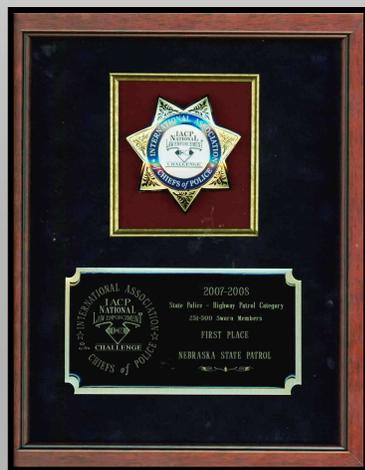
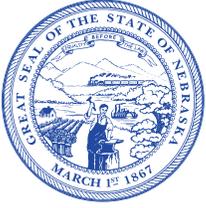


Nebraska State Patrol 2008 Annual Report





Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEBRASKA STATE PATROL
Colonel Bryan J. Tuma
Superintendent
P.O. Box 94907
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4907
Phone: (402) 471-4545

August 1, 2009

Dear Citizens and Friends of Nebraska:

The Nebraska State Patrol is pleased to present the 2008 Annual Report. This report reflects on some of the highlights of this past year.

Change is forever occurring and even with these tough economic times, public safety remains our number one priority. Our value, mission, and philosophy statements reflect our firm commitment to public service. Our operations are both challenging and rewarding in providing quality law enforcement services to the citizens and guests of the state of Nebraska.

Although fiscal constraints certainly prove to be challenging, our personnel have made significant progress in addressing the many duties and responsibilities assigned to the agency. Critical to our success has been the implementation of performance-based goals and objectives. Our employees at all levels of the agency are engaged in the process of identifying critical goals, developing strategies to effectively deploy the resources of the agency, measuring the results, and evaluating our progress. Success has been realized on many fronts, including the continued reduction of motor vehicle fatalities, the deployment of new technologies which contribute to greater efficiency, and more effective investigative tools which aid in the apprehension of criminal suspects.

As we move forward in 2009, we will continue to examine current goals and look to the future. And while the times do change, one thing will always remain the same and that is our providing the best services to you - the citizens and guests of this great state of Nebraska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Tuma".

Bryan J. Tuma, Colonel
Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety



AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

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Introduction

The Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) is Nebraska's only statewide full-service law enforcement agency. Serving Nebraska since 1937, NSP officers perform a wide variety of duties. Those include working with communities to improve public safety, enforcing traffic laws and drug laws, investigating crimes, and enforcing the laws and regulations pertaining to motor carriers.

Pro Bono Publico is the NSP's motto and is Latin meaning "*for the good of the public*". It is a motto we strive to put into action as we provide you with a high quality of law enforcement and service.

During its 71-year history, the NSP has accepted additional duties and responsibilities. It is also a nationally accredited law enforcement agency dedicated to serving the citizens of Nebraska.

There are six troop area offices in Lincoln, Omaha, Norfolk, Grand Island, North Platte, and Scottsbluff. State Headquarters is also located in Lincoln. More than 700 employees provide field, investigative, administrative and support services to Nebraskans.

The 2008 Annual Report summarizes the many activities and achievements during this calendar year. It also reflects the services provided to the more than one million citizens and visitors to Nebraska.

Nebraska State Patrol Mission Statement

The Mission of the NSP is to exemplify our values by providing the highest quality of law enforcement and service to the citizens. Through innovation and cooperation, we strive to promote and maintain the spirit of teamwork that is the tradition of the NSP.

Nebraska State Patrol Value Statement

The NSP is committed to professional public service reflecting recognition of the inherent value of each individual in our society. Our officers strive to earn and maintain trust, respect, and confidence by exemplifying the belief that the freedoms, rights, and dignity of all citizens must be protected and preserved. To this end, we pledge ourselves to the highest standards of morality, fairness, honesty, dedication, professionalism, and courage.

