



Informer

Informer Staff

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NSP Modernizes Command Structure

In January 2026, the Nebraska State Patrol moved to modernize the command structure of the Superintendent's Office for the first time in over 50 years.

Under the new command structure, the agency is divided into two parts: Operations and Services. Each of those areas will be under the command of an Assistant Superintendent. Lt. Colonel Jeff Roby serves as Assistant Superintendent of Operations. Captain Jason Scott was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and now serves as Assistant Superintendent of Services.

"Lt. Colonel Scott has been an outstanding leader for our troopers and investigators for many years," said Colonel Bryan Waugh, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. "His wealth of knowledge, attitude of service, and professional integrity have equipped him for this new role, and we are excited for him to share his leadership with a larger part of our NSP team."



Lt. Colonel Jason Scott

Lt. Colonel Scott is a 27-year veteran of the Nebraska State Patrol. He most recently served as a statewide commander for Investigative Services. Throughout his career, he has served in Carrier Enforcement, Patrol, Investigative Services, and Special Operations. Lt. Colonel Scott is also a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

This new command structure modernizes the agency and reflects the growth NSP has experienced over our history of serving Nebraska," said Colonel Waugh. "While the public safety mission has never wavered, the personnel, tools, and knowledge we use have adapted. This latest adaptation positions the Nebraska State Patrol to meet the challenges and opportunities of the



future, as we continually strive to keep Nebraska safe. I'm thankful for the alignment between Governor Pillen, Lt. Governor Kelly, and our leadership to make this change and better position the agency for the future. Thank you to Governor Pillen and Lt. Governor Kelly for their constant support of our team."

This marks the first change to the structure of the superintendent's office since the first introduction of the Lieutenant Colonel rank in 1969.

The Aviation Support Unit (ASU) maintained a high operational tempo throughout the quarter, providing critical aerial support for law enforcement operations, emergency response, and interagency assistance despite ongoing maintenance challenges.

In January, ASU was requested to assist the Lincoln Police Department in the search for a missing couple from Stromsburg. The couple's vehicle was later located in Lincoln after being intentionally burned. ASU conducted aerial searches of multiple areas identified through investigative leads. The investigation determined that the couple and their unborn child were victims of homicide. In the following weeks, ASU supported the pursuit of two suspects connected to the case and assisted with multiple search warrant operations. ASU provided aerial overwatch of the suspects' residence, later confirmed as the homicide scene, delivering real-time intelligence to SWAT teams prior to the execution of warrants.

In March, ASU assisted with large-scale wildfires that burned approximately 827,933 acres. The unit provided aerial imagery and live video during active fire conditions, supporting incident command in developing suppression strategies. Both fixed-wing aircraft were deployed for this mission, with one based in North Platte and the other operating out of Lincoln. A total of 16.5 flight hours were dedicated to wildfire response. Video captured during these operations was featured on multiple national media outlets, highlighting the effectiveness of aerial support in disaster response.

Throughout the quarter, ASU experienced multiple aircraft maintenance challenges, including required maintenance that grounded aircraft for extended periods and equipment failures affecting thermal imaging and downlink capabilities.

Despite these obstacles, ASU maintained operational readiness. Pilots and the maintenance technician adjusted work schedules to ensure continuous coverage, maintaining at least one of the unit's four aircraft in operational status at all times.

ASU pilots continued to train in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements. All personnel maintained required certifications, ensuring operational readiness and compliance with regulatory standards.

The Aviation Support Unit demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and operational effectiveness throughout the quarter. Despite maintenance limitations, ASU successfully supported major investigations, emergency response operations, and routine law enforcement activities while maintaining continuous aerial coverage.



AVIATION SUPPORT UNIT

Police Service Dogs (PSD)

During quarter one of 2026, the division had some personnel changes. The division welcomed two new PSD handlers, Trooper Schoenefeld (PSD assignment, Troop A) and Trooper Royal (PSD assignment, Troop D). In addition to this, Trooper Donner was promoted to Sergeant this quarter. With these changes come more training opportunities. The PSD Division is proud to share that we have two NSP dog teams in training alongside our allied agencies at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy.

