

INFORMER

Volume 73

2021—Fourth Quarter

NSP Informer Staff

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From Snowstorms to Wildfires, 2021 Kept NSP Busy

2021 was another busy year for the Nebraska State Patrol. During the year, troopers responded to epic snowstorms, roadside wildfires, continued dangerous behavior on the Nebraska roadways, and numerous critical incidents. NSP civilian teammates also handled a continued increase in background checks and fingerprinting needs, critical work at the Crime Lab, and facilitating a move to a new state headquarters facility.

As we began 2022, Colonel Bolduc pointed to several areas where NSP excelled in 2021.

To begin, there was a 21% increase rate in DUI arrests in 2021, compared to 2020. During the final few weeks of the year, troopers made 60 DUI arrests.

In response to a massive increase in demand of fingerprinting services during the last couple years, NSP teammates stepped up. "As of today, we are caught up. Our civilian teammates in fingerprinting have done a fabulous job getting us caught up," said Colonel Bolduc.

The agency also moved into a new state headquarters facility in Lincoln this year. The move emptied-out four other buildings and brought the vast majority of Lincoln-based operations under one roof.



The consolidation project was years in the making, but finally came to fruition in 2021. The project also allowed for significant upgrades to communications centers in both Lincoln and North Platte.

As the Lincoln Communications Center was built, NSP dispatchers continued working. At times, the team was even split, with some dispatching from the new communications center to test it out, while others continued working at the dispatch center located at NEMA.

Once the Lincoln center was completely operational, focus turned to the North Platte center, bringing a needed upgrade to the facility that handles a majority of Nebraska's land area. A major advantage of the upgrades is that both facilities are now able to dispatch for the entire state if necessary, which was incredibly valuable during

the North Platte phase of the project, allowing work to be completed faster while North Platte-based dispatchers worked from the Lincoln Communications Center.

Troopers and investigators were involved in several critical incidents throughout the year in 2021. In multiple incidents, our troopers were injured during those situations, but thankfully, everyone was able to go home at the end of the day.

Throughout a busy 2021, NSP's team stayed focused on the our shared mission, to keep Nebraska safe. While each member of the team has a different role to play in that effort, the teamwork displayed throughout the year, at times in the face of adversity, has been excellent. As 2022 continues, that teamwork will remain vital to fulfilling our shared goals.

Special Operations

Special Operations Division

In April, NSP responded to an EMAC Request from the Minnesota State Patrol to assist during the verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial. 23 members of the Special Operations Detachment, including SWAT and Mobile Field Force, partnered with the Ohio State Patrol to secure the Minnesota State Capital and Governor's residence.

The Special Operations Division joined other law enforcement agencies from around the county at the United States Department of Defense Domestic Operations PATRIOT 21 training exercise to work through a mock natural disaster. This training took place from June 10-19 2021. The PATRIOT exercise is sponsored by the National Guard Bureau A3 and accredited by the Joint National Training Capability Program. It's designed for civilian emergency management and responders to work with military entities in the same manner they would during disasters, such as an earthquake that causes damage, casualties, and the need for first responders. Fifteen members of NSP attended which included representatives from the Air Wing, K9, Statewide Preparedness, SWAT, and Mobile Field Force. NSP's training goal was to stress and test new leaders and famil-

iarize Troopers with the operational and strategic levels during a natural disaster response.

The Special Operations Division deployed Troopers to assist the Texas Department of Public Safety along the southern border in response to an EMAC request from Texas. A total of 32 troopers were deployed between June 24th and July 22nd. The SOD served as a force multiplier for the Texas State Patrol through pairing up with Troopers on patrolling operations. Members of our SWAT Team assisted the United States Border Patrol agents in the field by tracking large groups across open plains. NSP accounted for hundreds of illegal aliens being turned over for processing by the US Border Patrol and seized numerous weapons, illegal drugs, and stolen property. NSP's drone team assisted the Texas Rangers drones team with several hours of flight operations.

Members of the Air Wing and Drone Team deployed to Banner and Sheridan County to support the Nebraska Emergency Management response to aid local firefighters. Both teams provided incident commanders with real-time situational awareness. This allowed leaders to track pro-

gress, assess the current situation, and make daily assignments. In addition, NSP continued its support by relaying emergency radio's across the state to equip responding firefighters.

