

INFORMER

Volume 71

2021—Second Quarter

NSP Informer Staff

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Headquarters Consolidation



The last two years have been a whirlwind, planning this major building project, and now it is finally coming to fruition! We have officially moved five Lincoln-based Nebraska State Patrol offices into one large building in the north part of town.

“Our new headquarters building brings together nearly 200 of our teammates. This facility consolidation allows us to better serve Nebraska as a cohesive team,” said Colonel John Bolduc.

This new facility features a state of the art Communications Center, several conference and training rooms of various sizes, a small exercise facility, and multiple break rooms.



Throughout the process of cleaning out and packing up our previously occupied offices, several intriguing things were found. Items included years worth of dictionaries and phone-books, old in-service tests, multiple boxes of VHS tapes, and several other historical items, such as a hand-written call log book

documenting the calls for service the NSP received between 1933 and 1937. That is from before the Nebraska State Patrol (previously called the Nebraska Safety Patrol) was even an established agency!

Teammates even discovered a 1991 Program Statement titled “Nebraska State Patrol New Headquarters Facility: A Solution to Outdated Facilities.” This document contains information pertaining to new locations, plan compliance, analysis of existing facilities, new facility requirements and impact, project budget, funding, and a timeline of bringing it to fruition.

This tells us that a new headquarters facility has been 30-years in the making! Obviously it hasn’t been an ongoing project that whole time, but outdated facilities, logistics, funding, etc. needed to make this possible have been examined multiple times over the years as facility

concerns have been an ongoing topic of discussion.

Fortunately, everything lined up perfectly during 2020 and 2021, and has brought us our new, consolidated facility on the north side of Lincoln.

“On behalf of the Nebraska State Patrol, I would like to say thank you to everyone involved in this giant project. We couldn’t have made this dream a reality without you.” said Colonel John Bolduc.

The Nebraska State Patrol is still working on the finishing touches, but hope to have open house dates scheduled in the near future.





Aviation Support Division

The ASD continues to rise to new levels with mission support in 2021. The unit has spent considerable hours in the air supporting other NSP divisions and outside agencies. The ongoing support continues as the ASD regularly responds to pursuits, surveillance requests from federal agencies, and event support to local agencies.

Not only has the mission grown but so has staffing. Trp. Schmitt (#331) joined the ASD team in May and filled the last team vacancy. This is the first time in several years that ASD has been fully staffed! Trp. Schmitt has joined Trp. Nicholson (#359) for training in Lincoln before taking post at their duty station in North Platte.

While in Lincoln, both Nicholson and Schmitt further their knowledge of operations to the unit and have attended a Tactical Flight Officer (TFO) course specific to thermal camera operations and patrolling. The goal is for these Troopers to be in North Platte by early fall where they will continue to fly with another pilot until they are recognized as State approved pilots, which will allow them to conduct operations on their own.

Until then, the training continues for these two individuals who have nearly completed their commercial airplane license training. The next step for them is helicopter training.

The addition of new pilots isn't the only big news in ASD though! The team is excited to announce that NSP has purchased a new Bell 505 helicopter to grow patrolling operations and capabilities.

Once produced in Canada, the helicopter will be delivered to the U.S in November 2021, and will be equipped as a law enforcement aircraft in Tennessee and Texas. The fully assembled and equipped helicopter is estimated to be delivered to NSP in early 2022. This new helicopter model will serve many roles and will further supplement the existing fleet.

Police Service Dogs



Our PSD folks didn't miss any action during the second quarter either as they had a variety of different things going on!

A national syndicated reality show approached the NSP about doing an episode on our Police Service Dogs. Over the course of a month, they filmed various aspects of what it takes to be a K9 with the NSP. At this time, we are unable to disclose the name of the show. However, the NSP PSD episode is scheduled to air in the

fall of 2021. Be on the lookout for additional details in the coming months!

A couple of our K9/handler teams also got the opportunity to participate in the Wisconsin National Guard Co-op Training Event called "Patriot North" which simulated a large-scale national emergency or disaster. Members of the NSP PSD Unit spent 10 days training with Air National Guard counterparts, and exhibited high levels of professionalism and skill during the exercise.

