



Informer

Informer Staff

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Trooper Kyle McAcy #302 Lost in the Line of Duty

On Monday, February 17th, the Nebraska State Patrol lost one of our own in a traffic crash on Interstate 80. Trooper Kyle McAcy, 31, was responding with other troopers to a crash on Interstate 80 near mile marker 424, between Ashland and Greenwood. During that response, Trooper McAcy was outside his patrol unit and was struck by a snowplow.



Troopers immediately rushed to his aid, but Trooper McAcy succumbed to his injuries on scene.

Trooper McAcy was a ten-year veteran of the Nebraska State Patrol. After graduating from Camp 56 in May 2015, he launched his career with an unending passion for service. Trooper McAcy loved his job. He had a lot of pride in putting on his uniform and showing up to work as a trooper. Throughout his ten year career, Trooper McAcy has served in the Patrol Division, Carrier Enforcement, and as a Crisis Negotiator. He was stationed in Omaha. During his career he stood as a source of support for those on the road. For all that knew him, Trooper Kyle McAcy had a passion for helping others in any way he could. Not only was he a proud trooper, but he actively volunteered with the Omaha Children's Hospital. He was a friend to many in Nebraska and he will be forever missed.



TROOPER KYLE MCACY #302
END OF WATCH: FEBRUARY 17, 2025

Police Service Dogs (PSD)

Over the last year, the Police Service Dog (PSD) Unit has had many accomplishments. Most recently, four out of the five Nebraska State Patrol PSD teams attended the Nebraska Tactical Deployment Dog seminar. This seminar challenged and successfully certified these teams in a variety of tactical deployment dog skills.

Each member of the PSD Unit has been involved in various calls. Trooper Donner and K9 Tilt led a vehicle take down on a suspect from Texas wanted for homicide. Trooper Donner and K9 Tilt apprehended the suspect without issue. Additionally, they assisted in a multi-county pursuit that ended with both suspects being apprehended. Trooper McKain and K9 Frank have located four different loads of narcotics going to Kearney and Grand Island. These loads amounted to one and a half kilos of cocaine and one pound of methamphetamine. Trooper Brown and K9 Gable assisted in multiple patrol arrests and located two pounds of methamphetamine. After a suspect fled from an interdiction stop, Trooper Rice and K9 Jerry tracked the suspect for approximately six miles before apprehending them. Finally, Trooper Potthoff and K9 Amos had a combined 25 arrests, 20 mission drone flights, and over 200 hours of PSD training. In total, the PSD Unit had 407 dog deployments across the state. Whether they're on or off the clock, these troopers and their dogs work hard to protect the state of Nebraska and its citizens.

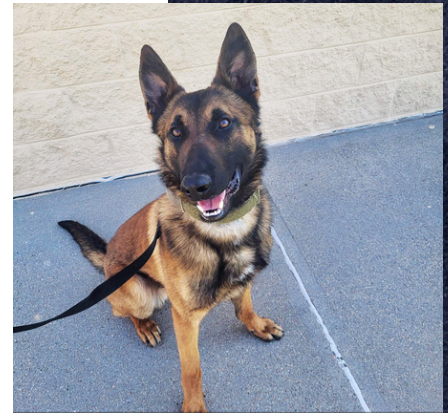
In other great news, two new handlers have been added to the PSD Unit roster and have begun their basic PSD training. Trooper Buck and partner K9 Loki will be a dual purpose narcotics/patrol K-9 team. Trooper DeFreece and K9 Boomer will be a single purpose explosive dog attached to HDT Technician. We look forward to their contributions to the unit in the future.


Emergency Preparedness Coordination

A major part of being a trooper with the Nebraska State Patrol is preparing for the unexpected. From natural disasters to locating missing individuals, the Emergency Preparedness Coordination acts as a team dedicated to supporting troopers in emergency situations.

Over the last year, the Nebraska State Patrol's Emergency Preparedness Coordination has continued work on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) projects geared towards natural emergency responses. Some notable responses in 2024 consisted of ice jams and fire. In addition to these projects, the coordination has completed the statewide gas mask project, ORS Vehicle and Radiological Safety Equipment Training, and completed two Emergency Management Assistance Compact requests.

