to be a Trooper patrolling the roadways, a pilot with our Aviation Support Division, a Forensic Scientist with our Crime Lab, or even a Trooper assigned to the Executive Protection Division.

One of our new interns is Michael Allen. He will be doing his internship in Troop C. Michael is currently a senior at University of Nebraska- Kearney where he is studying Criminal Justice. Upon graduation, he will be commissioning in the United States Marine Corps as Second Lieutenant. He hopes one day when his Marine career is over, he will be able to come back and be apart of our agency.



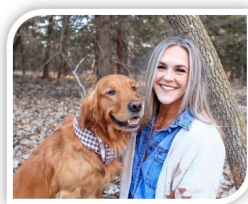
Another intern interested in a future position with the Nebraska State Patrol is Zachary Matthews. Zachary is currently a University of Nebraska- Omaha student majoring in Criminology and Criminal justice. Currently he is employed at the Southwest Iowa Juvenile Detention Center. After gradation, he plans to pursue a career with the NSP.



The third intern, Brooke Peck, comes to us from University of Nebraska- Lincoln. Brooke is a Sports Media and Communications major. She enjoys traveling, snowboarding and videography. Brooke has worked for Husker Vision for two years and is excited to be starting an internship role with the NSP.



Our fourth intern is Jordyn Lukasiewicz. She currently works as an Adaptive Skills Therapist in California teaching young adults with developmental disabilities to help them become self-sufficient. She pursued a Master's degree in Forensic Psychology. Her career goal is to work for the Nebraska State Patrol NIAC Division.



Last but not least, the NSP welcomed intern Ashley Maschmeier to the team. Ashley was born and raised in Gering, Nebraska. She is completing her Associate of Science degree at Western Nebraska Community College. She currently works as a 911 Dispatcher for Scottsbluff County. Ashley wants to pursue a career in law enforcement and is looking forward to what NSP has to offer.



The Nebraska State Patrol has enjoyed their time with these students and is excited to work with others who are interested in the law enforcement profession.

New Hires

January 2022

- Kyla Streeter, Communications Specialist
- Caylee Lind, Communications Specialist
- Derek Lohner, Counter Threat Crime Analyst
- Steven Creps, Security Guard
- Logan Sprunk, Security Guard

February 2022

- Gary McLaughlin, Security Comm Specialist
- Timothy Weldon, Security Guard
- Karen Carr, Security Guard

- Rolan Hadi, Communications Specialist
- Elizabeth Forbes, Communications Specialist

March 2022

- Jerald Bartzatt, CID-Assessor, Office Tech
- James Ashley, CID-CHP, Office Specialist
- Ashleigh Broughton, CID-CHP, Office Specialist



Transfers

January 2022

- Kevin Bruning, Troop B West Point Criminal Investigator to South Sioux City VOTF Investigator
- Jason Halouska, Lincoln CE Investigator to Lincoln Tech Crimes Investigator
- Isaiah Jaramillo, Scottsbluff

Patrol Trooper to Omaha
Patrol Trooper

Patrol Trooper

- Jason Prante, Omaha PSD Sgt to Emergency Prep Inv. Sergeant

March 2022

- Zane Sackett, McCook Drug Investigator to McCook Patrol Trooper
- Seth Miller, Scottsbluff Patrol Trooper to O'Neill

Deceased

January 2022

- Staci Behne, Intell. Crime Analyst



Promotions

January 2022

- Gena Jones, Chardon Criminal Sgt. To Norfolk Inv. Services Lieutenant
- Ashley Green, North Platte Communication Specialist to North Platte Communication Specialist Trainer
- Jennifer Russell, Lincoln Communication Specialist to Lincoln Communication Specialist Trainer

February 2022

- Brian Petersen, Lincoln Aviation Sgt. To Lincoln Aviation Lt.

- Mikayla Meyer, North Platte Communications Specialist to North Platte Communications Specialist Supervisor
- Wendy Romey, Scottsbluff Office Specialist to Scottsbluff Crime Analyst

March 2022

- Dean Christensen, Scottsbluff Inv. to Scottsbluff Drug Inv. Sgt.
- David Flohr, Omaha CE Trp. to Lincoln MCSAP Sgt.
- Katie Duff, CID Front

Desk Office Specialist to Sr. Payroll Coordinator

- Juliana Marsh, CID Front Desk Office Specialist to SOR Admin Specialist
- April Scriven, DV/SA Crime Analyst to CPO Program Manager
- Tori Martin, CID Front Desk Office Specialist to AFIS Forensic Tech.



Resignations

January 2022

- Christopher Lutes, Carrier Enforcement Trooper
- Jonathan Zarnick, SOR Office Specialist

February 2022

- Gary McLaughlin, Security Comm Specialist

- Kelsey Baldwin, Accountant II- Sr. Payroll Crd.

March 2022

- Kristi Fowlkes, AFIS Forensic Technician
- Matthew Richardson, Patrol Division Trooper
- Jamie Thompson, Patrol Division Trooper

- Maria Ramirez-Gutierrez, Communications Specialist
- Claudia Torres, Office Specialist



Retirements

February 2022

- Brad Moeller, Patrol Division Trooper

March 2022

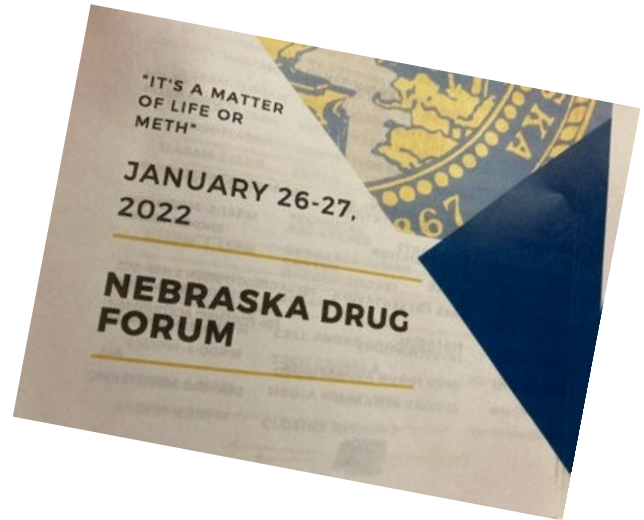
- Michael Jahnke, Western Operations Major





*All images were
taken by
various NSP
personnel and
friends around
the State during
the first quarter
of 2022!*









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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. Chab (#221)

Donald Matejka (#192)

Mark P. Wagner (#168)

Jerry L. Smith (#373)



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