This quarter, the PSD Division had multiple deployments that kept the division busy across the state. During some of the more notable deployments, Trooper Brown and his K9 located 168 pounds cocaine in Troop C, Trooper McKain and his K9 located 928g of methamphetamine, 10 grams cocaine, and a 9 millimeter Taurus Handgun in Troop D. In partnership with the NSP Carrier Enforcement Division, Trooper McKain and his canine were able to locate 292 pounds of cocaine during a commercial vehicle inspection in Troop D. In addition to these drug seizures, the NSP Explosive



Detection Dog Team responded to Bomb Threats at the Capital and North Platte School. The PSD division is critical in preventing drug circulation in Nebraska. Great work by all of our K9s and their handlers.

As the division continues to grow and evolve, the division is eager to display one of the Nebraska State Patrol's core values: adaptability. The division members have already excelled in this area as they navigate a changing team and continue to improve their skills.

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)

During quarter one, the division responded to calls in Troops C and H. Often, calls like these require assistance from the Nebraska State Patrol's Crisis Negotiator Team.

In February of this year, the Nebraska State Patrol Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) division had the opportunity to host the National Tactical Officer Association Team Leader Course. The agency had around 30 law enforcement professionals in attendance, including allied agencies within Nebraska and outside the state in Texas, Colorado, Iowa, and Kansas. This training brought different agencies together to better hone their skills as law enforcement professionals in future tactical missions.

This quarter also provided the opportunity for the SWAT team to share the importance of the division through a bearcat demo for the Carrier Citizen Academy at Waverly Scales and the NSP Experience Day at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. These community interactions are a great opportunity to show our equipment and share with the public how we work with it to keep both Nebraska citizens and visitors safe.



Hazardous Device Technicians (HDT)

During the first quarter of 2026, the Nebraska State Patrol's Hazardous Device Technicians underwent training to better their skills in handling explosive devices. Sergeant Huber and Trooper Giardi both attended a two-week course with the federal Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in Huntsville, Alabama where they learned about Advanced Explosives Disposal Techniques. This training and others like it are vastly important. Understanding safe disposal techniques is critical for law enforcement because if an explosive device is not properly disposed of, it can pose a serious threat to both public safety and the lives of the troopers themselves. In addition to this training, Trooper Skalka was re-certified as an Explosives Specialist through the ATF. By learning from the ATF, the Nebraska State Patrol can ensure that best practices are in place when handling hazardous devices.

Alongside these training opportunities, the agency's hazardous device technicians attended the NSP Experience Day at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. While there, a few of our technicians were able to speak with students about what a career with NSP looks like as a trooper equipped with the skills to handle hazardous devices.



Mobile Field Force (MFF)

The 109th Legislature convened on January 7th, 2026. The Capitol Security Division needs to bring in additional troopers to assist with the security of the Legislative Chamber, the senators and their staff, and the additional visitors who come to the Capitol for numerous legislative hearings and floor debates. We rely on volunteers from all the troop areas and divisions statewide from the MFF to help with additional coverage and assist in security operations in and outside the Capitol, state office buildings, the Court of Appeals, and the Nebraska Supreme Court. MFF troopers are assigned to assist in security inside the chamber and ensure that all areas in and around the chamber are secure for the senators and the general public. Utilizing troopers from mobile field force teams statewide gives the Capitol Security Division extra manpower and also gives representation from all troop areas and different divisions from all over the state of Nebraska.

The Capitol Security Division requests volunteers from all troop areas and divisions statewide to augment Capitol Security operations. MFF troopers will be assigned to chamber security, perimeter posts, screening and visitor flow, and escort duties for senators and staff during hearings and floor sessions. Their presence provides critical additional manpower, ensures representation from across the state, and offers valuable familiarization with Capitol layout and legislative procedures—improving overall readiness and interdivisional cooperation. One mobile field force trooper is assigned to the Capitol every week, so this makes sure that the Capitol has adequate coverage, and the Troop Areas and Divisions still have adequate staffing the areas during the session.