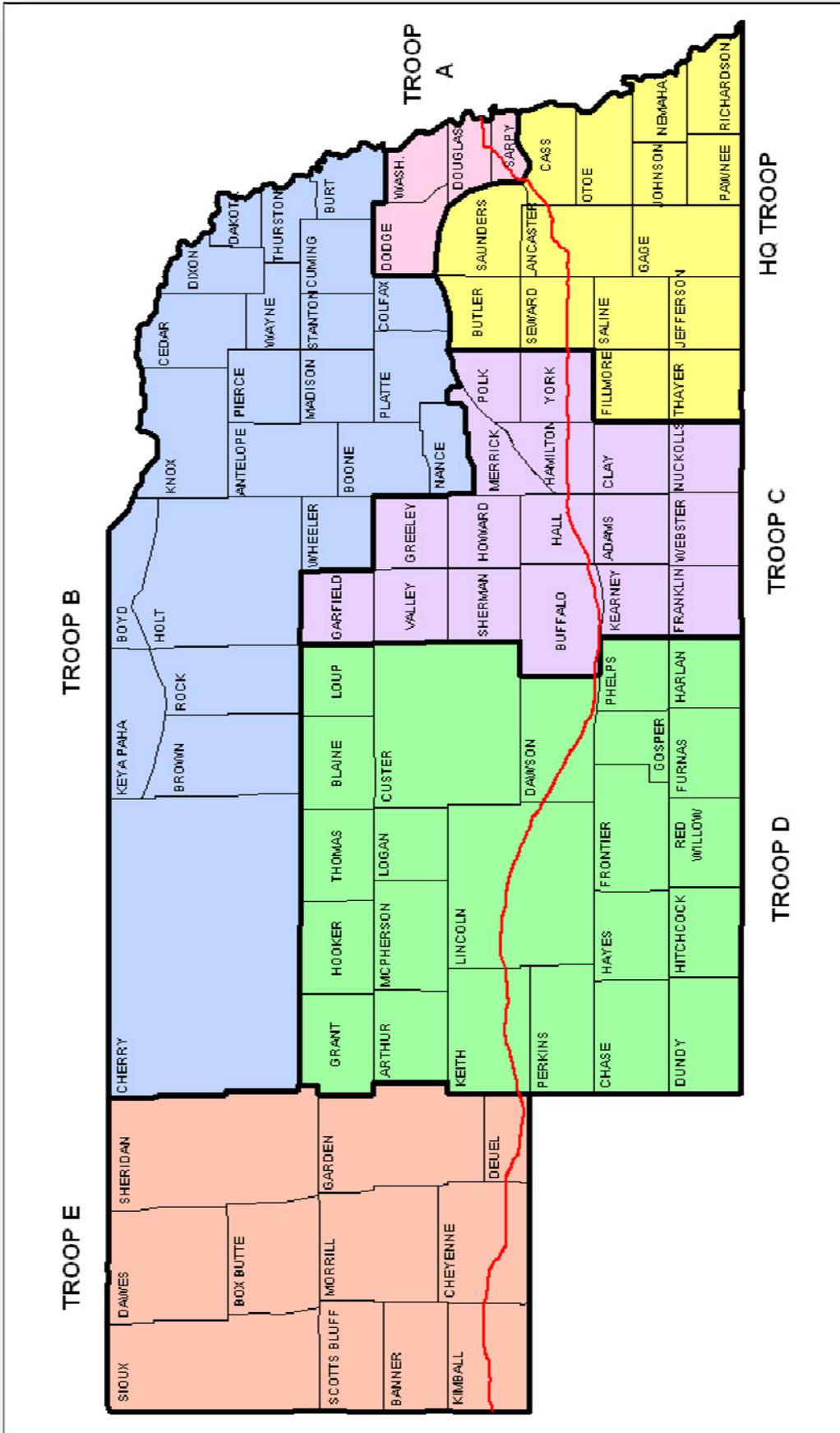
Nebraska State Patrol Management Philosophy

The NSP expects to be a lead agency in addressing issues and concepts confronting Nebraska law enforcement agencies.

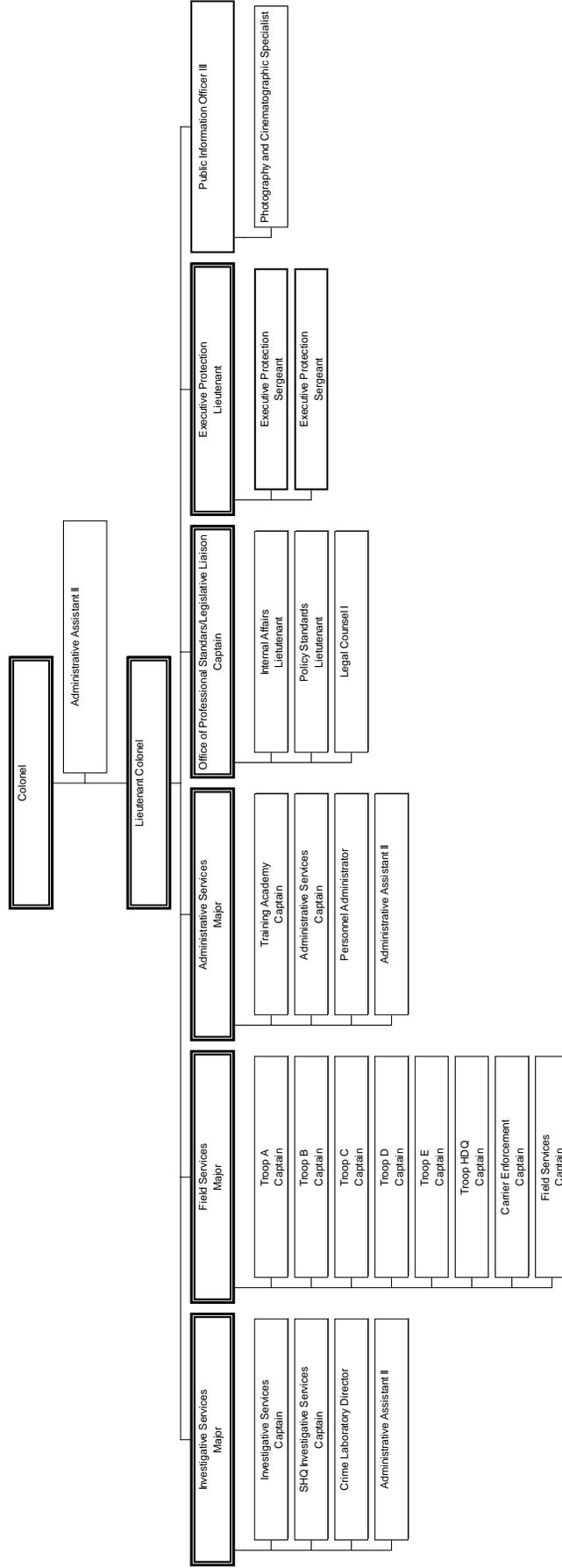
As such, NSP personnel are encouraged to identify issues in their respective communities and actively participate in resolving them.

The agency will focus on initiatives to enhance the leadership qualities of individual employees, and to strengthen the agency's commitment to assist others.





NEBRASKA STATE PATROL



Annual “In the News” Items

52nd NSP Recruit Class Graduates

The 52nd Basic Recruit Class of the NSP graduated on Thursday, January 31. Guest speakers included Governor Dave Heineman and Attorney General Jon Bruning. Secretary of State John Gale administered the Oath of Office.

The 24 members of the class completed 24 weeks of training at the NSP Training Academy in Grand Island. Their instruction involved more than 1,150 hours and 70 exams. Eighteen new troopers are assigned to the Patrol Services Division, and six graduates are assigned to the Carrier Enforcement Division.

The graduates also underwent six months of on-the-job instruction with veteran troopers in the field before performing solo patrol duties.



Camp Suspension Part of Belt Tightening

By Colonel Bryan Tuma

Tough times call for tough measures. Projections of tough times call for looking ahead to see what can be done to ensure we are operating in an efficient and effective manner. Being prudent in an uncertain economic climate was the decision behind the suspension of the 53rd Basic Recruit Camp set to begin in July 2008.

Several factors played into the decision to suspend the agency’s hiring process. Initial available openings in 2008 were low at seven sworn vacancies. Even though our goal is to be at full staff whenever possible, being down seven positions, will not and did not compromise our public safety mission.

Deferment of the camp was a projected million dollar savings. Suspending the recruit class allowed sufficient latitude to better absorb or address the reduction of funds available to the agency.

Based on lowered revenue projections, the Governor asked all agency administrators to scrutinize spending. That meant a review of personnel expenses, an assessment of duties and responsibilities, and a prioritization of agency programs and new initiations, all with an eye to the bottom line.

The NSP worked to be efficient in our delivery of services, and in doing so, we did not compromise public safety or the safety of our personnel. We joined all other state agencies in a combined effort to do more with less. Through strategic planning and setting of goals, the agency worked to stay on track in achieving our long-term objectives.

Our personnel confronted difficult circumstances on a daily basis. With overwhelming frequency, they succeeded with exceptional results.

AFIS Team Honored by the NMA

Members of the NSP AFIS team were honored for their participation in the Nebraska Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) Project. The award, presented by the Nebraska State Government Chapter of the National Management Association (NMA), recognizes accomplishments in IT-related projects for various divisions of state government.

The NAFIS Project involved the replacement of Nebraska's statewide AFIS 2000 system installed in 1995 with the Motorola Printrak Biometric Identification Solution (BIS). The project tripled the number of BIS workstations and increased the number of LiveScans across the state to 23 stations, including six sites that were not previously connected to the NSP. The addition of new LiveScan sites has been paramount in the NSP's ability to comply with the new Concealed Handgun Permit law. The new law, which requires NSP oversight, makes it necessary for applicants to report to LiveScan sites for permit processing.



Honored were: Suzy Fredrickson, IT Supervisor; Bruce Luhr, AFIS Systems Manager; Scott McFall, Former IT Division Commander; Chris Price, Administrative Assistant III Office Manager for Criminal ID Division; John J. Shelton, Lieutenant; and Rod Warner, former AFIS Business Systems Analyst.

Patrol Honored with Patriot Award

For going above and beyond the law in supporting its employees in the National Guard or Reserve, the NSP has been honored with the Department of Defense "Patriot Award."

Trooper Samuel Mortensen nominated the agency for the award. Lance Corporal Mortensen is a United States Marine Corp reservist stationed in Omaha and is assigned to the NSP Troop C Headquarters in Grand Island. He has been a member of the NSP for five years.



Left to right: Trooper Mortensen, Colonel Tuma and Arlo Bower

In his nomination letter, Trooper Mortensen expressed his appreciation for the NSP's support and willingness to work with his schedule. Trooper Mortensen wrote, "My employer changes my days off so I don't have to use vacation to attend drill or training."

Colonel Bryan Tuma accepted the Patriot Award from the chairman of The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Arlo Bower during a ceremony at State Headquarters in Lincoln, on February 29, 2008.

"The Nebraska State Patrol appreciates the dedication and commitment of its citizen soldiers," the Colonel said. "They are going above and beyond the call of duty and it is our responsibility as their employer to do whatever we can to help them be successful in all aspects of their life."

This is the second time in recent years the NSP has received the Patriot Award. Trooper Chris Baer nominated the agency in 2005.

The award, on behalf of the Department of Defense, recognizes deserving employers whose support and goodwill are important to retaining highly skilled and qualified members of the Guard and Reserve.

NSP Participates in SkillsUSA Contest

Helping prepare students for the future is the driving force behind the organization SkillsUSA. The NSP assisted in that goal by participating in the State SkillsUSA contest. Participating in the contest were 850 high school and college/technical students, along with 100 teacher/advisors and approximately 250 contest coordinators and judges. The conference was held Thursday, March 27 through Saturday, March 30 in Columbus, Nebraska.

SkillsUSA programs included local, state, and national competitions in which students demonstrated occupational and leadership skills. The NSP helped administer the Criminal Justice portion of the state contest. "This was an excellent opportunity to help provide students with the background and information they need in order to become productive members of the workforce," said Troop B Investigative Services Lieutenant Randy Morehead. "Along with facilitating the contest, we educated the participating students on career opportunities within the Nebraska State Patrol."

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving teachers, high school and college students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations. SkillsUSA was formerly known as VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America).

NSP Congratulates Command School Graduates

The NSP is proud to announce the recent graduation of 10 of its employees from the Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety. NSP captains (2), lieutenants (7) and sergeants (1), completed a 10-week School of Police Staff and Command (SPSC) conducted by Northwestern University and held at the NSP Training Academy in Grand Island.

The School of Police Staff and Command provides upper-level college instruction in a total of twenty-two core or mandatory blocks. Nine additional optional blocks of instruction are also utilized during each 10-week session. Major topics of study include; Management and Management Theory, Organizational Behavior, Human Resources for Law Enforcement, Budgeting, Staffing Allocation and Personnel Deployment.

Participants are required to complete 18 written examinations, projects and quizzes, in addition to two research papers. Successful completion of the program allows the participant to become eligible for a total of 8 units of undergraduate credit from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. More than 8,000 students both nationally and internationally have graduated from the program since its implementation in 1983. The 10 NSP employees were among 28 students graduating in the 265th SPSC Class.

Established in 1936 as the Traffic Institute, The Center for Public Safety at Northwestern University is designed to expand university-based education and training for the law enforcement community. Over time, the Center has broadened its original goal and currently provides courses and programs in the area of Police Training, Management Training and Executive Development.

NSP graduates were:

Captain Mike Kerby - NSP Training Academy Commander - Grand Island

Captain Chris Kolb - Troop C Commander - Grand Island

Lieutenant Jason Dean - Headquarters Troop - Lincoln

Lieutenant Daniel Doggett - Carrier Enforcement Division- Lincoln

Lieutenant Kirk Hansel - Troop D - North Platte

Lieutenant William Keeling - Troop C - Grand Island

Lieutenant Todd Kinghorn - State Headquarters- Lincoln

Lieutenant Brenda Konfrst - Troop A - Omaha

Lieutenant Carla Schreiber - State Headquarters - Lincoln

Sergeant Jeffrey Pelowski - Troop C - Grand Island

State Patrol Participates in Nebraskaland Days Parade

The NSP Troop D Headquarters – North Platte, participated in the Nebraskaland Days parade, Saturday, June 21. The NSP's parade entry consisted of two patrol units - a 1950 Ford and a 2007 Dodge Charger.

Nebraskaland Days is a statewide celebration of the state of Nebraska and its heritage. In its 40th year in North Platte, Nebraskaland Days is considered a major tourist attraction with more than 80 events, including, parades, art shows, rodeos, and concerts.



“We provided parade-goers with a taste of the past and a look to the future,” said Troop D Captain Jim Parish. “From the 1950 Ford once used to patrol the state’s highways, to the 2007 Dodge Charger of today, parade goers were treated to a glimpse of Patrol history.”

Nebraska Troops Provide Relief for Iowa Counterparts

“Unbelievable devastation” that’s how Lieutenant Kevin Bridges described what greeted members of the NSP as they arrived Tuesday, June 17 in flood ravaged Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Nineteen members of the Troop A and C Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Teams along with 10 members of the Lincoln Police Department were deployed to the Iowa community by Governor Dave Heineman through a multi-state agreement for mutual aid.

The SWAT team members hit the ground running, putting in 21 hours their first day on the job. “We were there to provide relief for the Cedar Rapids officers, who had been working around the clock for more than a week,” said Bridges. “Our presence allowed their officers, many who were affected personally by the flood, an opportunity to get some rest and tend to their families.”

NSP SWAT team members conducted a variety of operations, working 12-hour shifts during their seven-day stay in Cedar Rapids. Along with patrolling restricted areas both residential and downtown, troopers also took part in “Strike Teams.” The “Strike Teams,” were professionals who specialized in the areas of building inspection, public works, humane society, public health, and troopers. The teams went door to door inspecting flood damaged property.

“Despite the fact many of these folks lost everything, troopers experienced very few problems,” Bridges said. “While on patrol, troopers responded to mostly medical emergencies and some concerns about looting or salvaging of property.”

Team members also provided security for President Bush’s visit to Cedar Rapids. The Nebraska contingent was housed at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, during their deployment.

“When you see such tragedy, you are just grateful you are able to help out.” said Bridges.



Junior Law Cadet Program

The 41st Annual American Legion Junior Law Academy provided high school students from across Nebraska an opportunity to learn what it is like to be a law enforcement officer. Twenty-four young women and 35 young men each spent a week in June at the NSP Training Academy in Grand Island as cadets in the Junior Law Academy.

The weeklong academy followed a strict itinerary providing the cadets with firsthand knowledge of what is required to become a law enforcement officer. Each day began at 6:15 a.m. with calisthenics, followed by a flag raising ceremony, and various classes.

The women attended June 9-13, with the men attending the following week. The cadets got hands-on experience in a variety of areas, and learned about police service dogs, accident investigation, vehicle operations, bomb technicians, the Air Wing Division, and much more.

American Legion Posts across the state nominated the cadets, who were then selected by district. The American Legion and the NSP originated the program in Nebraska. It has since been used as a model by many other states. Participants were selected based on worthy character, interest in law enforcement, evidence of self-discipline and the ability to share the knowledge gained with others.



Law Enforcement Memorial Week

On Thursday, May 15, law enforcement officers, state leaders, and families and friends of law enforcement, gathered at locations across the state in honor of National Law Enforcement Memorial Day.

Since 1866, 128 federal, state, county, and municipal Nebraska officers have been killed in the line of duty. The ceremonies paid tribute to those brave officers and their families.

The ceremony at the Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island included a presentation of colors by the NSP Troop C and the Grand Island Police Department Honor Guards. Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy delivered the keynote address, followed by a reading of the names of Nebraska's fallen officers. Eleven of those brave men were troopers.



Troopers Honored by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers

The Nebraska Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) honored members of the NSP during its 9th Annual “Outstanding Law Enforcement and Volunteer Awards.”

The First Lady of Nebraska, Sally Ganem presented the MADD awards during a June 10 ceremony in Lincoln. The awards recognize law enforcement officers who work daily to ensure Nebraska roadways are kept safe from drinking drivers.

“By working to remove impaired drivers from Nebraska roadways, our troopers are helping to reduce the number of fatal crashes across the state,” said Colonel Bryan Tuma, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. “We are extremely proud of the troopers being honored by MADD and know they will continue their efforts to keep impaired drivers off our roads. “

The troopers listed below were honored by MADD for their commitment to keeping our communities and roads safe.

Headquarters Troop - Lincoln

Adult DWI/Individual-Trooper Kaleb Bruggeman

Troop A – Omaha

Adult DWI/Team-Troopers Parnell Matthews, Trinity Jones, Tom Hicken, Ryan Young, Steve Peck, and Eric Kauffman

Troop B - Norfolk

MIP/Individual-Trooper David “Matt” Ramsey

Troop C – Grand Island

Adult DWI/Individual-Trooper Robert Almquist

Education- Trooper Monte Dart

Adult DWI/Individual Trooper Samuel P. Mortensen

Troop D – North Platte

MIP/Individual -Trooper Beth Bauer

Adult DWI/Individual-Trooper Doug Petty

Adult DWI/Team-Sergeants Bob Veal and Buck Boje, Troopers Jarrod Connelly,

Mathew Naughtin, Shane Belgum, Ryan Hayes, Carolyn O’Brien, and Gena Jones



Troop A (Omaha) MADD award winners with Sim Reynolds of MADD, and Nebraska First Lady Sally Ganem.

Trooper Qualifies for International Inspector Championship

NSP Trooper Jay Huhman was the winner of the Nebraska Inspector Championships held Saturday, June 14, in Grand Island. The Inspector Championships were a part of the two-day long Nebraska Truck Driving Championships, held at Fonner Park in Grand Island, June 13-14.

Five troopers assigned to the NSP Carrier Enforcement Division participated in the contest, which included an interview, a hazardous materials table top challenge, and vehicle inspections. Other NSP officers that participated were Corey Halverson, Justin Koch, Ben Schropfer and Kevin Stary.

Trooper Huhman, who is assigned to Hebron, represented the State of Nebraska at the International Inspector Championships, held in conjunction with the National Truck Driving Championships August 19-23, in Houston, Texas. Overall, he finished ninth. Congratulations!



NSP Inspector Championship participants, l-r : Justin Koch, Corey Halvorsen, Ben Schropfer, Jay Huhman, and Kevin Stary.

Lt. Colonel Fisher Honored with Hall of Fame Award

Assistant Superintendent of the NSP, Lieutenant Colonel Darrell Fisher has been honored with the Nebraska Law Enforcement Hall of Fame Award, from the Police Officers' Association of Nebraska (POAN).

The Nebraska Law Enforcement Hall of Fame Award recognizes the accomplishments and deeds of individual law enforcement officers and is presented during the annual POAN/Nebraska Sheriff's Association (NSA) annual conference.

Lieutenant Colonel Fisher is a 32-year law enforcement veteran, with 28 plus years of service with the NSP. Prior to joining the NSP, he served nearly four years as a Deputy Sheriff in Buffalo County, Nebraska. A 1979 graduate of the NSP Training Academy he was promoted as Assistant Superintendent of the NSP in October 2005.

A nationally recognized expert in the area of the detection and apprehension of the alcohol or drug impaired driver Lieutenant Colonel Fisher dedicates countless hours to the education and training of law enforcement officers in the area of Drug Recognition (DRE) and authored a chapter for the book *Inside the Minds: DUI Law Enforcement*, published by Aspature Books.

"The list of Darrell's accomplishments and honors is an extensive one," said Colonel Bryan Tuma, Superintendent of the NSP. "He has served many roles in our agency and has dedicated countless hours to the training and mentoring of law enforcement officers here at home and across the United States. We are fortunate to have Darrell as a member of the Nebraska State Patrol and can think of no one more deserving of this honor."

Nebraska D.A.R.E. Holds Officer Graduation

On Friday, September 19, fourteen officers from across the United States and Canada graduated from the 23rd Nebraska D.A.R.E. Officer Training. Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy was the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony, which took place at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center/ NSP Training Academy in Grand Island.

Founded in 1983, in Los Angeles, D.A.R.E. is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teach children from kindergarten through 12th grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence free lives.

There are 142 schools in 64 cities in Nebraska offering D.A.R.E programs. Nebraska is included in the North Central Region, overseen by D.A.R.E. America Regional Director, Mike Lien. The North Central Region also includes, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The 14 officers in the Nebraska D.A.R.E. Officer Training participated in 80 hours of specialized training in areas, such as child development, classroom management, teaching techniques and communication skills.

The D.A.R.E. curriculum is designed to be taught by police officers whose training and experience give them the background needed to answer the sophisticated questions often posed by young students about drugs and crime.

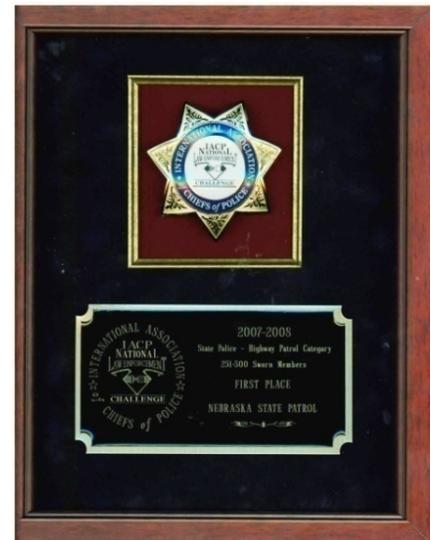
D.A.R.E. provides children the skills needed to recognize and resist the subtle and overt pressures that cause them to experiment with drugs or become involved in gangs or violent activities.

Patrol Receives National Honor

The Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) received national recognition for its highway safety efforts during the year 2007. In November, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) presented Colonel Bryan Tuma with the National Law Enforcement Challenge award at the 2008 IACP Conference in San Diego, California.

This marks the third time the agency has received top honors from the IACP. The National Law Enforcement Challenge recognizes efforts in law enforcement, education, and public information, in determining the best overall traffic safety programs in the United States.

The IACP recognized the NSP for being the top State Police/Highway Patrol Agency in the category of 251-500 sworn personnel. The NSP received the second place award in 2006.



2008 Statewide Patrol Division Activities

Miles Patrolled 10,489,515

Hazardous moving violations-citations and warnings issued:
(speeding not included)

Violate traffic signal	1,984
Hit and run	35
Drive left of center	2,331
Passing violations	1,308
Following too close	3,879
Traffic control device	112
Improper turn	1,829
Failure to signal	8,972
Careless driving	716
Reckless driving	109
Willful reckless driving	64

Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) arrests were up 18.63% in 2008 (2,721) compared to 2007 (2,214).

