

INFORMER

Volume 69

2020—Fourth Quarter

NSP Informer Staff

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2020: A Year Unlike Any Other

We made it! A common phrase echoed by many as 2020 gave way to 2021. Last year was a year unlike any other the NSP has ever experienced. As we march into a new year, many of the features that made 2020 unique are ongoing, but the year itself will always be remembered.

It started with chasing unexplained drones that crossed the night skies throughout the State. Then came a global pandemic, which changed everything. The summer brought unrest across the country, including in several of our own communities. In September, Nebraska lost a brother in blue, who trained with and served alongside many of our Troopers.

The best way to mark the end of 2020 may simply be with the words "good riddance," but instead, let's celebrate the ac-

complishments and impressive work by our team throughout a difficult year.

When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in March, the country was thrust into uncertainty, but the public safety mission of the NSP remained. Troopers and Civilian staff stepped-up across the State to continue the mission, as well as take on new roles to help the public deal with the virus. From securing mobile testing sites to distributing PPE and cleansing products to organizing donations and more, NSP teammates went above and beyond to help communities.

In the early days of summer, while the pandemic continued, NSP was again tasked with an unexpected challenge. Law enforcement protests erupted around the nation, including violent and unlawful protests in



both Omaha and Lincoln. Troopers with NSP SWAT and Mobile Field Force teams from the entire state responded to southeast Nebraska to assist local law enforcement operations, as well as secure the Nebraska State Capitol Building.

Troopers performed with professionalism and dedication over the course of several days and were praised by law enforcement leaders for their efforts. By the end of the assignment at the State Capitol, protest leaders had turned from not wanting the Troopers to be there, to not wanting them to leave.

(continued on page 2)

NSP to Open New State Headquarters

The NSP is excited to announce that we will be opening a new state headquarters building in Lincoln in 2021. This new facility will bring several Lincoln-based personnel under one roof instead of being spread out throughout the city.

"For decades, NSP team mem-

bers have been scattered around Lincoln at various offices," said Colonel John Bolduc, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. "Our new state headquarters will bring our team together, which allows us to better serve Nebraskans and improve many processes that currently involve personnel from multiple offices."

This consolidation will bring Divisions in five different facilities into one building located at 4600 Innovation Drive, which is being leased through Speedway Properties.

The move-in process is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2021.



(continued
from page 1)

Some of the additional challenges of 2020 included a drastic increase in the amount of excessive speeding on Nebraska

roads, multiple cases of missing children from other states being located by Troopers, several standoffs with suspects across the State, an increase in homicide investigations, and a dramatic increase in pursuits. Through it all, NSP personnel remained professional and dedicated to preserving public safety.

2020 also included the creation of the NSP Special Operations Division (SOD), which brought together several specialty units under one Division. SWAT, HDT, PSD, Tech Crimes, NI-AC, and ASD are now encompassed in this one Division.

Tragedy struck the law enforcement community in August when Lincoln Police Investigator Mario Herrera was shot by a suspect while assisting in the service of a warrant. After nearly two weeks of fighting for his life in an Omaha hospital, Herrera succumbed to his injuries on September 7, 2020.

Mario began his law enforcement career with the NSP as a Carrier Enforcement Officer

before joining LPD. Many of his NSP Campmates assisted in duties surrounding his funeral, including leading a miles-long procession of law enforcement vehicles to return Mario's body to Lincoln from Omaha after his death.

In 2020, the NSP also lost members of our own family, including Trooper Dale Fahnholz, Lieutenant Craig Loveless, and Dispatcher Barbara Klinetobe. They all remain in our minds and impact the work we do every day.

As we leave 2020 behind, the indelible memories remain and will continue to shape us as we continue forward individually and as an Agency.

Special Operations

Police Service Dog Division

Trp. Michael Rice and Trp. Justin Ferguson have recently been selected to fill vacant positions within PSD. Trp. Rice will be assigned to North Platte and Trp. Ferguson will be assigned to Lincoln. Both Troopers have begun their narcotics detection dog training with their K9 partners.

As a tribute to fallen Trooper Jerry L. Smith #373, Trooper Rice's K9 is named Jerry. Trooper Ferguson's K9 is named Gable.

Aside from adding new personnel and staying abreast in various trainings, the Police Service Dog Division has kept busy assisting with narcotics sniffs, fugitive work, and SWAT deployments. As a team, they had over 400 K9 deployments in 2020!



Hazardous Device Technician

The Special Operations Division includes the Agency's Hazardous Device Technicians (HDT) as well. In 2020, trained HDT personnel responded to 60 calls for service!

These calls for service were in reference to a variety of different things such as unexploded military ordinance, commercial fireworks, and homemade explosive devices.

Additionally, the HDT team is proud to have their newest member on board—Trp. Clayton Dishong.

Nebraska Information Analysis Center

The Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC) and FBI-Omaha routinely, and frequently, collaborate and share information for counter-crime and counter-terrorism purposes. The below success story is one example of these joint efforts to support public safety. At the National Fusion Center Association Conference (held virtually in 2020), the Director Wray of the FBI publicly recognized the Nebraska NIAC for their work in this 2019 case.

On May 24, 2019, a federal agency advised the NIAC that an identified, active duty U.S. marine, who was on leave in Nebraska, made threat-related comments while he was at his assignment in Hawaii. The comments involved threats to cause physical harm to other marines, which included a threat to shoot them. The threats did not have a Nebraska nexus.

A NIAC Crime Analyst, whose primary responsibilities include counter-terrorism and homeland security, contacted the FBI Intelligence Analyst who is the fusion center liaison to FBI-

Omaha. The analysts discussed the threat reporting and the need for a situational awareness product for Nebraska law enforcement. The NIAC analyst provided the FBI liaison with the detailed information the NIAC received from the federal agency.

On that same day, the NIAC released a law enforcement sensitive product on the identified individual which provided specifics on the threat-related comments the individual made. The NIAC disseminated the situational awareness product to federal, state, and local law enforcement in Nebraska, as well as military contacts who have authorization to receive law enforcement sensitive information.

The FBI Intelligence Analyst worked closely with the NIAC, Omaha Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AF-OSI), and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) to pass information related to past FBI interactions with the subject based on Guardian investi-

gations. The information included potential weapons possessed by the subject, names and addresses of relatives, social media information, and general state-of-mind information based on those past interactions.

On the evening of May 31, 2019, the identified individual was in Nebraska and attempted to gain access to Offutt Air Force Base. Due to the NIAC situational awareness product, security personnel stopped the individual and searched the vehicle. They located two semi-automatic rifles, a handgun, a tactical vest with soft and hard plates, 600 rounds of ammunition, and what appeared to be a bump stock. The individual was immediately arrested.

Ultimately, the individual pled guilty to two weapons-related offenses, fraudulent enlistment, and two counts of making false official statements.

Great work to everyone involved!



Special Weapons and Tactics

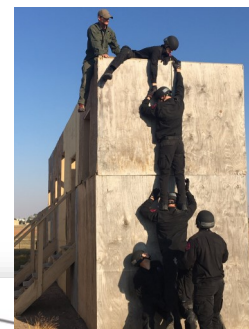
The NSP's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams recently underwent another consolidation and are now just one statewide SWAT team. There is no longer separate east (Alpha) and west (Bravo) teams defined by geographical regions.

For those inquiring minds interested in how this will affect response times and call outs,

the answer is simple. The closest SWAT members in proximity to an incident will respond to that call.

Throughout 2020, SWAT had 33 total calls for service—22 of those calls were unplanned events and 11 were planned. Furthermore, 8 of these calls were in reference to an armed barricaded suspect who refused to be taken into custody.

The NSP SWAT team professionally handled each of these intense incidents. Some stand-offs took a few minutes while others lasted several hours.



Aviation Support Division



In efforts to better serve western Nebraska, the ASD has begun the process of training additional pilots whom will be stationed in North Platte. Trp. Kelli Nichelson is the first pilot to be selected for the North Platte duty station and has begun her private pilot training in the Lincoln area.

Further along in the training process is Trp. Josh Emhovick who has recently passed his instrument written test and is on schedule to complete his

pilot check ride in February 2021. Trp. Emhovick's duty station will remain Lincoln.

The NSP is excited to have these two as part of the ASD team and looks forward to continued growth in western Nebraska.

The ASD is also moving forward with the purchase of the NSP's second

helicopter. This helicopter will augment the current fleet of aircrafts within the ASD and will be assigned to routine criminal patrol in and around the Lincoln/Omaha areas.



Technical Crimes Unit

With the continued growth of technology in today's society, technology and electronic evidence continues to be a growing segment in the world of law enforcement as well.

The Technical Crimes Unit (TCU) stayed busy in 2020 with a wide range of criminal

investigations. The TCU examined 191 computers, 398 cell phones, and 145 other devices such as thumb drives and SD cards. They even drafted 32 search warrants, conducted 59 knock and talk investigations, and made 75 arrests!

The TCU also supported nu-

merous local, state, and federal allied agencies in cases they were working on.



NSP Foundation

Greetings from the Nebraska State Patrol Foundation.

We're so excited to announce that the Nebraska State Patrol Foundation website is now live at www.nspfoundation.com. Check it out to learn more about the Foundation, keep up to date with happenings, and donate online via the PayPal Giving Fund.

The Foundation kept active in spite of the madness that was 2020. Fortunately, we've still

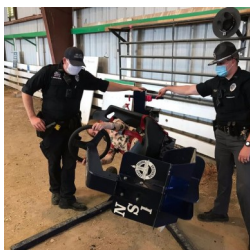
benefitted from several individual charitable gifts as well as corporate gifts, and we're proud to bolster the NSP. The bottom line, we've still had to send a lot of thank you cards because of strong support from our communities.

During the last quarter of 2020, the Foundation received donations from several Wal-Mart stores for the upcoming Uniformed Safety Education Officers Workshop, which the NSP is hosting in 2022. We were also awarded a grant from AAA to help the NSP's community

education program spread its safe driving message.

Finally, the Foundation was glad to purchase the two newest canine officers in the Police Service Dog Division.

2020 was a very challenging year and, through it, the Foundation remains committed to its mission to improve the quality of life in Nebraska by enhancing the law enforcement services of the Nebraska State Patrol!



Camp 63

The Nebraska State Patrol is proud to announce that 18 Officer Candidates have officially gained the Trooper title as they received their badge and took the Oath of Office on December 18, 2020 at the Nebraska State Capitol.

Similar to Camp 62's graduation ceremony, Camp 63's graduation ceremony looked a little different due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Each recruit were limited to having no more than three people present, and the only Command Staff in attendance was the Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, three of the four Majors, all Troop Area Captains, the NSPTA staff, and TAC Trooper Macnab. Compared to having no restrictions

in place, this is a rather small group of individuals attending Camp Graduation. Those who were unable to attend graduation were able to watch live footage of the event on the Nebraska State Patrol Facebook page.

Regardless of the circumstances, Camp 63 continuously trained and adapted to any changes or challenges brought to them. They came into training camp as individuals but graduated as a family. As a team they leaned on one another, played into each person's strengths, and encouraged each other to continue striving beyond what any of them thought they could handle.



Camp 63's motto is "Honor the Legacy" which serves as a daily reminder to remember those who came before them and forged Nebraska's only statewide full-service law enforcement agency. The NSP has a longstanding legacy these recruits desired to be part of and these Troopers are now part of.

**The NSP
Graduated
a Total of
33 Recruits
in 2020!**

Trooper	Badge #	Duty Station	Troop Area
Travis Bauer	103	Kearney	C
Simon Bessmer	104	Lincoln	H
Aaron Borczyk	115	Omaha	A
Matthew Brown	124	Scottsbluff	E
Nicholas Buck	116	Nebraska City	H
Aaron Hartley	123	Norfolk	B
Scott Hild	128	Hastings	C
Joshua Ko	159	Lincoln	H
Chase Landry	249	Wahoo	H
John Lonnborg	169	Grand Island	C
Kaleb Mayfield	170	Omaha	A
Glen McGavren	171	Omaha	A
Joel McGrew	38	Nebraska City	H
Grant Moody	178	Aurora	C
Andrew Ochoa	194	Sidney	E
Jenna Riddle	195	Lincoln	H
Aaron Scott	571	Hastings	C
Matthew Wagner	197	Beatrice	H



Featured Divisions: Crime Lab & Professional Standards

Crime Lab



In August 2020, the NSP Crime Laboratory successfully completed an accreditation compliance assessment that not only evaluated compliance with international ISO 17025 standards and FBI Quality Assurance Standards (QAS), but also extended the laboratory's testing scope to include DNA-YSTR and qualitative explosives testing.

This accreditation assessment was particularly complex due to a number of factors including new QAS standards that went into effect in July, two employees that had transitioned to new technical leader positions, new testing procedures that called for careful review and extension of the accreditation scope, and last minute adaptations to the assessment process to accommodate virtual assessors due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

Despite all the complications, the assessors found the laboratory to be in complete compliance with all standards and the testing scope was successfully expanded.

The laboratory continues to provide high quality testing services in keeping with national and international standards.

Professional Standards

It's been a busy fourth quarter in the Professional Standards Division. As we approach the consolidation of buildings in Lincoln, NSP Divisions were tasked with cleaning out storage areas, files cabinets, desk drawers, and shelving units in order to purge documents and items that the Agency no longer needed per the NSP Records Retention Schedule 6 and State Agencies General Records Schedule 124. As it turns out, the Agency has accumulated a lot of stuff!

This is where Records Manager, Jim Bourne, comes into play. Jim started a program called "Lighten the Load" in which Jim personally spends time with each Division to help them clean out and properly document the disposal of out-of-retention items.

During the scheduled 2020 Lighten the Load days, the Agency has already destroyed 57.5 shred bins full of documents. That is 5.5 tons of paper

and 5.5 tons of stuff the Agency doesn't have to move into the new NSP Headquarters!

In 2021, Policy and Accreditations will be going through a change. After 40 years with the agency, David Dishong is going to retire for a second time. David spent 35 years as a sworn Trooper and he retired as a Lieutenant, overseeing Policy and Accreditation. He was then rehired as a civilian, once again overseeing Policy and Accreditation for the next 5 years. Congratulations to David in your well-earned retirement!

Lieutenant Cory Townsend has assumed Policy and Accreditation duties upon David Dishong's departure.



NSP Earns CALEA Accreditation

Thanks to tireless work of the Professional Standards Division and the dedication of all NSP personnel, the NSP has earned accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) for the sixth time!

Only about 10 percent of all law enforcement agencies across the country are CALEA accredited, putting NSP, once again, in elite company as one of the finest agencies in the nation.

The accreditation process included demonstration of compliance with hundreds of CALEA standards, interviews with NSP Sworn and Civilian team members, a virtual site visit as travel was not possible because of COVID-19, and more. Great work by Dave Dischong, Nancy Kyser, Trooper Courtney Cool, and many others involved in this achievement!

NSP Urges Caution for Officer Safety

While reflecting on 2020, the focus on officer safety is as important as ever.

More than 300 law enforcement officers across the U.S. lost their lives in the line of duty in 2020 which is a dramatic increase over previous years. COVID-19 was the main contributor to this increase.

Although the NSP didn't have a line of duty death in 2020, several Troopers were injured—

none sustained serious injuries, thankfully. Some Troopers were struck by distracted drivers, some were injured while taking a subject into custody, and others were the victim of winter weather causing a vehicle to lose control.

Regardless of the situation, officer safety has always been a top priority for the NSP.

The Nebraska State Patrol strongly urges that everyone

remain alert of their surroundings and cognizant of the risks they are taking each time they put on the uniform.

Keep the principles of Below 100 in your mind every day to help ensure that you and your fellow officers are able to return home safely at the end of each shift.



Below 100

Wear Your Belt.

Wear Your Vest.

Watch Your Speed.

WIN - What's Important Now?

Remember: Complacency Kills!

22 NSP Leaders Graduate from Northwestern Command School

The NSP was proud to host the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command in the fall of 2020.

22 NSP leaders from around the State, including Sergeants and Lieutenants, were able to attend this training and further develop their leadership skills.

The 22 graduates were:

- Sgt. Kaleb Bruggeman
- Lt. Brian Buxbaum
- Lt. Lonnie Connelly
- Lt. Kyle Diefenbaugh
- Sgt. Jeffrey Dunton
- Lt. Clint Elwood
- Sgt. Drew Ferguson
- Lt. Michael Grummert
- Sgt. Paul Hagen
- Sgt. Scott Haugaard
- Sgt. Jay Huhman
- Sgt. Jared Jacobsen
- Lt. Eric Kauffman
- Lt. Michael Korte
- Sgt. Shanon Koubek
- Lt. Tyler Kroenke
- Sgt. Stacie Lundgren
- Lt. Michael Maytum
- Sgt. Jason Prante
- Sgt. Jason Probasco
- Sgt. David Ramsey
- Lt. Luke Splattstoesser



22 NSP teammates successfully completed Northwestern University Command School

***Congratulations
to these 22
leaders on the
completion of
this valuable
course!***

New Hires

October 2020

- Derek Mickelson, Crime Analyst
- Joette Shaw, Staff Assist. I
- Harman Aljawhari, Comm. Specialist

December 2020

- Moamal Ali, Security Guard
- Cherlyn Wilhelm, Staff Assist. II

- Debra Lovrien, Staff Assist. I



Promotions

October 2020

- Eric Hesser, Drug Inv. to Crim. Inv. Sgt.
- Michael Thorson, Patrol Trp. to Patrol Sgt.
- Samuel Mortensen, CE Trp. to Patrol Sgt.
- Toby Czapla, Patrol Sgt. to Patrol Lt.
- Pamela Wood, Staff Assist. I to Staff Assist. II
- Shawna Backemeyer, Records Analysis Supervisor to Research Manager
- Nancy Kyser, Paralegal to Research Manager

November 2020

- Paul Jacobson, Patrol Trp. to Patrol Sgt.



- Christine Garcia, Records Tech. to Staff Assist. I
- Gregory Miller, Patrol Lt. to TA Capt.

December 2020

- Kaleb Bruggeman, Patrol Sgt. to Patrol Lt.
- Alisa Hoffman, Comm. Specialist to Comm. Specialist Supervisor
- Jenna Riddle, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Joshua Ko, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Matthew Wagner, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Chase Landry, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Nicholas Buck, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Joel McGrew, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Simon Bessmer, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper

- Scott Hild, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Grant Moody, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Aaron Scott, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Travis Bauer, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- John Lonnborg, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Aaron Borcyk, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Glen McGavren, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Kaleb Mayfield, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Aaron Hartley, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Andrew Ochoa, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper
- Matthew Brown, Officer Cand. to Patrol Trooper

Transfers

October 2020

- Aaron Schoen, Patrol Trp. To Carrier Trp.
- Timothy Baumann, Patrol Trp. To Carrier Trp.
- Kent Kavan, Patrol Trp. To Carrier Trp.
- Jeffrey Roby, TA Capt. To Troop C Capt.
- Jeremiah Foster, PSD Trp. To Patrol Trp.
- Brian Detlefsen, Patrol Trp. To Carrier Trp.
- Bryce Lingren, Lincoln Patrol Trp. To Hartington Patrol Tp.
- Jesse Pfeifer, Norfolk Patrol Trp. To Columbus Patrol Trp.
- Jarrod Connelly, Patrol Trp. To Criminal Inv.
- Troy Elliott, Oshkosh Patrol Trp. To Mullen Patrol Trp.
- Justin Petersen, Carrier Trp. To Exec. Pro. Trp.
- Monte Dart, Patrol Trp. To Drug Inv.

November 2020

- Abigail Joyce, Exec. Pro. Trp. To Patrol Trp.
- Christopher McGuane, Patrol Trp. To Drug Inv.
- Kelli Nichelson, Patrol Trp. To ASD Trp.
- Michael Rice, Patrol Trp. To PSD Trp.
- Justin Ferguson, Exec. Pro. Trp. To PSD Trp.
- Matthew Wamsley, Carrier Trp. To Exec. Pro. Trp.

December 2020

- Manuela Benne, Carrier Admin. Assist. I to Prof. Stand. Admin. Assist. I
- Seth Olson, Carrier Trp. To Carrier CVE Trp.
- Zachary Schmidt, Patrol Trp. To Carrier CVE Trp.



Retirements

October 2020

- Daniel Klimek, Trooper

November 2020

- John Esser, Trooper

December 2020

- George Owen Jr., Trooper
- James Bills, Lieutenant
- Christopher Christen, Trooper
- John Coover, Trooper
- Bruce Mitchell, Investigator

Resignations

October 2020

- Nolan Gill, Staff Assist. II
- Andrew Allen, Security Guard
- Nathan Karr, Officer Cand.
- Justin Pleskac, Officer Cand.

November 2020

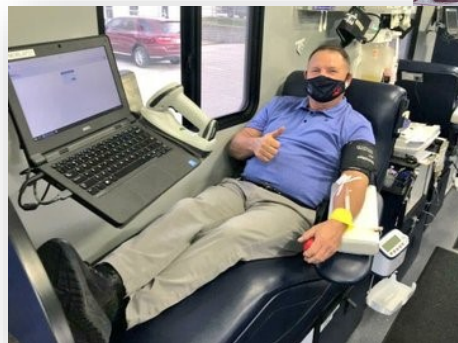
- Alex Moore, Comm. Specialist
- Jessica Harig, Security Guard
- Harman Aljawhari, Security Guard
- Zachary Blaylock, Comm. Specialist
- Austin Obermeyer, Comm. Specialist

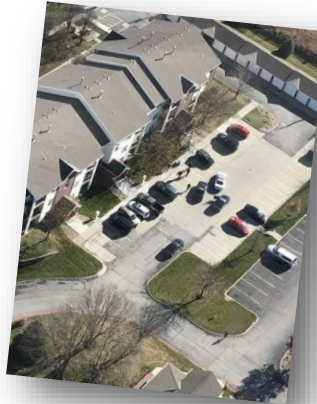
December 2020

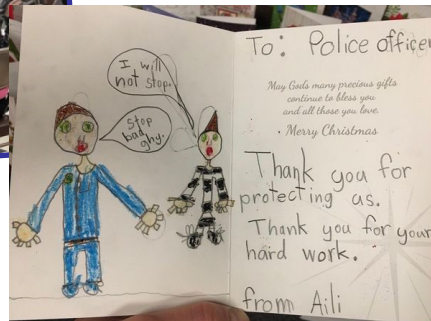
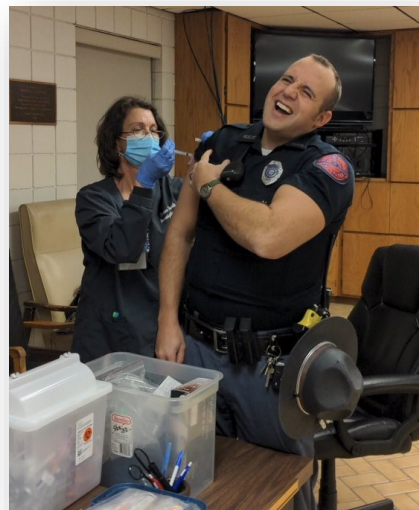
- Sarah Score, Comm. Specialist
- Curtis Anderson, Trooper
- Sarah Calvin, Trooper
- Brad Zumwalt, Crime Analyst
- Debra Lovrien, Staff Assist. I
- David Dishong, Discretion

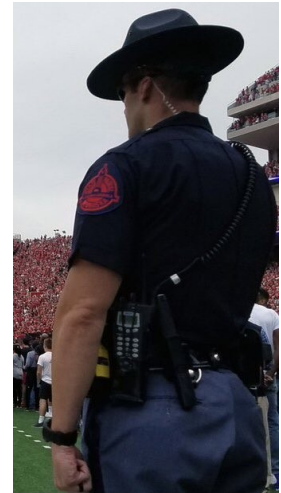


*All images were
taken by
various NSP
personnel and
friends around
the State during
the fourth
quarter of 2020!*









NEBRASKA STATE
PATROL

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Lincoln, NE 68509

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<https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/>

Follow us on social media!
@NEStatePatrol



Pro Bono Publico

The NSP is currently accepting applications for Camp 65! If you or someone you know would make a great Trooper, go to <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/nebraska> to complete an application!

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)