In addition to duties at the capitol, the division remained ready for possible challenges that could take place across the state. As part of this, the unit sent Troopers Hilliard and Miller to Aniston, Alabama for a Domestic Preparedness training in January.

Carrier Enforcement

In February of 2026, the Nebraska State Patrol Carrier Enforcement Division expanded the use of a technology that has become common in law enforcement – the unmanned aerial system (UAS), or drone. For several years, the Nebraska State Patrol has utilized drones, or UAS, to augment ground-based efforts, particularly in the area of crash documentation, searching for lost people, documenting large scale gatherings and events, and providing overview and intelligence for natural disaster response. In those scenarios, the value of the drone has proven itself over and over.

In an effort to expand the envelope of use cases, the state patrol has recently imagined how drones might be used in commercial vehicle enforcement. Efforts have been undertaken to demonstrate viability to use a drone to document the interior of semi-trailers, particularly in documenting evidence of cargo and securement in trailers that have limited access to officers due to loading or unsafe environments.

Additionally, the state has begun using drones to document bypass events at scales. Drone use provides enhanced aerial visibility, allowing for real-time observation of traffic patterns, unusual travel on a known bypass route, and the ability to document equipment issues that may not be easily visible from ground level. The elevated vantage point improves officer safety by reducing the time required on the side of a county road with no shoulders while still capturing clear visual evidence. Drone technology enables accurate documentation through 8K high-resolution video and imagery, which supports enforcement actions with objective, time stamped evidence.

Drones are proving to be valuable tools daily to law enforcement, due to creative thinkers who have imagined how the advantages and capabilities of the UAS can be leveraged. That kind of forward thinking will continue to foster new and inventive ways to use these tools in the future.



Wellness Department

The Wellness Department of NSP is led by Dr. Deb Hoffman and falls under the leadership of Major Lewis in Administrative Services. Wellness includes several areas such as the Peer Support Team, Chaplain Program, Resiliency training and the Cordico App. While some of these resources and programs are provided solely to agency employees, most are available to family members of agency employees as well. We will highlight a few of these for you.

Peer Support

The agency's Peer Support Team has been in place since 2019 and is available to all employees, both sworn and professional staff. Team members provide confidential emotional support, information, resources, and referrals after critical incidents and in times of personal or professional crisis.**

Each team member must complete 24 hours of basic peer support certification training prior to activation on the team, as well as annual training in peer support. Talking to a peer supporter can help alleviate some of the negative effects of stress and provide additional tools to maintain resiliency both at work and at home.

We currently have 23 team members across the state, representing a variety of divisions, ranks, troop areas and backgrounds. You can reach out to any peer supporter regardless of their location. For a listing of current team members and their contact information you can go to the Cordico App and click the "Directory" tab at the bottom of your home screen, then look under "Peer Support". No matter what you are facing, you are not alone; we are here any time you need us.

Information that is exempt from confidentiality rules for Peer Support can be found in Policy 04-12 Peer Support Program.



EAP: AllOne Health

You may have noticed that the state's EAP program name has changed. "Deer Oaks" is now "AllOne Health". Although the EAP does not fall under the Wellness Department, many of the resources available through the EAP program would be considered wellness resources, so we wanted to highlight those for you. If you have never accessed EAP, you might be surprised at the helpful information and resources provided. You can use the app or website for AllOne Health. You will need to create your own password to log on.

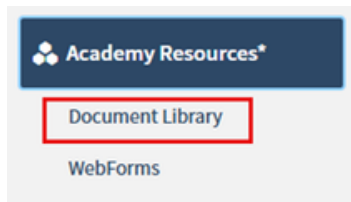
Here are just a few of the resources available:

- Self-assessments for issues such as alcohol & substance abuse, anxiety, and depression.
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy information on topics such as communication, grief, and stress.
- Legal Forms & worksheets that provide guidance relating to wills, guardianship and other legal topics.
- Finance Calculators to help compute things like mortgage payments, 401k savings, taxes, and loans
- Insights Newsletter that provides articles and information

The app even lists upcoming events and webinars that you can register to attend.