The second quarter of 2021 also brought two new dogs to the team. "Gable" teamed with Trooper Justin Ferguson (#109) whom is stationed in Omaha, and "Jerry" joined

Trooper Mike Rice (#154) in Lexington. The purchase of these two dogs was made possible by generous donations to NSP PSD Foundation. Without them, the NSP would be without invaluable PSD teams and equipment.

Last but not least, the NSP PSD Unit held a Spring 2021 Basic PSD Camp April through July. They trained nine drug detection teams and seven patrol teams, including two teams from the Iowa State Patrol.



Hazardous Device Technicians

Our Hazardous Device Technicians (HDT) have responded to 31 calls for service during the first six months of 2021, and has recovered 350 pounds of explosive materials for disposal in that time!

Requests for service have included explosive recovery for disposal, agency assist with explosive devices, search warrants, explosive evidence, suspicious packages, high profile event coverage, and SWAT assists.

Not only do our HDTs recover and/or assist with explosive-related calls for service, but they also do user and storage permit inspections. They have conducted 145 inspections in 2021 thus far.

The newest member to the team, Trooper Clayton Dishong, is scheduled to attend Hazardous Devices school in August. Upon successful completion, the team will officially meet their authorized strength of 6 persons.

Last but not least, each member of the team has received an updated X-System (i.e. robot) which were purchased using State Homeland Security Grant funds.



Technical Crimes Division

The Technical Crimes Division has been busy the first half of the year!

Investigators have opened 117 unique investigations stemming from Cybertips received from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. As a part of these investigations, 12 residential search warrants have been served, 26 knock and talks have been conducted,

and 18 suspects have been arrested for a variety of child exploitation offenses. Additionally, the investigative team has leveraged technology to arrest 14 fugitives from justice.

The computer crime lab continues to receive devices from across the state and are happy to provide examination assistance. They have examined 108 computers, 201 phones, and

294 other devices. This adds up to a total of 603 forensic examination for the first half 2021, and comes close to the total examinations conducted in all of 2020 which was totaled at 734 forensic exams.

Even with the increase in exams, the lab still continues to operate with little to no backlog.

Nebraska Information Analysis Center

In the first half of 2021, the Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC) has seen some organizational changes.

Director Kyle Otte retired and Lt. Monty Lovelace was selected to oversee NIAC alongside Technical Crimes. Nina Anderson-Trumble was promoted to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Supervisor Crime Analyst position, Cheri Ivers joined the team as the HIDTA Opioid Analyst, and

Todd Banning filled the vacant NIAC Watch Analyst position.

The NIAC has been working hard to establish a Real-time Intelligence program in efforts to produce intel support for teammates and allied partners in the field.

Another major, recent project for the NIAC has been preparation, construction, and certification of a new secure room at the new NSP Headquarters.



Featured Divisions: Process Improvement & CID

Process Improvement

With half of the calendar year behind us, our Process Improvement team continues to do its best to assure the NSP implements the principles found in Lean Six Sigma (LSS). These include encouraging/incorporating efficiencies and cost savings wherever possible.

When one talks about efficiency they must start with identifying/acknowledging any DOWNTIME (Defects, Over production, Waiting, Not utilizing talent, Transport, Inventory, Motion and/or Extra Processing) that a process currently has. Therefore, it is only proper that the team, in implementing its new effort titled "Tune up in twenty," focused on DOWNTIME as the topic

of discussion.

"Tune up in twenty" was launched in April 2020 and is a twenty minute WebEx session once a quarter, where all Certified Lean Leaders (CLL) are invited to participate. Sharing past problems and successes allows all to hone their knowledge and implementation of the LSS principles, for both daily tasks as well as for large projects.

Earlier in the year the Agency's Continuous Improvement Committee (CIC) solicited input through a survey to all NSP employees, garnering suggestions on where the CIC's focus should be placed. Many

submittals were received and efforts are being placed on prioritizing and addressing all of them.

One project the division has been working with Legal, IT, Fleet Management, and Patrol Divisions on is the rollout of the Office of Risk Management (ORM) form in TRaCS.

This will improve data quality, reduce the amount of information that needs to be keyed-in by the officer/employee, and will greatly assist in the proper routing of completed documents. The rollout of this form is planned for the summer of 2021.