With the beginning of 2025, the Emergency Preparation Coordination team continues to equip troopers with the necessary tools to act in emergency situations.



A black helicopter is shown from a low angle, flying towards the viewer against a clear blue sky. The helicopter's main rotor blades are blurred due to motion. The body of the helicopter is dark and detailed, showing the landing skids and various equipment.

The Aviation Support Unit (ASU) has come a long way since the first airplane was flown by the patrol in 1946. D. R. Shearer of Omaha was the first pilot and flew to observe traffic on the highways. This was done on an experimental basis and was only used a few times. By 1954, Colonel Sanders, decided to form a small aerial enforcement unit to assist in emergency situations. The unit partnered with local airports to rent and house the aircraft. Additionally, Troopers who had their pilot's license were able to log 6 hours of flight time each month.

Today, the ASU has the Bell 505 helicopter, the Bell 407 helicopter, three Cessna T206H Turbo Stationair fixed-wing aircraft, and a Piper Super Cub. The unit offers assistance in a variety of operations including aerial speed enforcement and traffic observation, search and rescue, surveillance, photography, pursuits and criminal apprehension, natural disaster response, and the transportation of agency personnel and equipment. This quarter the ASU has assisted in 32 arrests and 12 pursuits. In addition to these efforts, they have provided 57 outside agency assists, aided 9 traffic selectives, and a total of 34 NSP assists.

In February, the ASU assisted the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) with locating a homicide suspect who shot and killed a man walking down the street in Lincoln. The suspect fled and stole a vehicle after stabbing the owner of the vehicle multiple times. The suspect then attempted to run over another person and was successful in hitting them. Thankfully, the victim was able to get away. The suspect then stole another vehicle when airwing located the vehicle fleeing west bound in Lincoln. LPD was in the area and was able to pursue the suspect with airwing calling the pursuit. After a 3-mile pursuit the suspect lost control of the vehicle and bailed on foot. The suspect gave up after only running 20 feet.

Situations like this showcase how the Aviation Support Unit can play a crucial role in officer safety. With the airwing giving troopers and officers a second set of eyes, they are able to avoid risks while apprehending a dangerous suspect.

AVIATION SUPPORT UNIT



Special Weapons & Tactics (SWAT)

2024 was a busy year for the Nebraska State Patrol's Special Weapons & Tactics (SWAT) Unit. The unit had a total of 25 incidents in 2024. Of these calls, 8 were non-planned events while 17 were planned. A SWAT call can be anything from a hostage scenario to preparing barricades. Last year, SWAT responded to 5 barricade calls, 14 warrant services/controlled deliveries, 2 manhunts, 1 natural disaster, and 3 unique calls around the College World Series. With a variety of incidents, it's crucial for troopers to be trained in safely and effectively responding in these chaotic situations.

In addition to these calls, troopers involved in the SWAT unit are consistently working to better their skills. Each year troopers attend Mobile Field Force and SWAT Basic Training. These efforts provide troopers with opportunities to stay up-to-date on their training. Troopers also attended the National Tactical Officers Association Conference where they were able to train jointly with other in state and out of state tactical teams. Training opportunities like this allow the state patrol to become more effective in SWAT callouts.



Hazardous Device Technicians (HDT)

A hazardous device when left in the wrong hands or not properly disposed can cause a great deal of damage. Troopers who are trained as Hazardous Device Technicians work to ensure these devices cannot cause harm in our communities.

Last year, troopers performed 10 ammo recoveries, 15 SWAT assists, 23 agency assists, stood by or swept 10 events for hazardous devices, and recovered/disposed of 53 hazardous devices. In addition to these calls, troopers performed 147 permit inspections. Through these various efforts, the Nebraska State Patrol was able to recover a total of 990.75 pounds of explosive material. From recovering ammo to disposing of explosive material, these troopers stay active in keeping the citizens of Nebraska safe.

Carrier Enforcement

Imagine if you will, the need to stop a fleeing vehicle. One option we have at the State Patrol is Stop Stick, which has proven to be a valuable tool. Now, imagine that vehicle is a large CMV. And it won't stop....what next?