Quick Statewide Fact...

Fatality crashes decreased 18.75% in 2008 (208) compared to 2007 (256).

*2008 detailed accident data from the Accident Records section of the Nebraska Department of Roads will not be available until September 2009.



Troop Area Highlights

Headquarters Troop

On January 23, Trooper Warnke discovered a U-Haul truck had driven through the perimeter fence of the Lincoln Airport. The driver was asleep and trapped inside the cab because of the fence. Warnke freed the young man, who had simply fallen asleep.

A snowstorm on February 5 kept Headquarters Troop personnel very busy. Several accidents, including two fatalities, were investigated. The Interstate was closed for about two hours near the Waverly interchange when a westbound semi drove through the median and struck an eastbound semi. Neither of the drivers sustained life-threatening injuries.

Headquarters Troop welcomed back Trooper Marcus Schmidt, who has returned from deployment by the United States military.

Early on March 11, Trooper Baumann responded to a single vehicle fatal traffic accident in Pawnee County involving four individuals. They were previously involved in an accident in Richardson County and their vehicle became disabled, so they stole a pickup. The driver lost control, the vehicle rolled, and ejected all four occupants, killing one. Alcohol was believed to be involved.

The Saunders County Sheriff's Office and Wahoo Police Department attempted to stop a subject on April 2 who fled and left his vehicle in Investigator Morrow's yard. Morrow quickly joined the hunt for the young man and searched his own house and property, but did not find him. The young man was later located in Wahoo.

On April 12, Trooper Bruggeman clocked a car at 130 miles per hour (mph) on Highway 6 east of Lincoln. The driver was cited for 130 mph in a 55 mph zone, and careless driving.

Trooper Frey contacted two young men near Beaver Crossing on May 22 and found an assault rifle and four 26-inch rims and tires in their vehicle. At approximately the same time, a Seward County Deputy located an abandoned stolen vehicle that was missing the rims and tires. The two young men were taken into custody for possession of stolen property.

On May 24, Trooper Frey arrested a young man for driving while intoxicated. During the traffic stop, his female passenger decided to drive away from the scene. The young lady drove approximately 15 feet before being stopped by Frey, who arrested both for driving while intoxicated. The young man tested .110 Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) and the woman .257 BAC.

Troop A

On January 8, investigators with the Commercial Interdiction Unit worked a case regarding an ecstasy dealer. The Troop A SWAT team was called to serve the search warrant on the suspect's residence. As the suspect and three other subjects left the house, they saw the SWAT team and fled on foot. The perimeter officers captured three of the four suspects. Captain Schwarten and Lieutenant Kracl caught one of the fleeing men after a foot pursuit. At the same time, Omaha Police were responding to a shots fired call near an elementary school just a few blocks away. The SWAT team secured the target house, loaded up and went to the school to secure it as Omaha Police were chasing the shooting suspect in the surrounding neighborhood. The suspect was located nearby, hiding in a garage.

On March 5, Trooper Steckelberg stopped to help a motorist on I-80, and found a man having a heart attack. He called for a rescue squad and assisted the man with his heart medication, and contacted his family members.

Trooper Steckelberg stopped a semi-tractor trailer on April 1 for speeding on I-80. After a consent search was conducted, troopers found a total of \$66,690.00 in currency.

On May 9, Sergeant Olsen received information about a toga party, possibly a Minor in Possession (MIP) party, and no liquor license at 49th and Q in Omaha. ISO and Traffic troopers raided that location and confiscated several kegs of beer.

On May 15, Troop A personnel assisted with the Special Olympics run from Fremont to Gretna and from Lincoln to Omaha.

Troop A personnel assisted the Omaha Police Department on May 28 with the evacuation of citizens when it was discovered that a railroad tanker car had leaked 125 gallons of hydrochloric acid.

NSP teamed up with the Omaha Police Department and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office to run concentrated selective enforcements in high crime areas around the Omaha Metro Area to help reduce the crime rate.

Troop A personnel started a public education program to increase seat belt usage among teens and adults, which is known as Friday Night Lights. Troopers set up the rollover demonstrator outside high school football stadiums and conducted rollover demonstrations as the crowd arrived for the games.

Motorists struck two patrol cars. One trooper suffered a herniated disc in his back when a young female driver who was talking on her cell phone struck his patrol car. In another incident, a vehicle that was being loaded onto a flatbed tow truck came unhooked and struck the front of a patrol car.

Troop B

On January 10-12, selective enforcement activities were held in Platte and Colfax counties. Approximately 20 troopers and investigators were patrolling these areas at any given time. There were also three K-9s working the area. The activities included roving selective enforcement activities, vehicle checks, and saturation patrols. There were 117 citations, 349 violations, and 206 warnings issued.

Trooper Hewitt and the Valentine Police Department developed an alcohol awareness program, which was presented to Valentine High School students. The impaired driving goggles and the rollover vehicle were the main demonstration points. The program was intended to lower alcohol usage among minors.

Troop B Honor Guard provided a rifle detail for three Law Enforcement Memorial Day ceremonies. State Senator Mike Flood and Colonel Tuma were speakers at the memorial in Norfolk. The Honor Guard also served at ceremonies in Valentine and Decatur.

In late May and the early June, Troop B troopers were involved with 24-hour coverage in Platte Center and Schuyler due to flooding caused by heavy rains. Troopers assisted with traffic control and security.

On June 10, Trooper Mohr tried to stop a Ford Explorer on Highway 15 for speeding and expired plates. The driver refused to stop, and Trooper Mohr initiated a pursuit traveling 30 miles across Wayne and Stanton counties. The Air Wing kept troopers advised as to the

whereabouts of the suspect. Troopers Mannel and Kudera assisted during the pursuit and arrest of a 36-year-old Stanton County man.

On May 10, Troopers Ramsey and Waddle investigated a stabbing near Norfolk. Two subjects who had been smoking marijuana were involved in the altercation. The victim was stabbed and then grabbed the knife, giving chase to the suspect. The suspect was forced into a vehicle and taken back to Norfolk where law enforcement was notified.

In 1938, Norfolk radio station WJAG-AM began broadcasting the "Patrol Roundtable", a monthly 15 minute radio show. Troopers talk about traffic safety laws and take calls from listeners. On Thursday, September 18, the NSP celebrated 70 years of providing traffic safety information to listeners in Northeast Nebraska. Colonel Bryan Tuma, Lieutenant Steve Terry, and Troopers Bill Price and Jon Goode took part in the anniversary celebration. The program continues to be heard every third Wednesday of the month on WJAG radio.

On August 23, Troopers Lammers and Peters took part in Community Safety Day in Norfolk by conducting three rollover demonstrations. The State Probation Office sponsored the event. They also conducted another rollover demonstration at the Norfolk Senior High School on September 26, as part of the school's homecoming activities.

There was a report of a possible gang fight at the Columbus/Schuyler football game in Schuyler Friday, September 19. Columbus troopers worked with the Schuyler Police Department, Columbus Police Department, faculty from both schools, and the Probation Department to discourage violence. Fourteen known gang members were turned away at the gates, one subject was arrested, and some new gang members were identified.

A High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Tri-State selective activity with South Sioux City troopers in Dakota County was held in conjunction with selective activities taking place with the South Dakota Highway Patrol and the Iowa State Patrol. It included enforcement with K-9 units, the Carrier Enforcement Division, and Air Wing personnel, and resulted in arrests for driving under suspension and reckless driving. During the activities, an injury accident occurred right in front of Troopers Elsea, Sutter, and Kloster.

Bright Horizons hosted an appreciation dinner for law enforcement. In attendance were troopers from O'Neill, Ainsworth, Neligh, and Norfolk, along with local police officers and sheriff's deputies. Trooper Glen Waddle, who is on the board of directors, was the guest speaker.

A live hand grenade was located behind a bank in Creighton. Trooper Detlefsen and Lincoln bomb technicians responded to the scene to assist local police with the incident. The grenade was secured and safely detonated.

Troop D

Trooper Edwin Martens recovered a stolen vehicle that resulted in the arrest of the three occupants.

Trooper Beth Bauer was involved in a pursuit with a drunk driver who was arrested for driving under the influence, flight to avoid arrest, reckless driving, and speeding.

An intoxicated male died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head while playing Russian roulette with several other people at a residence south of Holdrege.

Trooper Ryan Hayes arrested two subjects for possession with the intent to deliver after 100 pounds of marijuana was located in their vehicle. The driver was also cited for no operator's license and illegal entry.

Trooper Ryan Hayes located 83.8 pounds of marijuana in a vehicle and transported the male driver to jail for possession with the intent to deliver.

Sergeant Michael Gaudreault recovered a stolen vehicle that resulted in the arrest of the three occupants. Information was received that the three juveniles had been reported as missing.

Contact with more than 200 motorists during a selective activity in Dawson County resulted in the arrest of five subjects for driving under the influence, three for driving under suspension, and three arrests on warrants, as well as numerous other violations.

A missing single engine aircraft was located in southern Custer County. The pilot, who was the lone occupant, was killed.

Troop D received a Seat Belt Convincer to assist with educating the public on the importance of wearing seat belts.

Troop D received a certificate of appreciation from the North Platte Baptist Church for being one of North Platte's outstanding civil servants.

Troop E

Troop E troopers participated in several training activities. Active Shooter training was held at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff. This was a multi-agency event including a drill for the college. Weapons of Mass Destruction training was held at the regional airport. The NSP Command Post, Air Wing, and Hazardous Devices teams, along with Troop D and E SWAT teams, were used along with Nebraska and Wyoming National Guard units.

Trooper Elley presented a Facing the Dragon Meth Conference in Scottsbluff. This event was attended by troop area law enforcement agencies, school administrators and health agencies.

Former President Bill Clinton flew into Chadron for a speaking engagement at Pine Ridge. Chadron troopers worked with the Secret/Service and transported President Clinton to Whiteclay.

Troopers and investigators responded to a Scottsbluff motel following an officer involved shooting. A Scottsbluff County Deputy was shot serving a warrant. The suspect later shot and killed himself in the motel. Troop E ISO and troopers assisted with securing the area and investigating the shooting.

Troop E SWAT, Traffic, and ISO personnel were on hand in Whiteclay during an attempted blockade by local Indian activists and Nebraskans for Peace at the Nebraska/South Dakota border. The event lasted two hours and there were no incidents to report.

Troop E ISO investigators worked an officer involved shooting in Kimball, and assisted the Gering Police Department with the investigation in the death of a 2-year-old child.

Sidney troopers helped capture suspects involved in a strong-armed robbery.

Sergeant Monica Bartling investigated a major arson case at Lake Minatare that led to the arrest of the owner, a retired Denver Police officer, for arson. That caught the eye of the Denver news media with ensuing television reports.

Investigators assisted the Chadron Police Department with a homicide investigation. A subject attacked a roommate with a knife. The suspect fled to another house and attempted to stab the owner through a bathroom door. Troopers and officers took the suspect into custody.

Familiar Faces Fill Command Roles

By Colonel Bryan Tuma

As we say good-bye to the year that was 2008, we look ahead to the changes a new year brings. Over the past year, we experienced several key retirements, resulting in a number of new appointments and promotions.