Criminal Identification Division

As CID reflects back on the first half of 2021 and all of 2020, it is important to recognize just how incredibly hard-working this division is. In calendar year 2020, they broke their standing record for the number of background checks and concealed handgun permits (CHP) completed.

A grand total (for all categories) of 79,588 background checks were completed, and 22,875 CHPs were issued last year!

Each year the number of categories CID is required to perform background checks for increases due to Legislative mandates. The largest increase in 2020 came from a new law requiring child care providers to be fingerprinted and background checked. During the 2021 Legislative session, a bill

was passed that will require CID to again add more categories and conduct fingerprint based background checks for casino employees, speech pathologists, and audiologist.

Additionally, legislation was passed in the most recent session that will require our CID teams to send out reminders to CHP cardholders advising their permit is close to expiration. This will give cardholders the opportunity to take action before inadvertently letting their permit expire.

The CID has also been busy with multiple large projects that cost over a million dollars!

For instance, one project team-mates have been working on is Livescan as a Service (LaaS). In this project, a team of CID personnel partnered with the

AFIS IT team to complete the rollout of \$1 million dollars in grant-funded (LaaS) equipment with allied law enforcement agencies across the State. This project enables those other agencies with updated technology for capturing and submitting fingerprints to the Nebraska State Patrol. It solved the ongoing issue of needing to transition to Windows 10 licenses, as well as saved the NSP annual maintenance costs for those partnered agencies.

Grant funding for projects both inside and outside of the CID have increased each year. For 2020, grant funding was \$1.49 million which was increased to \$2.59 million for 2021.



Public Events Ramp Up

After about a year of dealing with COVID restrictions, more and more public events returned during the first half of 2021.

That meant that troopers were able to get back to attending more community events, visit schools, and assist with events like the Nebraska football spring game.



Many of those events still required masks during April and May, but virus restrictions have been eased more and more throughout the entire state as the months progressed.

As we continue through the summer months, troopers are participating in community events, parades, and functions multiple times per week in nearly every part of the state.

After a strange year, it's been great to see communities reconnect.



Intern Spotlight

The NSP welcomed four new interns to the team during the second quarter of 2021. Interns get the opportunity to visit and learn from 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

Force as an IT Specialist for six years. He was born and raised in Nebraska and looks forward to serving his home state as a Trooper in the future.

Another intern interested in a future position with the NSP is Mitchell Strack. Mitchell is currently a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student majoring in criminal justice. He will be joining the Air Force after graduating college, but still has a goal of working for the NSP after serving in the military.



Gatlin Motis

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.

Through a partnership with the Military's Skills Bridge Program, the NSP hosted Zach McNally as an intern in the Lincoln area. Zach has been with the Air

The third intern, Gatlin Motis, comes to us from Central Community College in Hastings. Gatlin is a criminal justice major who will be graduating in December 2021. He was excited to observe all different aspects of the NSP, and hopes to obtain a future position with the agency.

Last but not least, the NSP

welcomed intern Lane Cacek to the team. Lane, a Nebraska native, is currently a criminal justice student attending the University of Nebraska-Kearney. He is scheduled to graduate in December 2021, and looks forward to one day obtaining a position with the NSP.

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.



Above: Lt. Kaleb Bruggeman and Zach McNally
Below Left: Mitchell Strack
Below Right: Lane Cacek



NSP's New Recruiting Wrapped Unit

NSP is always looking for new ways to attract positive attention with the goal of recruiting the next generation of troopers to carry on the NSP legacy and serve Nebraska.

cle Install team, the designers at Revolution Wraps, and donations of emergency lights by Whelen, the vehicle became a reality in April and was issued to Trooper Charlie Cook #177.



One such project was designing a patrol vehicle with a wrap focused on recruiting.

Thanks to the talented NSP Vehi-



Since it was issued, Trooper Cook has taken the recruiting-themed patrol unit to numerous events throughout the state.

***“Our blue family
has never let us
down and has
never allowed us
to feel like we
are alone.”***

***- Mechelle Smith,
daughter of Trooper
Jerry Smith***

Law Enforcement Memorial Day

Each year during May, the law enforcement community pauses to commemorate those who have given their lives in the line of duty. In 2020, 369 officers were lost in the line of duty, including more than 200 COVID-19 related deaths.