The Carrier Enforcement Division was challenged with that question a couple of years ago after a pursuit of a CMV traversed more than half of the state, refusing to stop. Stop sticks were largely ineffective, and TVI was impractical. The question we were challenged to answer was if there was a better way. One of the tools we discovered was the Barracuda, a tactical tool similar to a Stop Stick, but with features that make it effective on a large CMV.

The challenge of using a traditional Stop Stick is that the quills are narrow, and not terribly long. On passenger car and light truck tires, the quills are able to penetrate the tire and deflate it. As tire sizes increase, so does the amount of available air that needs to escape the tire before it is flat. Additionally, the tires have many more plies, making quill penetration difficult. The design of the Barracuda involves much larger, rigid quills that are able to penetrate the heavy truck tire. The unit is also self-up righting, meaning that the quills should always end up pointing up, which assures correct deployment of the quill.

As part of the vetting process, it was determined that the agency should evaluate live testing of the equipment. The Barracuda company was unable to provide little more than some YouTube videos for review, so the challenge became finding willing partners who would let us poke irreparable holes in their tires. Fortunately, the Carrier Division maintains good, working relationships with many of our Nebraska trucking industry partners, and once the offer was made, several willing companies volunteered equipment and drivers to conduct the testing.

With several industry partners watching, we rolled 3 different trucks across the Barracuda in a controlled environment. The results of that testing demonstrated the effectiveness of the Barracuda in its ability to quickly flatten CMV tires, taking less than 30 seconds in each test case. The drivers of the trucks all said the same thing – it would be nearly impossible to continue driving the vehicle once the steer tires were flat, which is the ultimate goal when deployed.

We owe our thanks to Crete Carrier, Transport Specialists Limited, Fremont Contract Carriers, Pumps Tire, and the Nebraska Trucking Association for their assistance in making this testing possible.

Barracudas are now in the field and available at scales with portable scale units, and at some Troop Area Headquarters offices, with more to come as needs are identified. Training is available, and must be completed by any officer who chooses to use the Barracuda in an enforcement event. Contact your supervisor if you want to have the training made available to you. Stay safe out there!



Capitol Security

The beginning of 2025 has been a busy time for the troopers and civilians assigned to the Capitol Security Division. The 109th Legislature convened on January 8th, 2025, and we welcomed 17 new Senators to the Capitol. Since the Legislature has started, Capitol Security has provided security for numerous hearings for the nearly 800 bills that were introduced by Senators for legislation. These hearings involved thousands of people who came to the Capitol to testify on various bills, and others who attended to listen to the testimony. The Legislature has just started full floor debate and that will last until June 9th, 2025, when the 90-day session comes to an end.

Capitol Security has also provided security for the Supreme Court while they are in session at the Capitol, but troopers also traveled with the Supreme Court to the University of Nebraska Lincoln College of Law, Creighton School of Law, and Bryan High School in Omaha as they heard court cases at those venues. Troopers also provide security for the Nebraska Court of Appeals at the Capitol, and as they traveled to Grand Island, Papillion, and Kearney. Hundreds of students and the public attend to listen to these important cases that are heard by Nebraska's highest courts.

Capitol Security has also provided security for numerous large events and protests that take place at the Capitol. On February 1, 2025, the Right for Life Rally took place on the North side of the Capitol with over 4000 people in attendance. The Statehood Dinner took place at the Capitol on March 1st, 2025, and was attended by numerous state senators, the Governor, Congressman, and many other VIP's.



Information Technology (IT) Division

In technology, things are constantly improving and changing. Recently there have been many technological changes such as cloud technology and AI. The IT Team has been working diligently within NSP and with our partners at OCIO to review these technologies and determine where to best leverage them, keeping in mind privacy and security.

Across the agency, the Windows 11 upgrade is in progress as Windows 10 will be end of life in October of 2025. NSP will also be transitioning from Kronos Workforce Central for timekeeping to UKG Workforce Management. This transition will allow for better reporting of time and activities.

In November 2022, NSP posted the Request for Proposal for a new Message Switch. This multi-year project will be completed in June 2025. There are many great technology improvements with the new cloud-based switch that NSP is excited to leverage.

