

Informer

Volume 78

2023—First Quarter

NSP Informer Staff

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NSP K9s Receive Donation of Body Armor

Nebraska State Patrol K9's Jerry, Amos, Chase, Ezra, Fahn, Gable, Havik, Lee, Malloy, and Tilt have received bullet and stab protective vests thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.

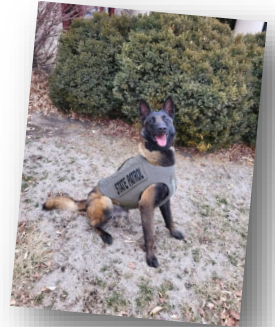
K9 Jerry's vest was sponsored by an Anonymous Donor and was embroidered with the sentiment "Honoring those who served and sacrificed". K9 Amos's vest was sponsored by



Bridget McGowan of Tehachapi, CA and has been embroidered with the sentiment "In honor of all working, retired and departed K9s". K9 Chase and K9 Lee's vests were sponsored by the Bomonti Family of Renton, WA and have been embroidered with the sentiment "In memory of Janice Bomonti". K9's Ezra, Fahn, Gable, Havik, Malloy and Tilt's vests were sponsored using general funds and have been embroidered with the sentiment "This gift of protection provided by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom

fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception,



The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$960 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1,744-\$2,283, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a five-year warranty.

Trooper Applications Increase 10%

Applications to join the Nebraska State Patrol as part of Camp 68 were open for two months during the first quarter of 2023.

With a great message of service and opportunity coupled with wage increases to advertise to new recruits, applications increased compared to the most recent application process.

NSP received over 220 applications during the two months the process was open. For Camp 67, NSP received under 200 applications during three months of applications being open last year.

While the application is just the first step in the hiring process, the increase in applications is thanks to the hard work by

many within our agency, especially our troopers and investigators who make direct contact with potential candidates. Keep making great connections and we look forward to another round of positive recruiting momentum when the next hiring process opens this summer.

Stay tuned for details!

Around the State

Troop A

Troop A Investigative Services got off to a fast start in 2023 led by the efforts of CIU. In the first quarter of '23, CIU has seized 16 lbs of cocaine, 136 lbs of marijuana, 25.5 lbs of meth, 3 firearms and nearly 14,000 fentanyl pills while arresting 24 people. In one particularly busy 5 day stretch of January, the group executed 16 search warrants resulting in the seizure of 1000 counterfeit fentanyl pills, 27 lbs of marijuana, 14 lbs of meth and an AR-15 rifle. The group also assisted DEA Chicago in locating a package containing 5000 fentanyl pills destined for the Chicago area. NSP Task Force Officers and DEA Special Agents have worked diligently, exploiting digital data to create case leads around the country and secure indictments in multiple jurisdictions.



Investigator Tyler Kroenke has been assigned to the newly created Overdose Task Force with DEA. The new group show-

cased its effectiveness the afternoon of January 26th. While conducting surveillance, task force personnel observed a suspect ingest something and appear to pass out inside a vehicle in a parking lot. Officers quickly secured the scene and made an arrest, ensuring not only the health of the suspect but the safety of the children in the back seat.

The Criminal Division has remained busy as well. 48 reports of possible prescription fraud have been received from pharmacies resulting in the issuance of 20 alerts across the state. Two of these alerts led directly to the arrest of multiple suspects, including two from Arizona at a Lincoln pharmacy. Great teamwork was utilized on these cases between Headquarters, Troop A and Troop B investigators and troopers.

In March, Trooper Arnold assisted the DMV Auto Fraud Unit. Utilizing the Berla technology, Trp. Arnold was able to identify a suspect who

stole a 2018 GMC Sierra Pickup out of Texas and sold the vehicle to a family in Omaha for \$38,000. This is the most recent of several cases Trp. Arnold has effectively utilized the Berla Technology.

The storks haven't flown all the way South for the winter as they were busy delivering new babies to the Macnab, Jaramillio, McGee, and Chick families. They won't get much of a break as the Gremm and McGuane families are soon to follow.

Troop A is excited to be training 6 new Troopers going through the FTO program. Troopers Elrod, Fitzgerald, Franks, Krein, Matthews, and McGlade are working hard and excited to move into the double shifting phase in April. Field Training this many new Troops has been a rewarding challenge and we would like to give a shout out to the many FTO's that have been giving tremendous effort into training, coaching, and mentoring this new group of Troopers.

Troop B

Troop B has had a busy first quarter!

In January, Sgt Mobley used an AED on a subject with medical issues in SSC (right on the edge of town) . The subject was unresponsive at time of use and thanks to Sgt Mobley's quick actions was transported to the hospital for additional treatment.

In February, a subject and victim were working at a remote location north of Hartington at

a jobsite. An argument occurred and the suspect pulled a handgun and shot the victim, who later succumbed to the wounds. Troop B ISO team handled the investigation and the suspect was arrested at the scene by Cedar County Sheriff's Office.

In March, Trooper Osuna and Kirkendall were contacted in reference to Dakota Sheriff's Office sighting of an individual with outstanding warrants through the US Marshals. The

individual was tracked to a residence where property owners gave all agencies consent to search the property. Two males were located hiding in the garage. One was the intended suspect and the second one was an additional male with outstanding warrants.

Troop C

We are excited to welcome Troopers Pena, Ortiz, Lawrence, Fluckey and Stindt to Troop C. They are going through the arduous FTO process and doing well. Kudos to the veteran troopers, adjusting their shifts, getting them into as many situations as possible for the best possible learning experience and teaching them everything they know.

Like many troop areas we are knocking out some annual training and getting ready for the upcoming warmer months.

In between, we've been busy with pursuits, arrests for drugs and alcohol, drone deployments and helping motorists during inclement weather.

Among the more noteworthy events in Troop C this quarter.

January 12: a traffic stop resulting in 50,000 Fentanyl

pills, two arrested
January 16: traffic stop / pursuit occupied an I I and a 13-year-old driver

January 29: assisted GIPD and Buffalo County to find stolen vehicle who had kidnapped

three kids, two minors arrested

February 26: IS assisted Hamilton County with a homicide in Marquette.

Lastly, congratulations to Captain Riedel's promotion to lead Troop C.



Troop D



Spring-like weather could not arrive early enough. Valentine experienced well over five feet of snow during the winter months. Reports have shown our Troopers helping area ranchers and there have been many rescues from the backroads with folks trying to get home.

Troop D Drug ISO has been busy securing arrest warrants with the CODE Task Force. The most recent roundup required coordination with surrounding states as some of the persons have moved around since the investigation

had begun. The impact of these warrants is great in our smaller communities as it disrupts and displaces criminal activity. Their work has increased and more intelligence is being gathered as word spreads of the arrests. Hats off to our Analyst Keri Rhoades who keeps combining sources for new intel.

Troop D has been working on its communication levels these past two years and is continuing this path into 2023. This year's project began with three questions to Sergeants and Troopers. They were asked what they believe

Command Staff should be doing, start doing, and stop doing. The same questions were taken further posed to each shift for their own discussion. The feedback was very high and Troop D has since begun to address some of its issues. A limitation observed in many responses was a lack of context. Each Sergeant was asked to comb through the comments and address those at the shift level. Those having a wider effect on the Troop Area were then discussed with a special supervisors meeting.

Troop E

Trp. Zach Sporer #290 started in Troop E in January. He is a previous NSP dispatcher that became a trooper.

Troop E personnel assisted Gering PD and other local law enforcement with a SWATTING call at the Gering Public School Highschool. While it was a SWATTING call and no real threat actually happened, it was great to see the response

to a school incident from local law enforcement and other first responders. We got to see what works and doesn't work and learn from it. Everyone worked together to make sure there was no threat and the response of first responders to the incident was quick.



Troop H

The Troop H Uniform Patrol Division proudly serves the 14 counties in Southeast Nebraska. Troop H began 2023 with some cold winter weather and remained very busy on the roadways. The Troopers remain committed to serving the citizens of Nebraska. During the 1st quarter of 2023, Troopers removed 89 motorists off the streets for DUI, along with 224 citations for drug and alcohol

violations. Additionally, they made 71 felony arrests for various law violations.

On February 5, 2023, Trooper Jamieson Brown #119 was contacted by the Otoe County Sheriff's Office to assist with a citizen who had fallen through the ice while fishing near Highway 50 and D Road. Trp. Brown arrived on scene, observed the victim in distress and struggling to stay afloat in

the icy water. Trp. Brown's quick action along with assistance from another citizen along with an Otoe County Deputy were able to successfully pull the victim to shore.

On February 8, 2023, Trooper Chase Landry #249 responded to a Quonset fire, with prior explosion and possible injuries in Saunders County. Trp. Landry immediately began evacuation of the nearby

homes, as he also attended to an injured female party that had sustained burns over 40% of her body. Trp. Landry and a Saunders County Deputy tended to the victim and kept her calm until emergency medical personnel arrived on scene. Their swift action saved the woman's life who was later transported to Lincoln for serious burn injuries.

Troop H welcomed 3 new Troopers to the family. Troopers Trysten Whitted #298, Steven Johnson #267 and Ethan Broker #237. All of them are currently in the Field Training program.

Troopers Mark White #447 and Mike Mallery #52 reached their 25 years of service with the agency and continue to work hard every day. Congratulations to Sergeant Mike Thorson #394 who was

promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in the Executive Protection Division and Sergeant Rob Pelster #404 was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant at the Supply / Vehicle Installation Division. In addition, Trooper Don Fritch #448 stationed in Fairbury will be retiring from the agency at the end of April. Troop H wishes Don and his family well with any upcoming new adventures!

During the 1st quarter of 2023, Investigators started 65 new investigations and provided 64 allied agency assists. Most notable, was the February investigation into the disappearance of Jamie Balluch, which tragically lead to the discovery of his body inside a grain bin in Bruning, NE.

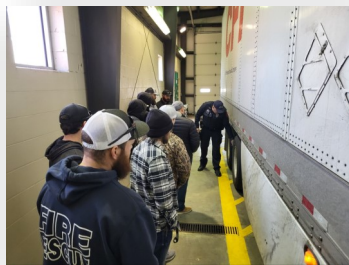
In March, the Criminal and Auto Fraud Units assisted the Lincoln Police Department with search warrants that led to the recovery of hundreds of thousands of dollars in stolen property in Saunders and Lancaster Counties. Two subjects were arrested and dozens of cases were cleared through this collaborative effort.

Sgt. Stacie Lundgren, Inv. Neal Trantham, Inv. Pedram Nabegh, and Inv. John Dimitroff were awarded a certificate of merit from the Lincoln Police Department for their help with a homicide investigation.



Carrier Enforcement

For 3 weeks in March, the Carrier Enforcement Division is testing a new technology from a company called Acusensus. This trailer-based system uses AI to watch for drivers who are actively using a cell phone and/or are not using seat belts as required. We are one of the first states in the nation to utilize the equipment and do CMV enforcement based on data gathered by camera and observed by officers on scene. If the test is successful, we plan to seek grant funding for a long-term contract with the company.



Trooper Veal #323 instructed CDL students how a CMV inspection would look roadside or at weigh stations.

Lt. Jon Beckstead, Lt. Jason Stahl, Lt. Kurt vonRentzell, Sgt. Eric Pfeifer and Trp. Hulse attended the Tri-State Safety Summit in South Sioux City on March 20 & 21. Three states combine forces for a powerful mission: A Safer Industry!

Trucking leaders gathered in South Sioux City for the 2022 Tri-State Safety Summit presented by Iowa Motor Truck Association, the

Nebraska Trucking Association and South Dakota Trucking Association. The event attracted safety managers, fleet owners, maintenance managers and other key leaders from all over the Midwest. Keynote and breakout speakers covered the safety culture, mental health, carrier enforcement, litigation strategies and more. Exhibitors brought the latest in trucking technology, services, and equipment.

Sgt. Pfeiffer participated on a question/answer panel with representatives from Iowa and South Dakota as well. Trp. Hulse manned the operational booth for the Nebraska State Patrol.



Featured Divisions: IT and Communications

Information Technology (IT)

This past year the NSP Information Technology Division completed several important projects. All the NSP applications, servers and workstations were migrated to the STN domain in partnership with OCIO. This resulted in fewer logins for various applications. The STN Migration project involved nearly every member of the IT Team. All teammates worked diligently so that this very large undertaking was a successful project.

The TraCS/MACH/Niche team has been busy with several forms and reporting improvements. As of March 2023, there are 145 Partner Agencies using TraCS for Crash Form and 97 of those are also using the e-Citations module. Twelve agencies transitioned to TraCS for eCitations after using the Crash Form. There are 8 agencies using the TraCS RMS module. This team will be busy supporting the NICHE team with a

new version this year, including adding the NIBRS+ elements.

The Fusion Center Development team completed the NITE (Nebraska Intelligence and Threat Exchange) application that replaced the NFIN/SAS Memex software in 2022. The developers and business analyst worked in concert with NIAC to create a successful product. In 2023, the Fusion Center team is developing of a set of streamlined, simplified forms designed specifically for the sworn to enter new data and view existing data. The simplified forms will show the fields that are most relevant to sworn and are designed so that all the relevant fields are visible on one screen without scrolling.

In November 2022, NSP posted our Request for Proposals for a new Message Switch. This will be a large project with the new Message Switch utilizing cloud-based

technology. We anticipate to have a vendor identified and starting the project in July 2023.

Over the last year, the IT Division had some personnel changes due to retirements. We also hired some amazing people to join our team! In 2022 and so far in 2023, we have hired Javier Betancourt, Sean Dryden, Tiffany Hall, Brenda Vicich, and Scott Webster. Please welcome these new teammates.

Communications

The Communications Division Site Managers Janet Van Lengen and Becky Bliven are finishing up a very lengthy and complicated process of bring redundancy to the VOIP phones in our centers.

This project represents 3 ½ years of work so that our customers can get calls answered without interruption in the event that the network goes down. So far the everything is

working as it should. Great job in finding a viable solution to a problem and for the successful implementation!



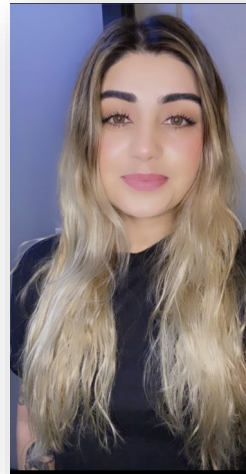
Intern Spotlight

The NSP welcomed two new interns to the team during the first quarter of 2023. Interns get the opportunity to visit and learn several different Divisions throughout their time with the agency. They get a close-up look at what it means to be a Trooper patrolling the roadways, a pilot with our Aviation Support Division, a Forensic Scientist with our Crime Lab, or even a Trooper assigned to the Executive Protection Division.

One of our new interns is Ryan Hillard. Ryan will be completing his internship in Troop B. He is

majoring in Criminal Justice at Wayne State College and will graduate in 2024. He is looking forward to learning more about the Nebraska State Patrol and all the opportunities it does for the State of Nebraska.

Our other new intern is Ghariba Kari. She will be doing her internship in Troop A. She is currently majoring in Criminology and Aviation at the University of Nebraska–Omaha. She has a passion for public safety and desire to help create safer communities.



Camp 67

Fifteen recruits began the journey to becoming a Nebraska State Patrol Trooper in January at the NSP Training Academy. Fourteen of these recruits remain at the TA and are more than halfway through the program.

The recruits have spent their time learning the culture of the NSP, gaining academic knowledge and skills, and starting to train on the work that will be required of them once

they graduate and hit the road on patrol.

Some examples of the training that the recruits go through are Accident Investigations, Building Search/Active Killer, Patrolling, and many more other training courses as their training goes on. move toward Camp 67 is scheduled to graduate on June 16, 2023.

Keep working hard, 67!



Cordico App Released

We're excited to offer a new wellness tool for you and your families. The NSP Wellness app is now available for download and has numerous features focused on officer and family wellness. Your wellbeing matters and we're excited to have this new option. [Here are some more details from Colonel Bolduc.](#)

You can download the app on either your personal or state

phone. NSP Teammates and their family members can download it. Important: The entire agency shares the same password, so please don't change it. Login and password information is included in the attachment.

The app is anonymous and the app developer, