2018/2019
BI-ANNUAL REPORT
NEBRASKA STATE PATROL

Pro Bono Publico
FOR THE GOOD OF THE PUBLIC
LETTER FROM COLONEL JOHN BOLDUC

Dear Friends,

This biannual report represents just a snapshot of the outstanding work done over the last 24 months by the dedicated sworn and civilian staff of the Nebraska State Patrol. I hope you will take the time to look over this report and notice that behind every photograph and statistic, there is a story of public servants doing their best to safeguard Nebraska. I would like to thank each member of the Nebraska State Patrol team for their exemplary work in serving, protecting, and diligently carrying out their duties.

Early in 2018 the Nebraska State Patrol adopted a short term strategic plan to establish agency goals for the following three years. Strategic restructuring, adopting new technologies, creating a wellness program for officers and civilian staff, and identifying mission focus were some of the 11 goals. Thanks to the hard work and support of each team member, we have already achieved 7 of the 11 strategic goals.

Carrying out the planned work of the agency is important, but responding to unplanned emergencies is where our Troopers and Civilian Staff consistently display their skills and dedication. The unprecedented floods of 2019 interrupted the lives of our neighbors and friends across the state. Troopers, Dispatchers, and Support Staff stepped up to rescue over 160 people from flood waters, and served countless others in stressful circumstances as these natural disasters lasted for months. I am so thankful for the bravery and diligence demonstrated by your NSP Team.

Another tragedy struck Nebraska on June 20, 2019 when Trooper Jerry Smith Jr. was killed by a careless driver in a traffic crash in Morrill County. Trooper Smith was the first line of duty death in 20 years. Trooper Smith will be remembered as a devoted public servant and family man who was simply doing his job when he was killed that summer morning.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the Nebraska State Patrol over the last two years, it is important to acknowledge the support of the community and our state leaders. Without the support of our citizens, Governor Pete Ricketts, and the members of the Legislature, our difficult task of serving Nebraska would not be possible. Thank you for partnering with us.

Sincerely,

Col. John A. Bolduc
Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Tradition.

Website - https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/
NEBRASKA STATE PATROL

The Nebraska State Patrol is a full-service law enforcement organization which has been serving Nebraska since 1937. The agency’s Mission Statement is emblematic of both our civilian and sworn employees: “The Nebraska State Patrol shall provide law enforcement of the highest quality to ensure a safe and secure Nebraska—Pro Bono Publico”. (For the Good of the Public)

Several divisions of the agency are under the direction of the Superintendent’s Office which include: The Office of Professional Standards, Human Resources, Process Improvement, and Public Relations.

The Nebraska State Patrol utilizes four majors which divide agency operational responsibilities into three distinct geographic areas as well as an Administrative Services component. The Administrative Services section is under the purview of Major Russ Stanczyk and includes the following divisions: Accounting, Grants, Information Technology, Research & Planning, Procurement, Radio Communications, Project Management, and the Criminal Identification Division. The goal of Administrative Services is to ensure all members of the organization are provided what they need to succeed so the agency can meet the expectations of our citizens.

Major Brenda Konfrst commands the Nebraska State Patrol Eastern Operations Division, comprising both Troop A, based in Omaha, and Troop B, based in Norfolk. Major Konfrst also commands NSP Special Operations, the Aviation Support Division, as well as Capitol Security.

Major Jeff Pelowski commands the Central Operations Division. Central Operations encompasses Troop H, based in Lincoln, Troop C, based in Grand Island, Carrier Enforcement Division, Training Academy and the Nebraska Information and Analysis Center (NIAC). The Central Division continues to leverage technology to place troopers where they can be most effective utilizing real time crash data and analyzing calls for service. The goal of the Central Field Services Division is to provide high visibility patrolling and enforcement to not only meet the publics expectation, but to exceed it.

Major Mike Jahnke commands the Western Operations Division. The Western Division encompasses Troop D, based in North Platte, Troop E, based in Scottsbluff, and The Nebraska State Patrol Criminalistics Laboratory, based in Lincoln. The Western Division is responsible for the largest geographic area in Nebraska, and proudly provides highly visible proactive policing in partnership with our allied agencies to ensure a safe Nebraska.

https://www.facebook.com/NEStatePatrol/
COMPASSION—State Troopers work selflessly each day and carry a strong desire to help those in need demonstrating compassion and kindness.

Trooper Kristen McCrea delivers Christmas presents in Coffey County in support of the 2019 Schedule Food and Toy Drive.

Rain can't stop the torch run. Organized by Trooper Nathan Veal, the Nebraska State Patrol along with other law enforcement agencies ran 14.5 miles participating in Special Olympics Torch Run in North Platte on May 20, 2019.

Family members of the late Trooper Raymond Koehner gather at his grave along with current members of the Nebraska State Patrol to honor his sacrifice. Trooper Koehner was killed on September 18, 1981, in an automobile accident near Plattsmouth.

Sgt. Bakhtzor and Trooper Mickelson give Sidney elementary students tour of the Sidney office.

Trooper Johnson joins students at the Gordon Elementary School climbing wall.
Trooper Zach Schmidt #356 gets a U.S. Marine who was home on emergency leave back to his family during a blizzard in December 2018. The Marine, who had flown into Kearney during a snow storm was stranded. He was able to see his ailing grandfather one last time thanks to Trooper Schmidt reuniting him with his family.

Trooper Dimitroff & Trooper Nutsch meet a new friend and fellow law enforcement enthusiast at the 2018 Nebraska State Fair.

Trooper Jeremy Thorson and his championship Broncos football team.

Trooper Keith Bell teaching the art of the swing with PACE baseball.

On July 9th, 2019, Kearney and surrounding areas were devastated with flash flooding. Troopers along with allied agencies assisted with evacuating hundreds of people from local hotels and businesses to shelters. Many of those businesses suffered catastrophic damage, including the Kearney NSP office.
Diligence—All Nebraska State Patrol teammates use their training and experience to serve the public by paying attention to detail in a constant effort to keep Nebraska safe.

Trooper Sam Mortensen participated in an October 2018 event at the White House to draw attention to opioid abuse. During the event, President Donald Trump personally recognized Trooper Mortensen for his seizure of 118 pounds of Fentanyl.

In April of 2019, Headquarters Drug Division in conjunction with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Task Force arrested two individuals coming back from Colorado with a handgun and 878.9 grams of Methamphetamine.

In 2018, Trooper John Lewis was a guest of Nebraska Senator Ben Sasse at the State of the Union address to congress by President Donald Trump. Trooper Lewis led an effort to provide aid to families in Florida affected by Hurricane Irma.

The picture with Trooper Viteria #480 was taken after the flooding in Niobrara. Those are the ice blocks that were pushed onto land as the Niobrara river flooded and left those huge ice chunks all over, including Hwy 14 into Niobrara.
Trooper Kendall Reed #630 conducted a traffic stop on a commercial van in April 2018. With assistance from Trooper Justin Davis #13 and his K-9 J.O., probable cause was developed to search the vehicle. The search yielded 1,053 pounds of marijuana, 8,779 dosage units of hashish oil, and 40 pounds of loose hashish wax and THC shatter. Subsequent investigation by DEA agents led to arrests of 4 other individuals, seizure of $125,000 in gold coins, $27,719.00 in U.S. currency, 3 Mercedes Sprinter vans, $190,000 in attempted bond money, 2 firearms and potential additional forfeiture of assets in multiple states.

Fingerprint Technician Tiffany Carter in Omaha. The Omaha office averages 1,200 fingerprints per month.

A dust storm on April 28, 2018 in Hamilton County led to a 27 vehicle crash near mile marker 334 on I-80. Multiple NSP units were directly involved in working the crash while several other law enforcement agencies assisted with the control and investigation. In all, 12 people were injured and there was one fatality as a result of the crash.

When an elderly woman was reported missing near Oakland, Nebraska, the Nebraska State Patrol Aviation Support Division responded to assist in the search. Ultimately, the pilots located the woman and Captain Frank Peck carried her to safety.

Sgt. Ben Schroepfer won the Grand Champion challenge at the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance competition.

In 2019, the Nebraska State Patrol Service Dog Division assisted with the following calls. Over 350 Detection Calls resulting in 2,000 lbs. of Marijuana & 30 lbs. of Meth being seized.
TEAMWORK—A coordinated effort by all divisions in the Nebraska State Patrol allow for efficiency by working together in the interest of the public.

Troopers from Troop A work together during a speed enforcement selective.

A Special Weapons and Tactics team trains with a light armored vehicle during a training exercise at Tecumseh State Correctional Institution.

Trooper Naughtin teamed up with FFA students in Sutherland whose project was to make blankets that could be handed out to crash victims to keep warm.

Nebraska Excellence in Leadership Award celebrates professional achievements in recognition of a public “thank you” for teammates service in helping people. Award criteria include Leadership, Initiative, Creativity, Dedication, Recognition, Integrity, and Inspiration in the performance in one’s job. Captain Kurt Von Minden and Sgt. Kurt Prazey were also included in the November 6, 2019 award recipients.
On Sunday, March 17 and Monday, March 18, 2019, a convoy of nine tractor-trailers delivered much-needed food to the community of Fremont where stores were running low on supplies. The Nebraska State Patrol, the National Guard, and the Nebraska Department of Transportation collaborated to create a safe route into Fremont to get food to shelters, housing, and feeding residents after extreme flooding inundated the town.

Trooper Nicholson teamed up with our Game and Parks Conservation Officers at Lake McCauley to help patrol the large crowds over holiday weekends.

Sgt. Buhleke partnered with the North Platte Police Department in a patch exchange to further awareness on breast cancer.

Members of the Nebraska State Patrol and Lincoln Police Department joined staff members from the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services in an operation at the Nebraska State Penitentiary.

New recruits at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy are learning to work with first responders at an accident scene. They must protect responders, making sure that it’s safe for themselves and other first responders.
Trooper Jerry Louis Smith, Jr., 51, #373, of Scottsbluff, passed away on June 20, 2019 as the result of injuries he sustained in a car crash.

More than 300 people, including Gov. Pete Ricketts and law enforcement officers from around the country, attended the funeral of Trooper Smith.

Trooper Smith, who had a lengthy career in the military that included being awarded a Bronze Star, joined the patrol at age 47. He was believed to be the oldest person to complete the patrol's Basic Recruit Camp, a distinction that earned him the nickname "Grandpa" among his training classmates.
## In Review

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Stop Total</td>
<td>182,935</td>
<td>149,232</td>
<td>115,210</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calls for Service</td>
<td>125,726</td>
<td>201,023</td>
<td>186,920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felony Arrest</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>1,171</td>
<td>1,056</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Service Hours</td>
<td>4,424 hrs.</td>
<td>13,780 hrs.</td>
<td>18,134 hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Cases submitted to Crime Lab</td>
<td>5,362</td>
<td>5,690</td>
<td>6,285</td>
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### Nebraska State Patrol 2019 Felony Arrester

- **Sex Crimes**: 36, 3%
- **Assault/Abuse/Homicide**: 54, 5%
- **Other Felony**: 9, 1%
- **Violations By Prohibited Person**: 37, 4%
- **Fraud/Forgery**: 23, 2%
- **Theft/Burglary**: 68, 46%
- **Motor Vehicle**: 144, 14%
- **Drug Related**: 48%

### Media Sentiment

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Negative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
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**Value Statement**

The Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) is committed to professional public service reflecting recognition of the inherent value of each individual in our society. Our officers strive to earn and maintain trust, respect, and confidence by exemplifying the belief that the freedoms, rights, and dignity of all citizens must be protected and preserved. To this end, we pledge ourselves to the highest standards of morality, fairness, honesty, dedication, professionalism, and courage.

**Mission Statement**

The Nebraska State Patrol shall provide law enforcement of the highest quality to ensure a safe and secure Nebraska – Pro Bono Publico.