Lieutenant Colonel Darrell Fisher retired after more than 32 years in law enforcement. We will miss Lieutenant Colonel Fisher's leadership and experience, but I am proud to say through succession planning we have put in place a system that has allowed us to fill such a key position without skipping a beat. Former Investigative Services Major Dave Sankey has been appointed as Lieutenant Colonel and brings with him a wealth of experience and a vision for helping to lead the agency into the future. I know Lt. Colonel Sankey will work to carry on the legacy of leadership and accountability that retired Lt. Colonel Fisher worked so very hard to promote.

The promotion of Major Sankey to Lieutenant Colonel opened up the position of Investigative Services Major. Through the interview process, Captain Mark Funkhouser was promoted to ISO Major. Mark has spent the past 11 years in the Investigative Services Division and has worked on several high profile cases for the agency. He brings valuable experience and a true understanding of the ISO Division to his new role as Major.

The 2008 fall retirement of Administrative Services Major Rhonda Lahm, resulted in a temporary placement of Troop E Commander, Captain Tom Parker. We asked a lot of Captain Parker, time away from family and hours of travel, not to mention all of the tasks he performed in his role of Administrative Services Major. In December, Troop A Commander, Captain Tom Schwarten was promoted to the position of Administrative Services Major. We are excited to have Tom at State Headquarters.

As Administrative Services Major, Tom has his plate full with a number of key technology projects and we are looking forward to what he will bring to the table.

Three new Captains also joined the ranks of the agency's command staff. Lieutenant Bret Friesz has been appointed Troop A Captain, filling the vacancy led by Major Schwarten's promotion, and Lt. Kevin Knorr has been promoted to Investigative Service Captain replacing Major Funkhouser. In addition, Lieutenant Kyle Otte of Minatare, Nebraska has been promoted to Captain of Troop E-Scottsbluff and assumed command March 31, 2009. Otte replaced retired Troop E Commander, Captain Tom Parker.

The ease at which these key positions were filled is a credit to the hard work of a number of individuals, and divisions within the agency. Through succession planning and the institution of an assessment center process the agency has positioned itself to identify leaders and place them in the positions in which they can help to guide the NSP into the future.

2008 Nebraska State Patrol Special Awards

There were 64 special awards presented to Nebraska State Patrol personnel and private citizens during 2008.

Superintendent's Commendation Award

Established to bestow upon employees for an exceptional act, service, or sustained excellence in performance of duties. Employees nominated should have distinguished themselves in the performance of their duty by exhibiting highly creditable or unusual actions or by furtherance of efficiency and/or performance reflecting credit to the law enforcement profession.

2008 recipients:

Investigator Nathan Jacobsen
Trooper William Price
Trooper Kevin Whetstine

Superintendent's Distinguished Service Award

This award recognizes personnel based on demonstrated excellence in work performance that may include actions in a particular event, or circumstance, that indicates a high degree of professional integrity, concern for the mission of the NSP, demonstrated diligence and perseverance, and/or accomplishment that reflects credit to an employee or group of employees and the NSP.

2008 recipients:

Rod Warner

The following were also recognized with Distinguished Services Awards upon their retirement in 2008:

Lieutenant Colonel Darrell Fisher
Major Rhonda Lahm
Sergeant Gerald Sieck
Investigator Theresa Blausey
Trooper Warren Nelson
Crime Lab Director John Dietrich

Communications Specialist
Bruce Armstrong
Communications Specialist
Marvin Louthan
Security Communications Specialist
Tim Austin

Superintendent's Group Citation Award

Presented to a group of employees for outstanding achievement which greatly exceeds the normal demands of the department and which was performed in a manner above and beyond professional duty. This award exemplifies our motto of "Pro Bono Publico".

2008 recipients:

Lieutenant Kevin Bridges
Sergeant Buck Duis
Sergeant Dan Klimek
Sergeant Craig Loveless
Investigator Alan Eberle (2)
Investigator Scott Haugaard
Investigator Scott Javins
Investigator Rich Lutter
Investigator Tony Sattlefield
Investigator Jason Scott
Trooper Andy Allen (2)
Trooper Keith Bell

Trooper Toby Czapl
Trooper Joseph Flasnick
Trooper Justin Grint
Trooper Noah McNeese
Trooper Lance Mooney
Trooper Cody Paro
Trooper David Pohl
Trooper Jason Prante (2)
Trooper Jeff Roby
Trooper Kerry Rogers
Trooper Seth Wimer

Life Saver Award

This award recognizes employees who initiate effort to preserve and protect life above and beyond their professional duty.

2008 recipients:

Trooper Andy Allen
Trooper Lindsey Bixby
Trooper Jeff Crymble
Trooper Kyle Gress
Trooper Wesley Peters
Trooper Brian Petersen
Sergeant Kevin Ryan
Trooper Todd Steckelberg
Trooper Jeremy Strack

Trooper Jeff Wallace
Security Communications Specialist
Karl Eisbach
Security Communications Specialist
Frank Holland
Security Communications Specialist
Tim McGuire
Senator Flood
Dr. Michels

Public Service Award

This award shall be used to recognize citizens who demonstrate significant accomplishment with regards to public service. There were four recipients in 2008.

2008 Managers of the Year

Captain Tom Parker

Electronics Section Supervisor Ron Lehms

2008 Employees of the Year

Trooper Doug Petty

Communications Specialist Pam Tierney

*In Memory of
Investigator Dan Plautz
1959-2008*



Dan Plautz joined the Nebraska State Patrol on April 4, 1983. Dan began his career as a Trooper in the Traffic Division in Lincoln. He transferred to the Liquor Enforcement Division on February 1, 1994, where he worked as an Investigator for more than thirteen years. He honorably served his entire 25-year career in Lincoln.

Dan passed away unexpectedly on October 29, 2008 from a heart attack while on a family vacation in Jamaica. He was 49 years old. He is survived by his wife, Lori, who works in the Information Technology Division of the State Patrol, and children Jared and Madison.