



Informer

Informer Staff

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NSP Welcomes Colonel Bryan D. Waugh

Last month, the Nebraska State Patrol welcomed Colonel Bryan D. Waugh as Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety.

"I am honored, committed, and prepared for this opportunity," said Colonel Waugh. "The Nebraska State Patrol is a storied organization with professional men and women who are first class, dedicated, committed, and driven to provide the highest level of public safety and professional services for the entire state of Nebraska."

Law enforcement professionals choose this career field for a multitude of reasons. For many, it's as simple as having a desire to help people. For others it's more of a calling – a need to serve their community. When asked the question, "Why this career?" Colonel Waugh responded with "I love this job. As time goes on and I continue down this path that feeling never lessens. I've always had that need to serve my community in whatever way I could. It was my calling."

Originally from Weirton, West Virginia, Colonel Waugh began his law enforcement career as a United States Air Force Security Police/Law Enforcement Specialist at Offutt Air Force Base. During this time he served in two tours of duty in South East Asia during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Southern Watch/Enduring Freedom. Through this position, Waugh discovered a love for the State of Nebraska and its people.

Eventually, his career brought him to the LaVista Police Department where he pursued work as an officer, a detective, sergeant, and a police captain. After a fulfilling career with the LaVista Police Department, Waugh was ready for a new challenge as the Kearney Police Department's Chief of Police. While there, he led with a people first mindset aiming to build up the agency while honoring its past. Alongside his 32 years of law enforcement experience, Colonel Waugh is also a graduate of the prestigious FBI National Academy.



Today, Colonel Waugh acts as the 19th Superintendent in the history of the Nebraska State Patrol. With a passion for people and service, Waugh has enjoyed meeting the sworn and professional staff members who make up the agency.

"When it comes to leadership, my goal is to bring it back to the basics of people," said Colonel Bryan Waugh "My favorite part of the day are those impromptu moments where I can talk and get to know the people I'm working with."

The new colonel brings years of experience and a passion for serving the citizens of Nebraska. Join the patrol in welcoming the new Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety – Colonel Bryan D. Waugh.

HONOR THE PAST - LIVE THE PRESENT - REIMAGINE THE FUTURE

Troop A

Troop A continues to support and assist our allied agencies with multiple events during the second quarter. "Gateway To The West Parade", "Blair Cruise Night", "Sarpy County Kids Camp", and the "Memorial Park Concert" are just a few of the events we were happy to assist with. In May, we covered multiple emergent calls for Sarpy County, allowing their entire department to get together for an agency wide event. We will also be doing this for Dodge County later this month.

With the hot summer nights comes many street racers and exhibitionists throughout Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Troop A began its Exhibition Driving Grant and has already seen great success working with the NSP Airwing to track down those with dangerous driving behaviors. We appreciate Troop B and H for sending personnel to help out.

Even with the special events and outside agency assists the boots on the ground continue to be very productive. This quarter our troop area has made 100 DUI arrests and 39 felony arrests. The success of Troop A is directly related to the hard work and dedication of our Troopers and Sergeants. I know it is not said enough but THANK YOU and keep up the excellent work.

Last but not least, we want to welcome back and congratulate Trooper Sam Gustafson on returning from his military leave and successfully completing the FTO program. He is doing a great job and we are excited to have him back. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Trooper Clarissa Fitzgerald as she recovers from being struck in her patrol unit on I-80 June 23rd.



Troop B

Quarter two is officially in the books. This quarter was filled with local community events, meaningful remembrances held during this year's police week, and a few personnel changes. In May, many from our troop area participated in 2025's National Police Week. During this time, our Troopers, Game and Parks officers, and members of the Burt County Sheriff's Office gathered with the Farber family and friends to honor fallen Trooper Michael Farber, badge number 427. The wreath ceremony took place at the Decatur cemetery. Additionally, Sergeant Rutten gathered with the family of fallen Trooper Donald Matejka, badge number 192. The wreath ceremony took place at Prospect Hill cemetery in Norfolk. Many across the nation participated in similar events. Troop B is proud to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice during their service to the people of Nebraska.

The second quarter was also filled with a few personnel changes. Troopers Tighe and Ayaj attended the crisis negotiation certification training in Hastings. We are proud of their hard work and dedication through this training. Additionally, Troop B welcomed Trooper Fausti, badge number 29, to the troop area with his graduation of Camp 71. We are excited to be working with him and look forward to seeing how the recruits of Camp 72 perform.