The Special Operations Divisions Statewide Preparedness continued collaboration with Kawasaki to develop a response vehicle for natural disasters. In 2021, Kawasaki provided additional drivers training on their test track and installed other safety equipment.

Throughout 2021, Statewide Preparedness continued its support towards Nebraska's COVID-19 response by coordinating relays of vital medications. In addition, NSP collaborated with the University of Nebraska Medical Center to support local pharmacies, assisted living facilities, and other high-risk populations during COVID outbreaks. NSP's efforts helped UNMC efficiently manage COVID-19 therapeutic inventories by speeding dosage units to the areas in need.



CNT (Crisis Negotiations Team)

The Nebraska State Patrol Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) has had another busy and successful year for 2021. CNT has worked hard to stay up to date on the ever changing technology that emerges to assist with negotiations and call outs. Team members have attended hundreds of hours of trainings. The team has also made it more of a priority to train with the NSP SWAT team on several occasions to implement both skill sets for successful training scenarios. Our statewide team has implemented new equipment and technology

to assist with its mission. In addition to the aforementioned in-state trainings, our team members have also attended out of state training to maintain certifications and skills. Our agency CNT members have also been busy with curriculum building for our very own Nebraska State Patrol Crisis Negotiation Basic Academy. The intent is to host a 40-hour block of instruction and build toward the agency becoming a leader in training other officers or agencies within the CNT skill set. The Nebraska State

Patrol was also asked to help implement a new statewide association named Nebraska Association of Crisis Negotiators (NEACN). Ultimately NEACN will help foster teambuilding, training, and a yearly meeting/competition for in-state and out of state law enforcement and corrections agencies. CNT members look forward to another successful year in 2022.



SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics)

NSP SWAT maintained a busy schedule in 2021. Troopers and Investigators assigned to SWAT responded to a wide array of incidents in 2021. Numerous incidents across Nebraska were handled including requests to assist with EMACs (Emergency Management Assistance Compacts) in Minnesota and Texas. In addition to deployments, they train regularly with other components of the NSP Special Operations Division: Airwing, Hazardous Device Technicians, Mobile Field Force, Negotiators, and Police Service Dogs. 2021 was also NSP SWAT's first calendar year working as one team covering calls across all six Troop Areas of Nebraska. Team members train to handle any number of situations they may be called upon to handle. Pictured are SWAT team members training for rope rescue as well as officer rescue in steep and rugged terrain.

event in Juniata in August of 2021. The NSP SWAT Team, Crisis Negotiators, Police Service Dog Unit, Air Support Division, Hazardous Device Technicians, Patrol Operations, and Investigative Services Division all worked together after one of our own was injured by gunfire to bring this situation to an end. By using professionalism, flexibility, adaptability, teamwork, self-sacrifice and courage this was achieved.



The Nebraska State Patrol was involved in an active shooter

Aviation Support Division

The Aviation Support Division is adding a new helicopter to the fleet!

The Bell 505 was flown from Montreal, Canada by Sgt. Brian Petersen and a Bell test pilot in early November. They flew to Piney Flat, Tennessee to a Bell Helicopter finish facility. The aircraft stayed in Tennessee for 10 days then it was moved to Dallas, Texas by Sgt. Petersen and Trooper Strack.

Currently the aircraft is at the finish facility with an anticipated put into service date for NSP operations by the end of February. This new platform will greatly assist and serve the state through more routine

patrolling and response to critical incident.

The staff continues to be prepared for future operations in North Platte with the training of Troopers Kelli Nichelson and Michael Schmitt. Trp. Nichelson is a private pilot working towards her hours requirement to be signed off as a state approved pilot. Trp. Schmitt will be passing his private pilot check-ride with a FAA examiner.

The aviation support division



continues with its ongoing support in the form of my hours to federal agencies in the task force efforts to stop the distribution of methamphetamine and fentanyl along with other illicit drugs.

Police Service Dogs

The Police Service Dog (PSD) Unit stayed busy during the last quarter of 2021.