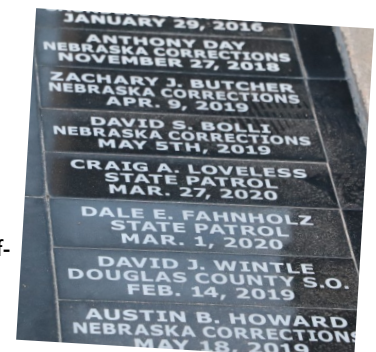
The effects of COVID were also felt in that 2020 Police Week public events were canceled across the country. That meant the ceremony to officially add Trooper Jerry Smith's name to the Nebraska Law Enforcement Memorial in Grand Island was delayed until 2021.

During Police Week 2021, NSP and the Lincoln Police Department jointly hosted the Nebraska Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony, where the names of Trooper Smith #373 and LPD Investigator Mario Herrera were added to the memorial wall.

Trooper Smith's daughter Mechelle spoke during the ceremony, as did Colonel John Bolduc and Acting LPD Chief Brian Jackson.



In addition to Trp. Smith and Inv. Herrera's names being placed on the memorial wall, bricks honoring NSP Lt. Craig Loveless and Trp. Dale Fahnholz were added to the memorial grounds. Both NSP veterans passed away while off-duty in March 2020.



Camp 64

The most recent Nebraska State Patrol Basic Recruit Class earned the title of Trooper and took the oath of office on June 18, 2021 in a ceremony held at the Nebraska State Capitol. That silver Trooper badge is what these eight individuals have been striving for during



challenge myself and my campmates to keep an open mind and view every day as an opportunity, to see the good and strive to make it better, to become leaders among the elite, but most importantly, to put the citizens of Nebraska first," said Nesbitt.

Senior Command Staff were able to present awards for outstanding performance at the graduation ceremony as well. There were five different recipients of these awards in Camp 64!

their 22-week long training camp.

With COVID-19 restrictions lifting, the Nebraska State Patrol returned to the typical ceremony style—unlimited friends and family were able to attend, masks were not required, media outlets were welcome, and chairs didn't have to be six feet apart. The return of these normal, often taken-for-granted features of normal life were a breath of fresh air!

Every trial and tribulation thrown at Camp 64 was overcome as a team. They may have arrived as individuals and strangers to one another on day one, but they certainly did not leave that way. Over the course of 22 weeks, they grew to know and appreciate what each individual brings to the table. They learned to trust, challenge, and support one another which ultimately led to them exiting camp as brothers and sisters in blue.

At the graduation ceremony, Recruit Bailey Nesbitt addressed the crowd on behalf of her and her campmates. "I

Recruit Michael Kleich received the R.J. Buchholz Physical Fitness Award for showing the greatest improvement in physical fitness over the course of his time at camp.

The D.R. Shearer Marksmanship Award was awarded to Recruit Brady Tophoj for his incredible range performance. He received the highest score in shooting assessments.

For her incredible commitment to demonstrating and embracing the NSP core values, Recruit Kathleen Shriver received the Capt. Mark Williams Core Values Achievement Award.

Recruit Tyler Urbanec was given the O.H. Witt Academic Achievement Award for having the highest grade point average throughout camp.

Last but certainly not least, Recruit Bailey Nesbitt was awarded the

Superintendent's Leadership Award. She was chosen by her fellow campmates as the one who displayed outstanding, consistent leadership throughout all facets of their time together.

Although their time at camp has come to a close, these new Troopers are just beginning their professional journey. Each one is now beginning their first assignments with Field Training Officers and will continue their growth as a Trooper.

Congratulations to Camp 64! The Nebraska State Patrol proudly welcomes you to the team and looks forward to watching you thrive.



Trooper	Badge #	Duty Station	Troop Area
Juan Garfio	483	Alliance	E
Michael Kleich	468	Scottsbluff	E
Bailey Nesbitt	465	Omaha	A
Eric Rosemann	469	Grand Island	C
Taylor Sauser	488	West Point	B
Kathleen Shriver	470	Kearney	C
Brady Tophoj	473	Ogallala	D
Tyler Urbanec	484	York	C



New Hires

April 2021

- Maria Ramirez-Gutierrez, Comm. Specialist
- Stephanie Goodnight, Security Comm. Specialist
- Lori Lueckenhoff, Records Analysis Supervisor
- Teri Mattran, Fed. Aid Admin. III
- Kimberly Moorhouse, Security Guard

May 2021

- Tiffanie Caristo, Forensic Tech.
- Erin Robins, Comm. Specialist
- Tesa Weddle, Records Tech.

June 2021

- Jonathan Zarnick, Staff Assist. I
- Morgan Kahler, Staff Assist. I
- Todd Banning, Crime Analyst
- Kathleen Pettit, Security Guard
- Austin Sandusky, Forensic Scientist I
- Juliana Marsh, Staff Assist. I
- William Christensen, Forensic Scientist III
- Matthew Schaffart, Security Guard



Transfers

April 2021

- Clayton Dishong, Carrier Trooper-Hebron to Training Academy Trooper
- James DeFreece, Patrol Trooper-Lincoln to Carrier Trooper-Waverly
- Tadum Knight, Patrol Trooper-Omaha to Tech. Crimes Inv.-Omaha
- Amanda Gardine, Patrol Trooper-Lexington to Patrol Trooper Holdrege

May 2021

- Michael Schmitt, Patrol Trooper-Valentine, ASD Trooper-North Platte
- Matthew Maus, Patrol Trooper-St. Paul to Patrol

Trooper-Grand Island

- Bryan Wiggins, Patrol Trooper-Norfolk to Patrol Trooper-West Point
- John Kroeger, Patrol Trooper-Grand Island to Patrol Trooper-St. Paul
- Noah Huber, Patrol Trooper-Gordon to Patrol Trooper-Norfolk
- Michael Knuth, Patrol Trooper-Grand Island to Carrier Trooper-York
- Jason Petty, Carrier Trooper-Norfolk to New Entrant Inv.-Norfolk
- Cameron TenEyck, Carrier Trooper-Fremont to Exec. Protection Trooper

June 2021

- Christin VanAndel, IT Business Systems Analyst to AFIS Forensic Tech.
- Tonja Bohling, Staff Assist. I-Patrol to Staff Assist. I-CID
- Madison Reynoldson, Patrol Trooper-Norfolk to Patrol Trooper-Lincoln
- Tarn Davis, Records Tech. to Security Guard
- Todd Suchsland, Patrol Trooper-Grand Island to Liquor Inv.-Grand Island
- Taylor Maahs, Carrier Trooper-Waverly to Exec. Protection Trooper

Resignations

April 2021

- Kyle Otte, NIAC Director
- Tara Batey, Staff Assist. I
- Nathan Darmento, Tech. Crimes Inv.
- Sean Kassmeier, Comm. Specialist
- Elvira Lopez Rosales, Forensic Tech.
- Caitlin Eckert, Crime Analyst
- Aaron Snyder, Security

Guard

May 2021

- Tiffany Carter, Staff Assist. I
- Ellen Lynch, Security Guard
- Amanda Sackett, Trooper
- Lindsey Guyer, IT Business Systems Analyst
- Sydnee Archibald, Staff Assist. I
- Bridget Johnson, Forensic

Scientist III

- Seth Bohnart, Comm. Specialist

June 2021

- John McDermott, Crime Analyst
- Natalie Collins, Forensic Scientist II
- Brady Rivers, Fed. Aid Administrator II



Promotions

April 2021

- Christine Garcia, Staff Assist. I to Staff Assist. II

May 2021

- Jesse Pfeifer, Patrol Trooper to Patrol Sergeant
- Cheri Ivers, AFIS Forensic Tech. to Crime Analyst
- Jeffrey Dunton, Patrol Sergeant to IA Lieutenant

June 2021

- Juan Gardio, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper
- Michael Kleich, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper
- Bailey Nesbitt, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper
- Eric Rosemann, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper

- Taylor Sauser, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper
- Kathleen Shriver, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper
- Brady Tophoj, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper
- Tyler Urbanec, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper



Retirements

April 2021

- Andrew Worster, Supply Worker II
- Tom Grove, Trooper

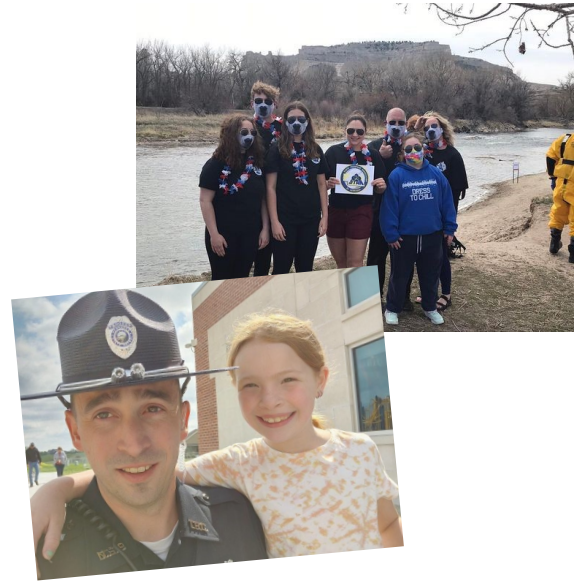
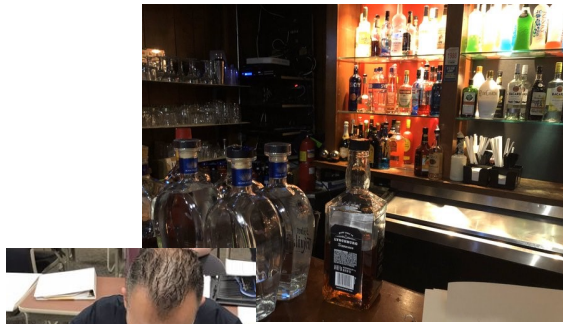
May 2021

- Jeromy McCoy, Investigator

June 2021

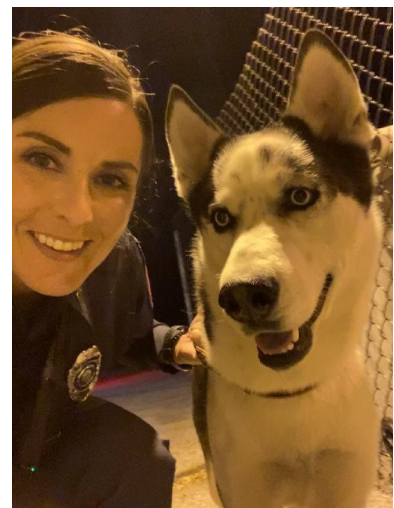
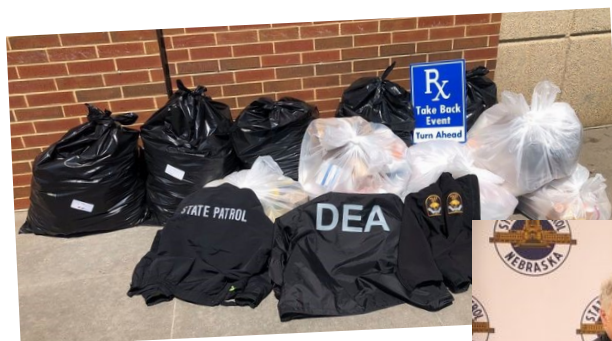
- Edward "Jay" Petersen, Trooper
- Daniel Doggett, Captain
- Linda Hormandl, Communications Supervisor



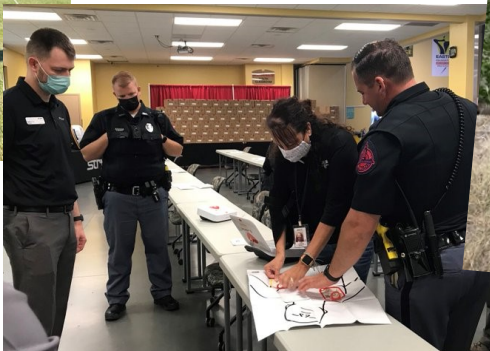


*All images were
taken by
various NSP
personnel and
friends around
the State during
the second
quarter of 2021!*









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Follow us on social media!
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Pro Bono Publico

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)