Troop C

The second quarter for Troop C was quite busy. Four of our newest Troopers; Colgrove, Guzman, Johnson and Garrison all moved through the FTO process and are out on their own. A tremendous accomplishment not only for them but also for the many FTOs who took on the responsibility of teaching, guiding and mentoring them through that process. We continue to see growth in our CSO requests which add to their daily duties and done with a high degree of professionalism. Troop C had the honor of helping with the Husker Volleyball exhibition event in Ord in May that brought over 2,000 people to the small community. To cap off the quarter, we had exceptional productivity with 129 arrests, 55 DUIs and over a staggering 5,800 traffic stops. Thank you all for your dedication, professionalism and work to keep those that live or visit our area safe.



Troop D

The second quarter coincided with what is typically a time marked by celebration with graduations. Instead, our Investigators and Troopers were thrust into a critical incident at a nearby Johnson Lake residence. Our response, along with the Dawson County Sheriff's Office, was the first step in leading multiple communities through this tragedy.



Their professionalism and immediate deployment embodied why we are called to this craft. Allied police departments received our notifications and spun-up resources for multiple schools where one victim had taught and where her sons were students. It is a heavy set of events we carry, but we manage because we are together and support one another. Thank you, Lt. Arnold and Sgt. Buhlke, for organizing our response in these communities and for all who took part in the investigation.

Our travel season has seen a leap in activity over these past three months. This has led for more arrests and allowed our overhead lights to be flashing more. While we continue to address the driving behavior in front of us, we hope that the overheads serve as a reminder to have more attentive motorists. The bubble that occurs around marked units aids in keeping traffic relatively safe. The activation of lights takes that awareness further by keeping us in the mind of the driver, at least for a while.



In June, Troop D received notification from our US Marshals Service liaison about a suspect wanted for homicide out of Chicago, IL. Trooper McCain organized assets and local agencies to locate the suspect and make an arrest without incident, all while in a well-traveled truck stop. Communications made this happen safely by relaying messages, phone pings, and tracking everyone's movement.

Troop D - Continued

Our UNK intern, Avery, is half way through our program. She has been busy with ISO, Communications, Air Wing, and Traffic. We wish her well with her studies and look forward to her as a recruit in a future NSP Camp. Also, we added two new Troopers with Alarcon-Ortega #16 (McCook) and Painter #61 (Ainsworth). They are beginning their career in the vastness that is Troop D with its 27-counties and where anything and everything happens. Cheers to them and to all of you who travel to our area when the bell rings.

Troop E

Troop E remained busy this quarter with trainings and community events. Our troopers conducted a joint TIMS training exercise at the Scottsbluff Regional Airport. The exercise involved a simulation of a serious crash with numerous injuries. Many other law enforcement agencies, local fire departments, emergency management services, Nebraska Department of Transportation, and local tow companies participated in the training exercise. These exercises work to help improve interagency cooperation during emergent situations. We are proud to be able to facilitate these trainings.

In addition to this training, Troop E held a barbeque for retirees in the panhandle at the Scottsbluff State Patrol office. The event was well attended and enjoyed by the retirees. These events act as a memorable time for our retirees and troopers. We are excited to continue these events and add to them.

Troop E welcomed in June Trooper Seth Miller, badge number 431, who lateraled to the Troop E Scottsbluff area in June.



Troop H

The Troop H Uniform Patrol Division proudly serves 14 counties in southeast Nebraska. During the second quarter of 2025, Troop H as well as many other troop areas dealt with heavy amounts of rainfall and strong thunderstorms which have continued into July. Troopers remained busy with accidents, removed 83 motorists from the streets for DUI, and issued 126 citations for drug and alcohol violations. Additionally, they made 40 felony arrests for various law violations. Troop H continues to see a trend of high traffic speeds and increasing driver awareness of these speeds has been a priority through social media.

On May 6th, Patrol Division Troopers responded to the City of Milford to assist with a shooting call. Early reports stated an 11-year-old shot a 12-year-old. Troopers arrived to determine that all individuals were still alive, and the victim was being transported to a hospital in Lincoln. NSP Investigative Services was called to assist in the investigation. Patrol units helped with scene security and interviewed the victim at the hospital while also collecting clothing evidence from the victim. The case is being led by the Milford Police Department with the assistance of Troop H Investigators. The 12-year-old victim is expected to make a full recovery.

