

# ANNUAL REPORT

# **NEBRASKA STATE PATROL**





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Pro Bono Publico - For the Good of the Public



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# LETTER FROM COLONEL JOHN BOLDUC

Dear Friends,

As public servants, the sworn and civilian personnel of the Nebraska State Patrol take great pride in serving our great state. Our 700+ team members bring outstanding and well-coordinated public safety service to all 93 counties in Nebraska. Many people think of a Trooper in uniform patrolling our roadways when we think of the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP). Of course, this agency is much more than that. Our civilian teammates serve in Dispatch, Forensic Crime Laboratory, Criminal identification Division, Administrative Services, and Information Technology. All these disciplines work together to bring experience, technology, and know how to solve some of the most challenging problems that face public safety today.

Recruiting sworn officers has proven to be a significant challenge across NSP is not immune from this challenge. Our Human Resources team, along with a cadre of Troopers and Investigators have worked hard to innovate and bring resources to bear on a difficult job market. Their hard work paid off by adding 16 new Troopers to the agency in 2022. These efforts will prove to be the necessary building blocks for future recruitment.

In August of 2022 one of Nebraska's most shocking crimes in recent memory occurred in the City of Laurel in northeastern Nebraska. Two people face trial in the quadruple murder of a family and a neighbor in this normally quiet town. Investigators and Troopers from across the state converged on the multiple crime scenes to secure and process evidence that eventually led to the arrests of the suspects. Personnel from every division contributed to the successful outcomes to date in this very challenging case.

NSP personnel continued to use innovation and technology to enhance the outstanding personnel that we have in every area of the

agency. From new software to improvements in drone technology, to enhancements to our commercial vehicle enforcement program, innovation is helping us serve Nebraska better. We are finding lost persons faster, weighing more trucks, removing dangerous vehicles from the roadways, and processing information faster than ever before. Due to the dedication of NSP teammates we are accomplishing this with fewer people. This is a testament to the quality of public servants that choose this profession to serve Nebraska. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Col. John A. Bolduc







**NE STATE PATROL** 



https://statepatrol.nebraska.gov/

https://www.facebook.com/NEStatePatrol/

## **NEBRASKA STATE PATROL**

Founded in 1937, the Nebraska State Patrol celebrated 85 years of service to the citizens of Nebraska throughout 2022. The agency is a statewide full-service law enforcement organization serving the needs of all 93 counties in Nebraska with 6 troop area offices positioned across the state which include the cities of Omaha, Lincoln, Norfolk, Grand Island, North Platte, and Scottsbluff. Additionally, there are satellite offices in many small towns within each of the troop areas.

The Nebraska State Patrol is comprised of several divisions led by 5 administrative offices: Office of the Superintendent, Administrative Services, Eastern Division, Central Division, and the Western Division. Colonel John Bolduc and Lieutenant Colonel Buck Duis directly supervise the 4 teammates who have oversight for the divisions listed above and consequently hold the rank of major. The Superintendent's Office oversees the Office of Professional Standards, the Human Resources Division, the Public Relations Director, and the Command Chaplain.

Administrative Services is under the direction of Major Russell Lewis. Those divisions assigned to Major Lewis include the following: Special Operations, Accounting, Information Technology, Criminal Identification, Supply/Engineering, Research & Planning, Purchasing, the Statewide Radio System, and Communications. One of the most important projects started in 2022 was the process to replace the message switch used to connect all law enforcement agencies in Nebraska with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Crime Information Center along with several other FBI criminal justice databases. Additionally, the State Patrol implemented phone redundancy in the Communications Centers located in Lincoln and North Platte. Finally, the agency purchased a new Bell 505 Helicopter to supplement the current Bell 407 Helicopter, began administrative paperwork to upgrade all sworn officers with new rifles, and continued to purchase a variety of vehicles for all divisions.

Major Jeff Wilcynski commands the Eastern Division, which consists of Troop A – Omaha, Troop B – Norfolk, and the Capitol Security Division. The Capitol Security Division is responsible for securing the Nebraska State Capitol Building and nine other government buildings home to 40 different state agencies. This division's biggest priority is keeping the 100,000 Capitol visitors safe, as well as state senators, their staff, and all the state employees who work in the Capitol daily.