The NSP Cordico Wellness App

The agency has used the Cordico Wellness app since 2023 to provide employees, families, and retirees with one location for resources, information, and referrals related to overall wellness. Within the app you will find a listing of the Peer Support team, agency Chaplains, and a list of therapists across the state who are experienced working with law enforcement and their families. There are also upcoming NSP events listed on the calendar and support hotlines available within the app for various urgent needs. The app is easy to use and provides confidential access; with one username and password for agency employees, your personal information is not tracked while you are using the app.



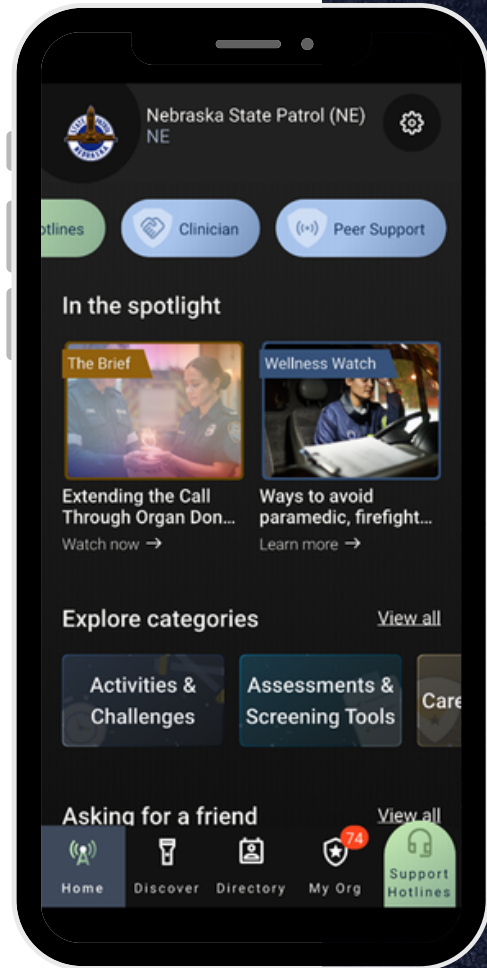
More information on the app, along with a longer overview, are available in your Acadis Portal in the Academy Resources, Document Library.

To access the Cordico App you can scan the QR code below and use the username and password listed.



Username: **NebraskaSP-A**
Password: **Wellness1**

If you have other questions about the Cordico app please contact Trooper Kevin Stary or Mary Jones.



Information Technology

Over the last year, IT has partnered with many divisions across NSP and allied agencies to deploy three enterprise projects, an upgrade to Windows 11 and introduce multifactor authentication to all NSP personnel. It has been a very successful and busy year!

The three enterprise projects were UKG Workforce Management for timekeeping, Datamaxx Omnixx Cloud Message Switch and the Tyler Technology CAD system. Each of these projects provided improved technology for NSP and our allied agency partners.

All NSP users are now utilizing multifactor authentication. This is a huge leap forward for security across the agency.

As of April 2026, there are 181 allied partner agencies using TraCS for the Crash Form, TraCS e-forms suite or TraCS RMS. This adds up to over 3150 users of TraCS Statewide! The TraCS IT team will be busy upgrading the TraCS version in 2026.

NSP IT is currently supporting two enterprise projects: an upgrade to AFIS System and the QuarterMaster inventory system. Both projects include migration to cloud technology and many feature improvements.

Over the last year, the IT Division added one new face, Andy Glenn. Please welcome our new Teammate!



NSP Opens New Troop A Office in Omaha

The Nebraska State Patrol office in Omaha, representing Troop A, has moved to a new location.

The new Troop A office is located at 7200 World Communications Drive, Omaha, NE, 68122, near the intersection of Interstate 680 and North 72nd Street. The new office brings together all aspects of NSP Troop A operations, including the Patrol Division, Carrier Enforcement Division, Investigative Services, and fingerprinting services.

“This move marks the culmination of teamwork from several partners,” said Captain Greg Miller, Commander of Troop A.

“Our team will benefit from this new facility, with troopers and investigators now working side by side after many years in different offices around the Omaha metro. The biggest benefit may be for our customers of fingerprinting services, who will now have much more room than the small space at our previous location.”

NSP Troop A is the busiest fingerprinting location in the state. Over 15,000 customers received fingerprinting services at the Troop A office in 2025.

To celebrate the move, Troop A held a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 5th. The event brought together current NSP personnel, retired troopers, and members of the public to see the new office.

NSP Troop A had occupied the previous office, near 108th and L, for over 50 years, since 1974.

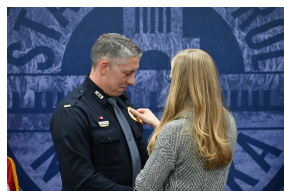


NSP Hosts First Quarter Promotional Ceremony

In January, NSP brought family and friends together to celebrate several recent promotions. In a first-of-its-kind event for the Nebraska State Patrol, seven agency leaders were presented their new badge and reaffirmed their oath of office together.

“Our team is filled with dedicated and talented leaders across Nebraska,” said Colonel Waugh. “These leaders have already demonstrated their abilities in numerous areas. Nebraskans should be proud of their desire to continue being leaders for our team as our troopers and investigators serve the public in all corners of the state.”

- Captain Jason Scott has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in command of the NSP Services Division.
- Lieutenant Paul Jacobson has been promoted to the rank of Captain in command of Administrative Services. Captain Jacobson replaces Captain Kevin Ryan, who retired at the end of 2025.
- Lieutenant Monty Lovelace has been promoted to Captain in command of the Criminal Identification Division and Nebraska Information Analysis Center. Captain Lovelace replaces Captain Lance Rogers, who retired at the end of 2025.
- Sergeant Curtis Gremm has been promoted to Lieutenant, serving in the NSP Capitol Security Division.
- Sergeant Cassie Martin has been promoted to Lieutenant in command of Troop E Investigative Services.
- Sergeant Cody Paro has been promoted to Lieutenant, serving in NSP Internal Affairs.
- Sergeant Matt Workman has been promoted to Lieutenant, serving in the Troop C Patrol Division.



NSP Recruits Start Journey to Become Nebraska Troopers

The next class of Nebraska State Patrol recruits has started their journey to earning the title of Nebraska State Trooper. The recruits of Camp 73 began training January 5th at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy in Grand Island.

“These recruits have already demonstrated they have the character necessary to serve with integrity,” said Colonel Bryan Waugh. “Our Training Academy troopers will now equip them with knowledge, skills, and abilities they’ll need to make a difference in communities across Nebraska.”

The 12 recruits of Camp 73 come to NSP from several communities across Nebraska and multiple other states. The recruits are:

Seth Dvorak – Scottsbluff
Khadario Earl – Lincoln
Nick Eckhout – Lincoln
David Farmer – Battle Creek
Rex Fell – Benkelman
Gideon Hill – Macon, IL

Cale Laue – Gretna
Sean O’Hearn – Lincoln
Hayden Thurnau – St. Paul
Markus Vigil – Hastings
Carson vonRenzell – Elmwood
Roderick Woodworth – San Diego, CA

Nebraska State Patrol recruits undergo hundreds of hours of classroom instruction and scenario-based training to prepare them to serve as troopers. Camp 73 is scheduled to graduate on June 18, 2026.

“These recruits are embarking on a rigorous training course that will ensure they are prepared to provide the highest quality service to Nebraskans,” said Captain Andy Ecklund, NSP Director of Training. “Over the next six months, they’ll receive expert training and earn the title of Trooper.”

While training is underway for Camp 73, NSP recruiters are already hard at work securing the next class of trooper recruits.



New Hires

January 2026

- Lisa Steward, IT Business Systems Analyst Coordinator, Lincoln
- Adam Dolezal, Forensic Scientist II-Firearms, Lincoln
- Seth Dvorak, Officer Candidate – Camp 73, Grand Island
- Khadario Earl, Officer Candidate – Camp 73 Grand Island
- Nicholas Eckhout, Officer Candidate – Camp 73 Grand Island
- David Farmer, Officer Candidate – Camp 73 Grand Island
- Rex Fell, Officer Candidate – Camp 73 Grand Island
- Gideon Hill, Officer Candidate – Camp 73 Grand Island
- Cale Laue, Officer Candidate – Camp 73 Grand Island
- Sean O’Hearn, Officer Candidate – Camp 73 Grand Island
- Hayden Thurnau, Officer Candidate – Camp 73 Grand Island
- Markus Vigil, Officer Candidate – Camp 73 Grand Island
- Carson vonRentzell, Officer Candidate – Camp 73 Grand Island

- Roderick Woodworth, Officer Candidate – Camp 73 Grand Island
- Catherine Boatwright, Administrative Technician – Research Team, Lincoln
- Bree Havlat, Accountant I, Lincoln

February 2026

- Delaney Williams, Forensic Technician – Crime Lab, Lincoln
- Henry Baumert, Communications Specialist, Lincoln
- Katie Sheets, Office Specialist-Backgrounds Team, Lincoln

March 2026

- Dania Ontiveros, Attorney III, Lincoln
- Tyson Forbes, Admin Programs Officer-QAIP, Lincoln
- Amberlynn Regier, Communications Specialist, Lincoln
- Jennifer Gray, Administrative Technician-NCHIP Team, Lincoln
- Hope Kuenning, Administrative Technician-Research Team, Lincoln
- Jeffery Miller, Security Guard, Lincoln
- Taylor Jones, Security Guard, Lincoln

Transfers

January 2026

- Jordan Pella, Patrol Trooper to Capitol Security Trooper, Geneva to Lincoln
- Samuel Mortensen, PATrol Sergeant to CE Sergeant, McCook to North Platte
- Jay Irvin, Patrol Trooper to Tech Crimes Investigator, Omaha
- Clint Zost, Patrol Trooper to Criminal Investigator, NE City to Lincoln

February 2026

- Jim Bourne, Admin Programs Officer – Professional Standards to Federal Aid Admin II – Grants, Lincoln

March 2026

- Mark White, Patrol Trooper to CE Trooper, Lincoln to Waverly
- Colton Kirkendall Patrol Trooper, Beatrice to Lincoln

- Adam Perry, Patrol Trooper to Criminal Inv., Columbus
- Hunter Lassen, Patrol Trooper, Minden to Ogallala
- Melissa Barton, Office Specialist-CID to Supply Tech II-Radio/Eng, Lincoln
- Seth Wimer, CE Investigator to CE Trooper, Omaha to Fremont Scales
- Dakota Wilson, CE Trooper to Patrol Trooper, Omaha to West Point
- Michael Henry, Criminal Inv. to Patrol Trooper, Grand Island to Aurora
- Michael Anderson, CE Trooper, Omaha to Waverly
- Johnathan Royle, Patrol Trooper to PSD Trooper, North Platte
- Ty Schoenfeld, PATrol Trooper to PSD Trooper, Lincoln to Greenwood

Retirements

January 2026

- Jeff Pelowski, Major–Central Operations, Lincoln
- Lance Rogers, Captain–CID, Lincoln
- Kevin Ryan, Captain–Administrative Services, Lincoln
- Jeff Boston, Patrol Trooper, Broken Bow
- Kenneth Lonowski, Security Communications Shift Supervisor, Lincoln

March 2026

- Russell Dostal, Trooper–Capitol Security, Lincoln

Separations

January 2026

- Krista Meyer, Administrative Technician – Criminal History Specialist, Lincoln
- Matthew Danner, Administrative Program Officer I–QAIP, Lincoln
- Cale Laue, Officer Candidate – Camp 73, Grand Island
- Nicholas Eckhout, Officer Candidate–Camp 73, Grand Island
- Markus Vigil, Officer Candidate–Camp 73, Grand Island
- Derek Mickelson, Crime Analyst – Intelligence Division, Norfolk
- Ahmed Saleh, Security Guard, Lincoln