On May 10th, Trooper Heidbrink #155 responded to a medical call in Hallam for a child injured by a lawnmower. Heidbrink was the first to arrive to find a 4-year-old with a nearly amputated foot and a large laceration on the other leg. Heidbrink noted that the child's father had attempted to wrap his belt around the leg to stop the bleeding, but the child had lost a lot of blood. Heidbrink applied a tourniquet and used other stop the bleed techniques with gauze and bandages. He was able to get the bleeding under control and continued to bandage injuries until EMS arrived. The child was transported to Bryan West Medical Center for further care. Trooper Heidbrink demonstrated true compassion and a calm demeanor during this incident.

On May 11th, Trooper Landry #249 attended Police Week in Washington D.C. as the family escort for Ceresco Police Officer, Ross Bartlett. The family was very appreciative of his work on the case and the tireless support he provided. Trooper Landry demonstrated unwavering professionalism and dedication throughout the case. He continues to remain close to the family.

On May 23rd and May 24th Night Shift Troopers assisted the Lincoln Police Department with traffic enforcement operations for the annual "Ameri-cruise" event on O Street in Lincoln. NSP issued 32 Citations and 51 Warning/Violation Cards. Arrests varied from several DUIs, arrest on warrants to a flight to avoid arrest. As always, NSP proudly assists local agencies with events when called upon. Having a great working relationship with allied agencies remains a critical piece of law enforcement within Troop H.

June 12th marked the beginning of the Interstate 80 widening project. The project starts on the west edge of Lincoln near milepost 395 and stretches to milepost 388. This area has head to head two lane traffic with concrete barriers. The construction is expected to last two years, Troop H along with NDOT have partnered together to provide the safest response possible during incidents inside the zone. Additionally, the Troop H Patrol Division has completed several speed selectives inside the construction zone. During the first selective enforcement, troopers issued 42 citations with 36 for speeding, with the highest speed of 80 mph in a 55 mph zone.

Troop H also welcomed a new Trooper to the family. Troopers Gage Gonzales #36 (Duty Station Nebraska City). Trooper Gonzales is currently in the Field Training program and will be hitting the roadways on his own soon!

Crime Lab

The NSP Crime Lab is almost to the halfway point on a major construction project. The \$26 million project will double the size of the lab from 31,000 square feet to nearly 63,000 square feet. Every analytical section of the lab will gain additional working space which is estimated to meet our needs through 2040.


The Chemistry Unit wing is expected to be move-in ready by the end of November. Toxicology will move into a completely new area while Controlled Substances will expand their space. The expanded area will include a designated isolation room for working with high-risk substances such as Fentanyl.

The East wing is on track to move into starting January 2026. This wing will have new space for Latent Prints which will include a lot more natural light, a critical component for their work. The DNA Databank Section will also move into a space that is completely separate from the DNA Casework Section. The DNA Casework Section will expand as well. Firearms will expand into the old Latent Print space with minor remodeling required.

The Administrative area and Case Management Section expansion is expected to be occupied by April of 2026. Expansion in the Case Management area will provide additional workstations for more efficient agency transactions, as well as increased evidence storage area. The substantial completion date of the entire project is September 2026.

The expansion will allow for optimized workflows which will increase processing efficiency. It is anticipated that we will add four scientists at the completion of the project with room to add additional staff and services as the need arises. Funding also includes the addition of the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) back into our Firearms Section. NIBIN is a database that allows for firearms related evidence to be linked. This results in improved public safety through the solving and prevention of firearm related crime.





The first half of the year is in the books, and it has been a productive time for the NIAC/TCU. During this time frame, the NIAC fielded 1,498 requests for service to include, facial recognition requests, situational awareness bulletins, criminal case workups, behavioral threat assessments and much more. The analysts continue to do great work for the agency while showcasing their trade. Proactive threat analysis has led to the identification and apprehension of at least five known terrorists that were living in Nebraska. Analyst Cassie Hongsermeier was given a distinguished service award for her assistance with a cold case from Colorado. Analysts Brooke Noordhoek, Sydney Bruggeman, Jackie Beaton, Roman Asaro, and Analyst Supervisor Audrey Meyer worked tirelessly the weekend of the No Kings rallies and anti-HSI protests providing critical information needed for tactical and safety planning. Additionally, Analyst Supervisor Audrey Meyer and Analyst Roman Asaro completed the Instructor Development Threat Evaluation and Reporting Course. This certification will allow the NIAC to provide needed threat assessment training to law enforcement and private sector partners.