The Central Division is under the direction of Major Jeff Pelowski and encompasses Troop H – Lincoln, Troop C – Grand Island and the Carrier Enforcement Division. Uniformed Troopers and Investigators from Troop H and Troop C continue their professional service by providing comprehensive law enforcement services to our citizens and allied partners. The Carrier Enforcement Division continues upgrading the technology used at their permanent scales in North Platte and Waverly which leads to improved highway safety for our motoring public.

Along with Troop D – North Platte and Troop E – Scottsbluff, the Western Division also has the responsibility of providing training to NSP personnel through the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy located in Grand Island. This division is under the leadership of Major Jeff Roby and contains the most square miles of land reaching from Kansas in the South, Colorado and Wyoming in the West, and South Dakota in the North. Uniformed troopers from Troops D and E continue to provide the western areas of the state with comprehensive professional law enforcement skills. These skills have led to successful criminal interdiction work that has recently been recognized by our federal partners. Large weather events in the rural areas have tested these skills over the past year and have created challenges leading to innovative ways to keep motorists safe across the panhandle. The western Nebraska State Patrol criminal and drug investigators continue to work with our partner agencies working a wide variety of crimes that are not unique to the larger metro areas. The training academy continues to offer two basic classes a year to make every effort to recruit and retain the quality expected by the citizens of Nebraska.



Major Russell Lewis
Administrative Services



Major Jeffrey Wilcynski
Eastern Division



Major Jeffrey Pelowski Central Division



Major Jeffrey Roby Western Division

BUCKLE UP. SLOW DOWN. PAY ATTENTION.



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COMPASSION—State Troopers work selflessly each day and carry a strong desire to help those in need demonstrating compassion and kindness.



Each year on Peace Officers Memorial Day, the Law Enforcement Memorial in Grand Island has a ceremony to honor those fallen officers from the State of Nebraska. Among the names inscribed on the memorial wall are the names of 12 Nebraska Safety Patrol/Nebraska State Patrol Troopers killed in the line of duty.



Following the tragic death of Elwood Fire Chief Darren Krull while responding to a wildfire, troopers helped lead the funeral procession.



Trooper Ahrendt stopped to assist the owners of a recreational vehicle who experienced a failure in the awning security mechanism. Trooper Ahrendt used his patrol vehicle as a ladder to help solve the issue and get the travelers back on the road safely.



While patrolling Interstate 80 and making a pass through a rest area near North Platte, Trooper Parish came upon these travelers providing their animals with a short break.



Special shout out to Trooper Rivas... i was on i80 traveling from McConaughy to Lincoln..blew a tire..thankfully my friend was a short distance behind me..but we were contemplating youtubing how to change a tire, and then our hero showed up and changed the tire for us and made sure we were good to go. Gold \* thank you again Trooper Rivas!!



Trooper Rivas stopped to assist a traveler who needed a little help changing a tire. A message after the fact is included in the photos above.



#### COMPASSION, Continued



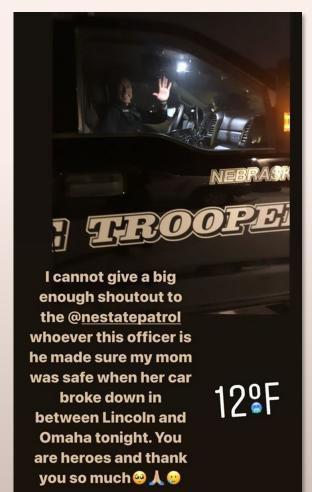




Trooper Hayes stopped to offer assistance changing a tire and, in the process, made a few friends. After the tire was successfully changed, Trooper Hayes happily delivered Trooper Teddy Bears to the kids!

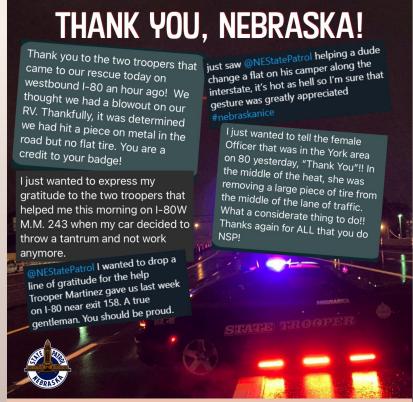


Trooper Wells stopped to help a small turtle cross the road safely and documented this new friendship through a 'selfie.'



Troopers from the Nebraska State Patrol work in all kinds of weather conditions performing a myriad of duties. Social media has become a way for the Nebraska State Patrol to interact with the public and to put various types of bulletins and information out to the public. In this Instagram post, Trooper Marcus Schmidt was thanked for assisting a female motorist who had the unfortunate circumstance of her vehicle breaking down during frigid temperatures.





Nebraska State Troopers perform thousands of motorist assist calls throughout the year. The photo above captures just a sample of the thoughtful messages we receive from those who have been helped.

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DILIGENCE—All Nebraska State Patrol teammates use their training and experience to serve the public by paying attention to detail in a constant effort to keep Nebraska safe.



Nebraska State Patrol Troopers work in all kinds of weather from the sweltering heat of summer to the chilly cold of winter. In this photo, Trooper Colindres patrols Interstate 80 during a snowstorm



From border to border, the Nebraska State Patrol Carrier Enforcement Metropolitan Aggressive and Prevention Selective Team (MAPS) works to make sure local commercial vehicles are safe to share roadways in communities across Nebraska.



Excessive speeding continues to be an issue across the State of Nebraska during 2022. Troopers wrote a total of 938 citations for speed at 100 miles per hour or more which is a 6% rise from 2021.



Nebraska State Troopers are trained to look at other aspects of a traffic stop for further criminal activity. One such example involves the transportation of illegal drugs and contraband across the State of Nebraska. In this photograph, 258 pounds of cocaine is displayed after a seizure during a traffic stop on Interstate 80 near Hershey.



The Nebraska State Patrol removed 962 impaired drivers from the road during 2022. Constant and consistent training along with the latest equipment and technology ensures troopers can perform their mission in the best manner possible. Arresting impaired drivers has no doubt saved many lives and Nebraska Troopers take a zero-tolerance approach to alcohol and drug-impaired drivers.





Nebraska State Patrol troopers perform hundreds of traffic stops daily and every single one is completely different. Troopers never know who they are stopping or what may be hiding in the vehicle. This photo represents great police work which removed illegally possessed firearms and drug contraband from the hands of a criminal traveling on Interstate 80.

#### DILIGENCE, Continued



Members of the Nebraska State Patrol Command Staff greet the new members of Camp #66 which began during the first week of July. After successful completion of the 22-week academy, troopers spend 6 months in a field training program before they begin solo patrol duties.



Continual training in order to serve the citizens of Nebraska is a never-ending process for all teammates in the Nebraska State Patrol. Holding the certificates showing completion of the training required to be a crisis negotiator are Trooper Scott, Sergeant Kildare, and Trooper Sauser. Pictured on the far left is Lieutenant Paul Hagen and to the far right is Sergeant Scott Rutten.



Trooper Mallery explains various functions of the State Patrol Bomb Squad during family day at the State Headquarters Building in Lincoln.



Always working to spread the safety message, Trooper Bell made plenty of friends at the Nebraska State High School Basketball tournaments.



Camp #66 takes the oath of office during a graduation ceremony at the Nebraska State Capitol on December 16, 2022. This camp added 16 new troopers to the ranks of the Nebraska State Patrol



The Nebraska State Patrol has many canine officers spread across the entire state. The dogs are cross trained in handler protection, drug detection, and tracking. The handlers recently received vests for their dogs from a charitable organization called Vested Interests. The vests are used to protect the animals from bullet and state wounds.

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TEAMWORK—A coordinated effort by all divisions in the Nebraska State Patrol allow for efficiency by working together in the interest of the public.



Captain Schmidt brought the North Platte Communications Center an unexpected visitor. Communications Supervisor Alisa Hoffman and Communications Specialist Trainer Ashley Green take a short break to hold the baby goat.



Investigator Tyler Kroenke (far right) appears with Attorney General Doug Peterson and representatives from the FBI, DEA, and U.S. Attorney's Office to announce the new "Life or Meth" campaign and the creation of the Nebraska Drug Forum.