Several handlers assisted with conducting the Fall Police Service Detector and Patrol Camp at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy. This camp contained not only NSP canine handlers but also several outside agency's handlers. Over 600 hours of instruction inclusive of PSD specific Instruction and Agency Instruction was achieved.

This quarter the Nebraska State Patrol added two new Police Service Dogs to the NSP PSD Unit: Trooper Austin Dooner's new partner, 93k Tilt and Trooper Brandon Wilkie's new partner, 464k Ezra.

As part of the statewide response for PSD needs, the

Nebraska State Patrol added one new Detector Canine Evaluator and one new Detector Caine Instructor. These members were trained and certified by the Nebraska State Patrol. The Nebraska State Patrol trained and certified one Iowa State Patrol PSD as well,

This was another fast faced quarter for the PSD teams as well. The eleven members conducted approximately 30 narcotic PSD deployments as well as approximately 6 explosive PSD deployment and about 40 Patrol and Tactical Dog deployments. The PSD united also obtained approximately 110 arrests this quarter.



Some other important responses by this group included School, Civic, and Organization Demonstrations along with narcotic sweeps at the schools.



Mobile Field Force (MFF)

The Nebraska State Patrol's Mobile Field Force Teams consist of Troopers and Investigators from each of the six Troop Areas throughout Nebraska. During 2021, these Teams assisted in security at the Nebraska State Capitol during the 2021 Presidential Elections. The members also assisted with the agency's response to the states of Minnesota and Texas during EMAC requests. They also participated in a mock natural disaster (Patriot North Exercise) orga-

nized by the United States Department of Defense Domestic Operations PATRIOT 21 which occurred during June 10 - 19, 2021 at Ft. McCoy Wisconsin. The PATRIOT exercise is sponsored by the National Guard Bureau.

Members for the NSP MFF also attended their annual training in Hastings, Nebraska and a few were able to attend training in Alabama through the Homeland security.



Technical Crimes Division (TCU)

The Technical Crimes Division has had a busy and productive year!

Investigators and analysts have been busy working hard to process cybertips and seek out predators harming children. Through December 2021, the Technical Crimes Division has served 25 search warrants, conducted 56 knock and talks, and made 59 arrests, which

included several hands-on offenders.

The Technical Crimes Division computer lab has provided top quality support to both NSP personnel and allied agencies with a total of 1,193 forensic exams of cell phones, computers, and other devices. The lab is also excited to move forward in 2022 with Cellerbrite Premium, a tool that will greatly

increase the amount of data extracted from cell phones.

This TCU also responded to 121 reports of cyber threats in the state. The TCU work closely with state and federal partners to monitor cyber threats and investigate incidents.



Nebraska Information Analysis Center

The NIAC (Nebraska Information Analysis Center) Team has had a busy year.

In the NIAC division, analysts processed 1,082 tips and leads. This provided 156 leads to outside agencies for follow-up. NIAC analysts have also produced 22 Special Event Threat Assessments (SETA) to all events that took place in the state that had a Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR).

The NIAC IT team is working hard on developing a new intel database. The Nebraska Information and Threat Exchange (NITE) will replace NFIN as the new database in July 2022.



Featured Divisions: NSP HQ Activities Committee and Communications

NSP HQ Activities Committee

The NSP HQ Activities Committee is a newly formed group at NSP Headquarters. This group was created to bring a bit of fun and excitement to the workplace. They meet once a month to discuss upcoming events and new ideas. If you have an idea you want to share, feel free to leave a comment in the comment box located in the breakrooms at NSP HQ. You can also reach out to one of the members and they will take your ideas to the group at the next meeting.

This committee was formed in November 2021 and has already had the opportunity to give to others this holiday season. The committee collected gloves and hats for Arnold Elementary school. They also collected over \$2000 worth of items for a family in need at Cedar's.

The committee helps organize weekly food trucks to come to NSP HQ. There has been a variety of food trucks that have come to our office. Some of the food trucks we

have had are Bean Box Coffee, Skymart, Parthenon and many more! If you have any suggestions for the next food truck, please reach out. They are always accepting suggestions and feedback regarding the weekly vendors.

For the holiday season the activities committee organized some fun ways to get in the holiday spirit. They had two contests: the ugliest sweater and the best decorated cubicle. Anyone could participate and the winner was voted by everyone at NSP HQ. They also had a holiday dessert day so people could share their favorite holiday treat!

The Activities Committee is working on creating a Share-Point site. This will allow you to subscribe to the site so that you can see committee happenings and information. You will receive a link in an email when something is added/changed on the site. This will help cut down emails to those who do not wish to receive emails from the activities committee. This site will take some time to build so please be patient .



The committee members are Nina Anderson-Trumble, Tina Little, Laura Nettland, Melissa Fauver, Brenda Coufal, Tracy Hays, Morgan Kahler, Julie Marsh and Desiree Wordlaw. Please reach out to any committee member with questions, suggestions or feedback!



First Place Winner for Ugly Sweater Contest: Jon Zarnick



Second Place Winner for Ugly Sweater Contest: Caleb Homolka

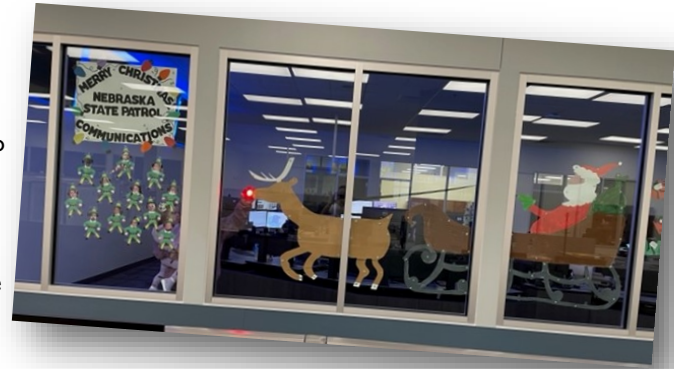
Communications

It has been a year of great changes in the Communication Division. After consolidating down to two Communication Centers earlier in the year, efforts to ensure both centers are fully redundant are nearing completion. Both centers received new work stations and the final touches are being put on camera equipment to monitor traffic, microwave downlink, and in-car cameras as well as redundancy in the phone system.

The division is now able to be

more competitive in the industry thanks to a well-deserved adjustments to wages that was implemented across many agencies in state government.

Finally, the division is excited to be finalizing a new trainer position in both Communications Centers. This position will add a new level of consistency statewide, in furtherance of the goal to make for a seamless transition whenever a center temporarily dispatches for another troop area.



NSP Foundation

The Nebraska State Patrol Foundation has been extremely busy this last year. An election of officers was held June 2021. Judy Janssen was elected as president, and Jane Tooley as vice-president. Steve Shaw is the secretary/treasurer for this Foundation. James Pearson was elected board historian and spent the next several weeks organizing historical documents belonging to the foundation. The NSP Grants Division has had a complete change in personnel and the Foundation is now supported by Sophia Viteri and Teri Mattran.

October 9, 2021 the Foundation hosted a memorial dedication for former Trooper CL Zurcher. Trooper Zurcher's family attended the dedication at SHQ. This event was also attended by Colonel Bolduc and other members of NSP.

The 2022 Uniformed Safety Education Officers Workshop (USEOW) is being hosted by the Nebraska State Patrol in Omaha this coming July. In order to secure funding for the

conference, the National Safety Council Nebraska has agreed to act as the Foundation's fiscal sponsor. All donations are being directed to them so our generous donors have the ability to claim their contribution as a tax deductible donation. Many thanks to the National Safety Council Nebraska for their support!

Board Vice President Jane Tooley spearheaded the redesign and printing of the NSP Foundation Brochure and they are now available at SHQ!

The NSP Foundation also created an online way to received donations in 2021. Donors can even select a special program (such as the K9 program) that their donation to go towards.

The donation link is available here: [Donate \(paypal.com\)](https://www.paypal.com) or at the NSP Foundation Facebook page here: [\(11\) Nebraska State Patrol Foundation | Facebook!](#)



Nebraska State Patrol Foundation Board of Directors

Judy Janssen, President
Jane Tooley, Vice President
Steve Shaw, Secretary, Treasurer
Andy Anderson
James Pearson
Cliff Karthausier
Kim Wofle
Doug Wyatt
Rose White

Congrats, Camp 65!



Camp 65 Graduation

The most recent Nebraska State Patrol Basic Recruit Class finally gained their official "Trooper" title as they took the Oath of Office on December 17, 2021 in a ceremony held at the Nebraska State Capitol. That silver Trooper badge is what these 13 individuals have been striving for during their 22-week long training camp.

Every trial and tribulation thrown at Camp 65 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 lead to them exiting camp as brothers and sisters in blue.

At the graduation ceremony, Recruit Philip Parish addressed the crowd on behalf of his campmates with the class motto that has been telling of their time together "Public Service through Pride and Dedication."

Senior Command Staff were able to present a few awards for outstanding performance at the graduation ceremony as well. Five different people recipients of these awards in this camp!

Recruit Griffen Vater 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 Griffen Vater 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 Mara Tighe received the Capt. Mark Williams Core Values Achievement Award.

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

Last but certainly not least, Recruit Philip Parish was awarded the Superintendent's Leadership Award. He was chosen by his fellow campmates as the one who displayed outstanding, consistent leadership throughout all facets of their time together.

Although the dust may be settling on their time at camp, these new Troopers are just beginning their professional journey. Each one has now begun their first assignment and will continue growing into the best Trooper he or she can be.

Congratulations to Camp 65! The Nebraska State Patrol proudly welcomes you to the team and looks forward to watching you thrive.



Trooper	Badge #	Duty Station	Troop Area
Moamal Ali	229	Kearney	C
Michael Blazek	11	Beatrice	H
Dylan Duhsmann	17	Columbus	B
Ryan Edmondson	111	Nebraska City	H
Sarah Evans	186	Omaha	A
Regan Holst	358	Beatrice	H
Colton Kirkendall	368	South Sioux City	B
Logan Miller	386	Broken Bow	D
Philip Parish	428	North Platte	D
Jaquelline Rivas	442	Grand Island	C
Mara Tighe	421	Columbus	B
Griffen Vater	443	Beatrice	H
Brady Wallace	182	Scottsbluff	E



New Hires

October 2021

- Caleb Homolka, Office Technician– Backgrounds
- David Snavey, IT Application Dev. (TraCS/MACH)
- Jolene Moore, Office Specialist– Front Desk
- Adam Loecker, Administrative Specialist– SOR
- Angela Bell– Forensic Technician

November 2021

- Lindsey Schissel, Forensic Scientist
- Spencer Bierfreund, Forensic Scientist II
- Katie Duff, Office Specialist– Front Desk
- Sophia Viteri, Federal Aid Admin II– Grants

December 2021

- Chelsea McAlevy, Office Specialist
- Cheryl Nickerson, Office Specialist
- Paul Manestar, Security Communications Shift Supervisor



Transfers

October 2021

- Lejay Jones, Omaha Patrol Trp. to Fremont CE Trp.
- Thomas Kavan, Beatrice Patrol Trp. to Norfolk Patrol Trp.

November 2021

- Keagan Geer, Omaha Patrol Trp. to Omaha Tech Crimes Investigator
- Matthew Richardson, Aurora Patrol Trp. to Omaha Patrol Trooper
- Jonathan Schwarz, Holdrege Patrol Trp. to Lexington Patrol Trp.
- Amy Thompson, Omaha Patrol Trp. to Omaha Criminal Investigator

- Cameron TenEyck, Lincoln Executive Protection Trp. to Fremont CE Trp.
- Michael Wamsley, Nebraska City CE Trp. to Lincoln Executive Protection Trp.
- Christopher Slocum, Grand Island Patrol Trp. to Aurora Patrol Trp.
- Kris Hunzeker, Nebraska City CE Trp. to Lincoln CE New Etrant Investigator
- Kristen McCrea, Waverly CE Trp. to Omaha Patrol Trp.
- Steve Sosnowski, Omaha CE Trp. to Omaha Patrol Trp.
- Cody McGee, Omaha CE Trp. to Omaha Patrol Trp.
- Joshua Ko, Lincoln Patrol Trp. to Waverly CE Trp.
- Jeremiah Foster, Omaha Patrol Trp. to Lincoln Admin Services Investigator

December 2021

- Daniel Osuna– Salazar, West Point Patrol Trp. to Columbus Patrol Trp.
- Noah Huber, Norfolk Patrol Trp. to So Sioux City Patrol Trp.

Resignations

October 2021

- Tonja Bohling, Office Specialist– Front Desk
- Sky Brumm, Security Guard
- Danny Mlinar, Crime Analyst– Counter Threat

November 2021

- Lyrice Baxter, Office Technician– Backgrounds
- Cherlyn Wilhelm, Admin. Specialist– SOR

- Aaron Borcyk, Patrol Division Trooper
- Karl Hammond, Electronic Tech/Sr
- Stacey Snyder, Office Specialist– CHP Permits

December 2021

- Andre Phillippon, Security Guard
- Scott Hild, Patrol Division Trooper

- Amanda Neely, Forensic Lab Supervisor
- Kimberly Moorhouse, Security Guard
- Amber Maas, Communications Specialist Supervisor
- Michael Brothers, AFIS Forensic Technician
- Cameron TenEyck, Fremont CE Trooper

Promotions

October 2021

- Alan Eberle, Omaha Technical Crimes Sgt. to Lincoln Special Operations Lt.

November 2021

- Jason Stahl, Lincoln CE Sgt. To North Platte CE Lt.
- Jeffrey VanDerslice, Office Specialist– CID to IT Bus. Systems An. (AFIS)
- Peter Rutherford, Omaha Tech Crimes Inv. to Lincoln Tech Crimes Inv. Sgt.

December 2021

- Sarah Evans, Officer Cand. to Omaha Patrol Trp.

- Mara Tighe, Officer Cand. to Columbus Patrol Trp.
- Dylan Duhmann, Officer Cand. to Columbus Patrol Trp.
- Colton Kirkendall, Officer Cand. To So Sioux City Patrol Trp.
- Moamal Ali, Officer Cand. To Kearney Patrol Trp.
- Jaquelline Rivas, Officer Cand, to Grand Island Patrol Trp.
- Philip Parish. Officer Cand. To North Platte Patrol Trp.
- Logan Miller, Officer Cand.

- To Broken Bow Patrol Trp.
- Brady Wallace, Officer Cand. To Scottsbluff Patrol Trp.
- Michael Blazek, Office Cand. To Beatrice Patrol Trp.
- Griffen Vater, Officer Cand. To Beatrice Patrol Trp.
- Ryan Edmondson, Officer Cand. To NE City Patrol Trp.
- Regan Holst, Office Cand. To Beatrice Patrol Trp.



Retirements

October 2021

- James Pederson, CE Trooper

November 2021

- Gregory Goltz. Patrol Division Trooper
- David Babcock, Attorney III
- Jeanice Johansen, Office

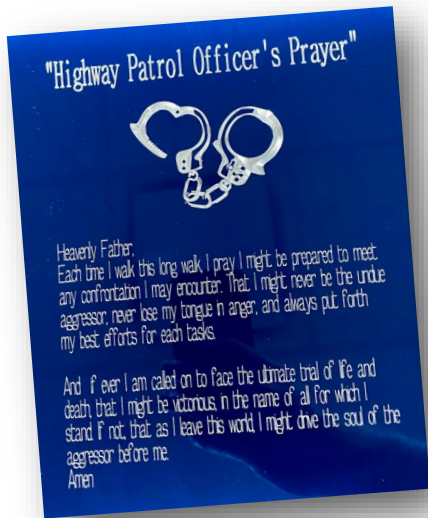
- Specialist
- Danny Riens, CE Lt.
- Stephen Rasgorshek, Admin Investigator

December 2021

- Christopher Baer, Patrol Division Sgt.
- Dail Fellin, VOTF Task

- Force Investigator
- George Scott, Patrol Division Trooper





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









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For further information about what it means to be a Trooper, visit <https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/nebraska-state-patrol-0>.



**In memory of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice
while serving the State of Nebraska**

Loyal M. Zink (#43)

John T. Meistrell (#67)

Vernon C. Rolfs (#129)

Marvin L. Hansen (#98)

Duane F. Nichols (#133)

Raymond M. Koerber (#108)

George W. Amos Jr. (#9)

Michael D. Farber (#427)

Robert J. Chab (#221)

Donald Matejka (#192)

Mark P. Wagner (#168)

Jerry L. Smith (#373)



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