The TCU has arrested 26 individuals for child exploitation and cyber related issues. Nearly 3000 cybertips, peer to peer file sharing, and active undercover chatting have given the investigators the opportunity to track down offenders from all over the state. The lab has examined 1,066 devices, and the ICAC analysts have completed 208 work-ups and issued 387 subpoenas for active ICAC cases. Forensic Examiner Lisa Banks found several images of child torture that can now be used as evidence against the parents that committed this crime. Investigator Neal Trantham continues to grow the lab's capability to conduct forensic video analysis and examination. In June, Inv. Trantham became one of only 54 people in the world to be a certified forensic video analyst through the Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Video Association (LEVA). Additionally, Inv. Trantham became the Patrol's first electronic detection dog handler. His new partner, Scooter, joined the team in mid-June and has already assisted in searches and melted a few hearts along the way.

The NIAC and TCU will continue with its customer service approach and willingness to learn new things to can better serve the field. All are encouraged to share your experiences with the NIAC and TCU. We value your feedback and will use it as we continue to work with you.

NIAC & TCU

Nebraska State Patrol Graduates 71st Recruit Class

The Nebraska State Patrol has welcomed a new class of state troopers into the ranks. Members of NSP’s 71st Basic Recruit Class received their badges and were sworn-in during a ceremony at the State Capitol in June.

“You are the future of law enforcement,” Colonel Bryan Waugh told the new troopers during today’s ceremony. “You will carry on beyond my career and the careers of many in this room. Each of you chose this career for a reason. Never allow yourself to forget that reason.”

The seven members of Camp 71 have completed 22 weeks of intense training, including extensive live-action training scenarios and rigorous academic instruction. Their training now continues in the field, pairing with veteran troopers in the field training process. Governor Jim Pillen, Lt. Governor Joe Kelly, and Attorney General Mike Hilgers provided remarks during today’s graduation ceremony, which was held in the rotunda of the Nebraska State Capitol. Attorney General Hilgers administered the oath of office.

“You’ve gone through an extraordinary process,” said Governor Pillen. “The standard of the Nebraska State Patrol is the holy grail of safety. What you’ve embarked on and what you have accomplished is second to none. The Nebraska State Patrol does not take a second to any police in the United States of America. We’re incredibly proud of you.”

Outstanding performance in several areas of training was recognized with awards during the graduation ceremony. Recruit Gage Gonzales, of Lincoln, received the Superintendent’s Leadership Award, the Captain Mark Williams Core Values Award, and the D.R. Shearer Marksmanship Award. The O.H. Witt Academic Achievement Award was presented to Recruit Nickolas Sutton, of Doniphan. Recruit Joseph Fausti, of Clayton, Washington, received the R. J. Buchholz Physical Fitness Award.

“Not only are you going to be a Trooper, you’re going to be a Nebraska Trooper. And that means far more than just knowing the rules, or being physically fit, or being a great marksman,” Attorney General Hilgers told Camp 71. “It’s about the inner character that each of you have... It’s from years of living in this state. It’s from years living around Nebraskans, people who reinforce important virtues like integrity, and humility, and courage, and wisdom, and judgement.”

The graduates of Camp 71 are:

NAME:	HOMETOWN:	BADGE:	DUTY STATION:
JOEL ALARCON-ORTEGA	IMPERIAL, NE	16	MCCOOK
JENNIFER ALONSO	HASTINGS, NE	23	HASTINGS
JOSEPH FAUSTI	CLAYTON, WA	29	WEST POINT
GAGE GONZALES	LINCOLN, NE	36	NEBRASKA CITY
RYAN PAINTER	SPRINGVIEW, NE	61	VALENTINE
NICKOLAS SUTTON	DONIPHAN, NE	74	WAVERLY
MICHAEL VARGAS	HERSHEY, NE	89	GRAND ISLAND



NSP Adds Electronics Storage Detection K9 to TCU

The Nebraska State Patrol is proud to welcome a new four-legged member to the team. NSP's newest K9, Scooter, is now on the job with a unique skillset.

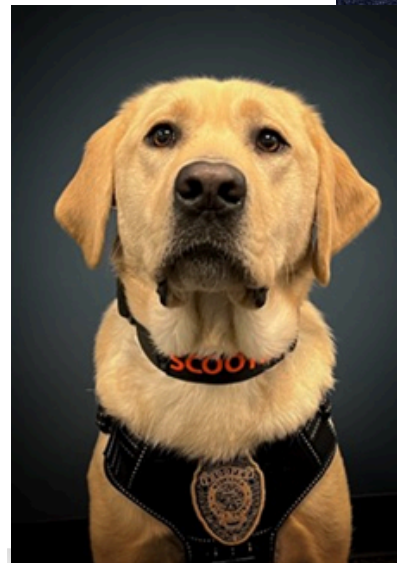
Scooter is the only active police service dog in Nebraska trained in electronics storage detection (ESD). ESD K9s are trained to detect a common chemical found in electronics such as computers, hard drives, flash drives, SD cards, cell phones, and other devices capable of storing or transmitting electronic data.