Trooper Golden was recognized in front of the entire Maxwell High School for his life-saving efforts while off-duty when a school official suffered a heart attack during a basketball game. At a small ceremony several months ofter the incident, those involved were awarded the Nebraska State Patrol LifeSaver Award.



Trooper Grant Moody had the pleasure of reading to the students at Aurora Elementary! Allowing troopers in the field to get out into their local schools and communities is a high priority for the Nebraska State Patrol in order to promote safety messages as well as providing an opportunity for children to begin thinking about a career in public service.



Communications Centers for the Nebraska State Patrol are in North Platte and Lincoln. The teammates assigned to complete this job work closely with one another in order to ensure the safety of the public as well as the troopers in the field. Both centers are operated 24 hours a day as the goals and mission of the State Patrol never end. Pictured in this photo are personnel assigned to the center in Lincoln.



The Nebraska State Patrol Carrier Enforcement Division was honored by Truckers Against Trafficking for the incredible teamwork to raise awareness of human trafficking. It takes a substantial number of teammates to ensure projects such as this are a success. Just over 400 sworn members and nearly 275 civilian support staff members working in cooperation are the reason why the Nebraska State Patrol is held in such high regard among other state patrol organizations.

#### TEAMWORK, Continued



Colonel Bolduc helped encourage safe travel around Memorial Day weekend with the help of our partners at the lowa State Patrol, Kansas Highway Patrol, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Arkansas State Police, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



The Nebraska State Fair arrives in Nebraska at the end of August each year and although it only lasts for 10 or 11 days, planning takes place throughout the year. Part of the planning involves around the clock security for the buildings, vendors, and attendees. Pictured here are campmates from Camp 65 who reunited to work at the Nebraska State Fair in 2022.



Trooper Strack landed the Nebraska State Patrol Bell 407 Helicopter at the Training Academy in Grand Island for attendees of the Junior Law program to get a glimpse into one of the many divisions within the agency. Junior Law is supported by the American Legion and promotes interest in law enforcement careers by giving young men and women the chance to experience life at the academy for a one-week duration.









Members of the Nebraska State Patrol Honor Guard are spread across the entire state and carry on many duties from presenting the United States Flag and State of Nebraska Flag at sporting events to assisting with and attending funerals of past and present members of the agency. Pictured above are several members of the Troop B Honor Guard practicing their flag folding skills with allied agencies.



Husker Harvest Days takes place each September near Grand Island and benefits farmers and ranchers with industry insight along with the ability to make many professional connections. This massive event takes the cooperation of several law enforcement agencies with traffic control and security.



The Nebraska State Patrol has many different career paths and opportunities for all employees. Technical support functions are an area where sworn and civilian teammates can assist the agency in meeting its goals and objectives. Pictured here are members of the State Patrol SWAT practicing their rappelling skills from the Bell 407 Helicopter.