February 2026

- Melissa Love, Office Specialist – CID Front Desk, Lincoln

March 2026

- Catherine Boatwright, Administrative Tech–Research Team, Lincoln

Promotions

January 2026

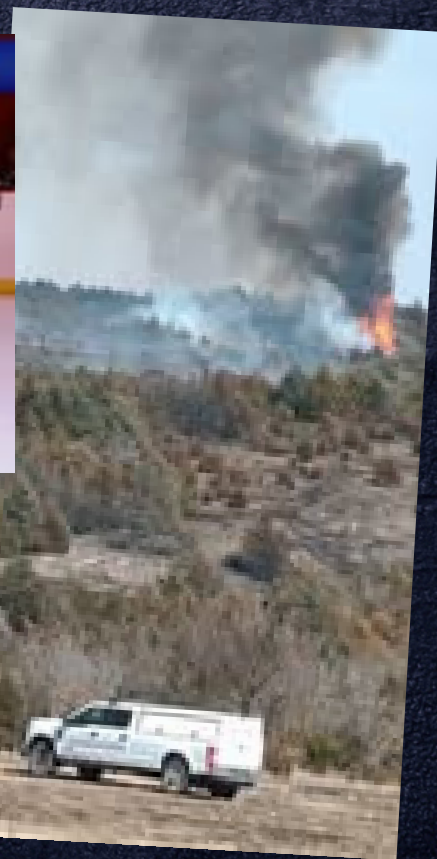
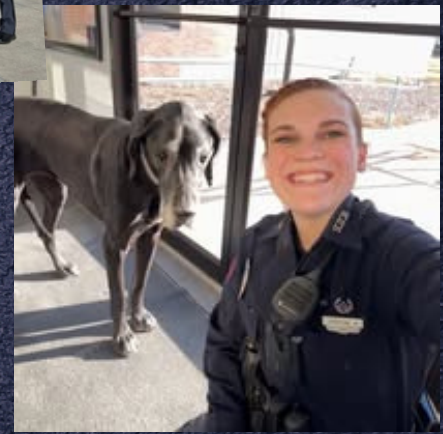
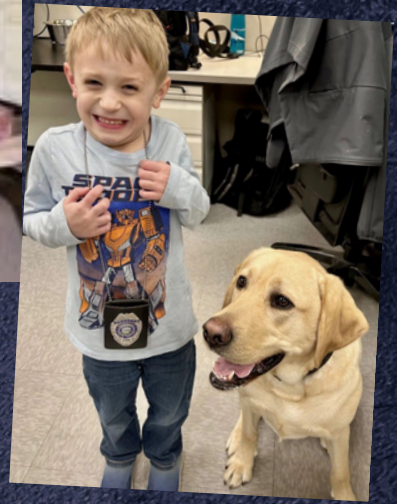
- Jason Scott, ISO Captain to Lt. Colonel – Support Services

March 2026

- Gregory Miller, Captain –Troop A to Major (Support Services), Omaha to Lincoln
- Michael Grummert, Captain–Capitol Security to Major (Patrol West), Lincoln

Photos Around The State

ALL IMAGES WERE TAKEN BY VARIOUS NSP PERSONNEL AND FRIENDS DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2026.







In Memory of Those Who Have Paid The Ultimate Sacrifice While Serving The State Of Nebraska

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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

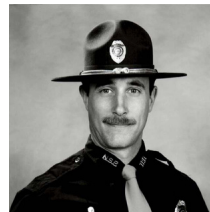
ROBERT J. CHAB #221

DONALD MATEJKA #192

MARK P. WAGNER #168

JERRY L. SMITH #373

KYLE J. MCACY #302



Be sure to checkout our social media to stay up to date with all things NSP!