"Scooter will be an incredible asset for our Technical Crimes Unit," said Colonel Bryan Waugh. "Our Tech Crimes investigators focus on some of the worst crimes imaginable, such as child exploitation cases. Scooter's ability to detect electronic hardware enhances the team's efforts to locate evidence, protect victims, and stop predators."

Electronic storage detection K9s can detect covert video cameras, GPS trackers, and other devices commonly hidden by predators. ESD K9s are also trained as therapy dogs and can help comfort a child alongside the Child Advocacy Center while investigators conduct interviews. Scooter will also be an ambassador for internet safety and will visit schools and other public events to help teach kids about how to stay safe online.

"I am excited to work with Scooter and have her as a part of my family," said Investigator Neal Trantham, Scooter's Handler. "I know that she will have a full career helping to keep kids safe in communities across Nebraska. She is happy to go to work each day, and you can tell that she will be a perfect fit in our Tech Crimes team."

Scooter is a 2-year-old Yellow Labrador Retriever. Her addition to the NSP Tech Crimes Unit has been fully funded by Our Rescue, which works across the world to fight sex trafficking and child exploitation.



New Hires

April 2025

- Connor Hyser, Administrative Tech–Criminal History Specialist, Lincoln
- Anthony Tran–Le, Admin Programs Officer (CLEIN), Lincoln
- Justice Schwarz, Security Guard, Lincoln

May 2025

- Ann Berndt, Office Specialist–CID Front Desk, Lincoln
- Krista Meyer, Admin Tech–Criminal History Specialist, Lincoln

June 2025

- Skyler Krull, Forensic Technician–AFIS, Lincoln
- Natalia Reyes, Office Specialist–HDQ Patrol, Lincoln
- Bryan Waugh, Colonel, Lincoln

Transfers

April 2025

- James DeFreece, CE Trooper to PSD Trooper (Explosives), Waverly to Lincoln
- Nicholas Buck, Patrol Trooper to PSD Trooper (Narcotics), NE City to Omaha
- Timothy Doggett, Criminal Investigator to Drug Investigator, West Point

May 2025

- Kyle Gaudreault, Trooper–Patrol Division, Kearney to North Platte

June 2025

- Cody Cassidy, Patrol Trooper to Criminal Investigator, St. Paul to Burwell

Retirements

April 2025

- Gregory Lammers, Patrol Trooper, Norfolk

May 2025

- John Bolduc, Colonel, Lincoln

Separations

April 2025

- Delitha Lang, Research Manager-Intell, Lincoln
- Ashley Lampkin, Admin Tech-Criminal History Specialist, Lincoln
- Courtney Maleport, Forensic Technician-Crime Lab, Lincoln
- Yahaira Ramirez, Office Specialist-HDQ Patrol, Lincoln
- Justice Schwarz, Security Guard, Lincoln
- Khyng Jordan, Security Guard, Lincoln
- Michael Salmen, IT infrastructure Support Analyst/Sr. Lincoln
- Zachary Schmidt, Trooper-CE, Lincoln
- Aaron Krefft, Officer Candidate-Camp 71, Grand Island

May 2025

- Nathan Sarazua, Communications Specialist, North Platte
- Nicholas Pollreis, Communications Specialist, Lincoln
- Travis Herling, Security Guard, Lincoln

June 2025

- Kristen Unterseher, Office Specialist-CID Backgrounds, Lincoln
- Tori Adams, Security Guard, Lincoln

Promotions

April 2025

- Mollee Gribble, Office Specialist to Records Analysis Supervisor-CID, Lincoln

June 2025

- Audrey Meyer, Crime Analyst to Research Manager, Lincoln



Photos Around The State

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







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

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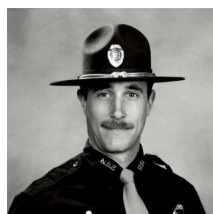


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JOHN T. MEISTRELL #67
VERNON C. ROLFS #129
MARVIN L. HANSEN #98
DUANE F. NICHOLS #133
RAYMOND M. KOERBER #108
GEORGE W. AMOS JR. #9

MICHAEL D. FARBER #427
ROBERT J. CHAB #221
DONALD MATEJKA #192
MARK P. WAGNER #168
JERRY L. SMITH #373
KYLE J. MCACY #302



Applications to become a trooper open August 11th. For more information visit [our website](#).