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# In Memoriam -



Trooper Loyal M. Zink Badge: #43 Appointed: 11-22-37 Deceased: 06-13-45



Sergeant John T. Meistrell Badge: #63 Appointed: 09-04-40 Deceased: 04-10-53



Trooper Vernon C. Rolfs Badge: #129 Appointed: 11-15-50 Deceased: 05-30-53



Trooper Marvin I. Hansen Badge: #98 Appointed: 10-15-47 Deceased: 04-08-54



Trooper Duane F. Nichols Badge: #133 Appointed: 11-15-50 Deceased: 07-24-57



Trooper Raymond M. Koerber Badge: #108 Appointed: 10-15-47 Deceased: 09-18-61



Trooper George W. Amos, Jr. Badge: #9 Appointed: 05-16-70 Deceased: 04-20-73



Trooper Michael D. Farber Badge: #427 Appointed: 11-03-78 Deceased 08-24-80



Trooper Robert J. Chab Badge: #221 Appointed: 10-01-63 Deceased: 01-06-84



Trooper Donald Matejka Badge: #192 Appointed: 10-01-59 Deceased: 12-27-89



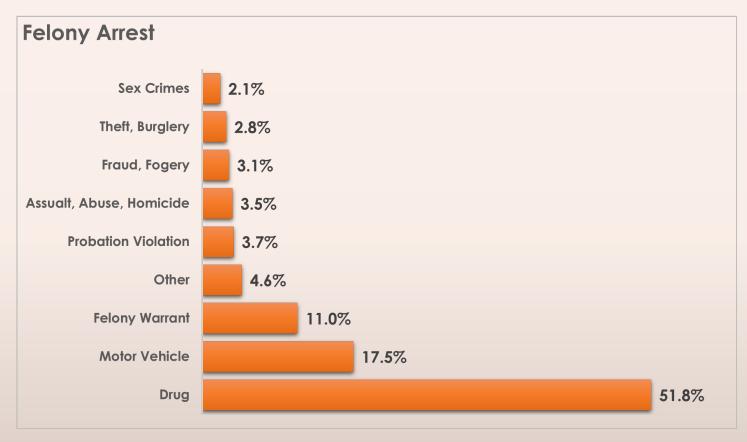
Trooper Mark P. Wagner Badge: #168 Appointed: 11-10-86 Deceased 03-04-99

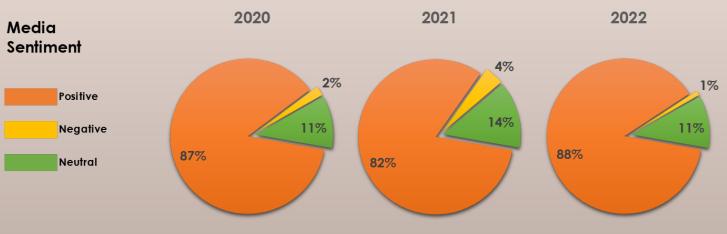


Trooper Jerry Smith Badge: #373 Appointed: 05-01-15 Deceased 06-20-19

# In Review

	2020	2021	2022
Traffic Stop Total	96,328 ↓	110,616 🛧	116,434↑
Calls for Service	172,008 ↓	190,767 ↑	191,575↑
Felony Arrest	1,136 ↑	1,438 ↑	1,367↓
Community Service Hours	13,160 ↓	13,770 ↑	17,330↑
Criminal Cases submitted to Crime Lab	5,614 ↓	5,754 ↑	5,136↓





# Current Command Staff

## Superintendent

• Colonel John Bolduc

# <u>Assistant Superintendent</u>

• Lieutenant Colonel Buck Duis

# <u>Administrative Services</u>

• Major Russell Lewis

# **Operations East**

Major Jeffrey Wilcynski

## Operations Central

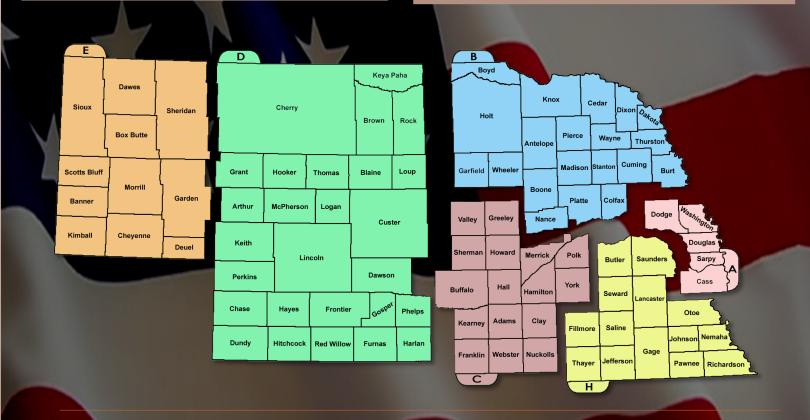
Major Jeffrey Pelowski

## Operations West

Major Jeffrey Roby

Troop Areas			
Omaha	1.402.331.3333	Α	
Norfolk	1.402.370.3456	В	
Grand Island	1.308.385.6000	С	
North Platte	1.308.535.8047	D	
Scottsbluff	1.308.632.1211	Е	
Lincoln	1.402.471.0112	HQ	
Lincoln	1.402.471.4545	SHQ	
Nebraska State Patrol Help Line			
1 000 505 5	5555	* [ [	

1-800-525-5555	*55
. 000 020 0000	00



### **VALUE STATEMENT**

The Nebraska State Patrol (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.



# **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Nebraska State Patrol shall provide law enforcement of the highest quality to ensure a safe and secure Nebraska – Pro Bono Publico.