As of April 2025, there are 122 allied partner agencies using TraCS for the Crash Form, the e-Citations module and other electronic forms. There are 16 agencies using the TraCS RMS module. This adds up to nearly 3000 users of TraCS Statewide! This team will be busy upgrading to a new version of TraCS.

NSP IT is also working to support two other enterprise projects, a new CAD product and an upgraded AFIS System.

Over the last year, the IT Division had some personnel changes and hired some amazing people to join our team! New IT Teammates are Christian Robb, Cameron Ramsey, JP Panter and Michael Salmen. Please welcome these new teammates.



Honoring Trooper McAcy #302

Troopers with the Nebraska State Patrol were joined by law enforcement officers from all corners of the country in honoring Trooper Kyle McAcy #302, who gave his life in the line of duty on February 17, 2025.

“On behalf of the state of Nebraska, I simply want to say thank you for sharing your hero with the people of our great state,” said Governor Jim Pillen, addressing Trooper McAcy’s family at the funeral service. “I am incredibly proud of him for how he represented our state.”

Trooper McAcy joined the Nebraska State Patrol in 2014 as part of the 56th Basic Recruit Class, graduating on May 1, 2015. He began his career in North Platte, working as a part of the Carrier Enforcement Division. From there, he transferred home to Omaha, continuing his work with commercial vehicle enforcement. In 2022, Trooper McAcy joined the Troop A Patrol Division where he worked to keep roadways safe and help those in need across the Omaha metro and surrounding counties. At every stage of his career, Trooper McAcy brought joy and laughter to everyone around him.

“If you didn’t know Kyle, let me give you a little glimpse of Kyle, the trooper. He loved his job. He was an extravert, and he loved people.” said Colonel John Bolduc, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. “If you tried to keep pace with his hunger for work or conversation, you would finish a tired second place.”

Hundreds of law enforcement officers from around Nebraska and the entire nation attended the service, including troopers from more than 20 states.

Trooper McAcy is survived by his parents Teresa and Kevin McAcy; brother Collin (Briana) McAcy; sister Bethany McAcy (Garrett Perry); and fiancé Spencer Ryan. He is preceded in death by both sets of grandparents.

The Nebraska State Patrol will continue Trooper McAcy’s legacy by joining his family in asking, “What would Kyle do?” Trooper McAcy served the state of Nebraska with a passion for service and a love for all who crossed his path. The Nebraska State Patrol wishes to extend gratitude to all who have sent support to his family, friends, and colleagues after this tragic loss.







New Hires

January 2025

- Gordon Downing, Patrol Trooper–Reactivation Certification, Norfolk
- Brianna Williams, Forensic Scientist–Chemistry/Drug, Lincoln
- Devon Bodensstab, Crime Analyst, Lincoln
- Pamela Wolf, Office Specialist–CID Front Desk, Lincoln
- Catherine Laska, Forensic Scientist–Biology, Lincoln
- Tracee Stucky, Forensic Scientist–Toxicology, Lincoln
- Nathan Sarazua, Communications Specialist, North Platte
- Carli Fudge, Communications Specialist, North Platte
- Craig Hudak, Security Guard, Lincoln
- Joel Alarcon Ortega, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Jennifer Alonso, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Alejandra Bautista Torres, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Shania Daugherty, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Joseph Fausti, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Gage Gonzales, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Aaron Krefft, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Jace Kremer, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Addison Mackling, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Ryan Painter, Officer Candidate, Grand Island

- Jamie Shirley, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Nickolas Sutton, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Michael Vargas, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Nathan Wamsley, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Kaidyn Whitmire, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Kiara Saddler, Forensic Scientist I–Biology Unit, Lincoln
- Megan Haeffner, Forensic Scientist I–Biology Unit, Lincoln
- Carolyn Hannish, Office Specialist–CE, Lincoln

February 2025

- Evan Eckel, Communications Specialist, North Platte
- Kaylee Hollandsworth, Security Guard, Lincoln
- Summer Hauser, Office Specialist–NRAMS, Lincoln
- Jordyn Guse, Forensic Scientist I–Chemistry, Lincoln

March 2025

- Justin Fester, Security Guard, Lincoln
- Cassandra Ramsey, Office Specialist–CID Front Desk, Lincoln
- Dezirae Archer, Communications Specialist, Lincoln
- Cameron Ramsey, IT Applications Developer (NITE), Lincoln

Transfers

January 2025

- Matt Workman, Sergeant–PSD to Patrol Division, Grand Island
- Phillip Parish, Patrol Trooper to Drug Investigator, North Platte
- Lucas Gleisberg, Patrol Trooper to Criminal Investigator, Chadron
- Lucas Bolton, Criminal Investigator to FBI Gr. Plains Violent Crimes TF, Omaha
- Cody Paro, Patrol Sergeant, Grand Island to Lincoln

February 2025

- Adam Perry, Patrol Trooper, David City to Columbus
- Jordan Pella, Patrol Trooper, York to Geneva

- Jay Irvin, Patrol Trooper, NE City to Omaha
- Isaiah Jaramillo, Patrol Trooper to Criminal Investigator, Omaha
- Tyler Kudera, Patrol Trooper, Norfolk to Neligh
- Eric Rosemann, Patrol Trooper, Grand Island to Aurora
- Joshua Dillinger, Patrol Trooper to Carrier Enforcement Trooper, Scottsbluff
- Adam Ankerson, CE Portables to CE Scale, Fremont
- Kevin Kern, Carrier Enforcement Trooper, Omaha to Waverly

March 2025

- Sarah Kroll, Records Analysis Supervisor to Crime Analyst–CID, Lincoln

Retirements

January 2025

- Frederic Storm, Sergeant-Patrol Division, Lincoln
- Steve Heam, Security Communications Shift Supervisor, Lincoln
- Veronica Jones, Trooper-Carrier Enforcement, Waverly

Separations

January 2025

- Quin Gooch, Patrol Trooper, Nebraska City
- Caleb Homolka, Forensic Technician-AFIS, Lincoln
- Jace Kremer, Officer-Candidate-Camp 71, Grand Island
- Addison Mackling, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Kaidyn Whitmire, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Katelyn Kemper, Communications Specialist, Lincoln
- Megan Ryan, Office Specialist-CID Front Desk, Lincoln

February 2025

- Clay Zimmerman, Security Guard, Lincoln

- Shania Daugherty, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Alejandra Bautista Torres, Officer Candidate, Grand Island

March 2025

- Hussain Alghazawi, Security Guard
- Jamie Shirley, Officer Candidate-Camp 71, Grand Island
- Nathan Wamsley, Officer Candidate-Camp 71, Grand Island
- Pamela Wolf, Office Specialist-CID Front Desk, Lincoln
- Rafael Alarcon Bangura, Communications Specialist, Lincoln

Promotions

January 2025

- Steven Creps, Security Guard to Security Communications Shift Supervisor, Lincoln
- Kelsee Colgrove, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper, St. Paul
- Jamie Garrison, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper, Aurora
- Tyson Guzman, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper, Hastings
- Ryan Hilliard, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper, Norfolk
- Zachariah Johnson, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper, Grand Island
- Jordan Orduno, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper, So. Sioux City

- Isaac Scharff, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper, Holdrege
- Matthew Walker, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper, Burwell
- Jared Weber, Officer Candidate to Patrol Trooper, Sidney

February 2025

- Jason Prante, Inv. Sergeant to Lieutenant-Emergency Prep./PSD, Lincoln

March 2025

- Barry Hinkle, Trooper to Sergeant-Aviation Division
- Audra Ringenberg, Admin Program Officer to Program Manager (QAIP), Lincoln

Photos Around The State

ALL IMAGES WERE TAKEN BY VARIOUS NSP PERSONNEL
AND FRIENDS DURING THE FRIST QUARTER OF 2025.







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

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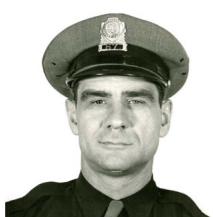
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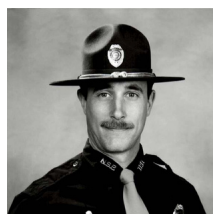


[Youtube](#)



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
KYLE J. MCACY #302



Trooper McAcy's Patrol car stood outside Troop A Headquarters as a memorial to honor him. Thank you to all who shared their support.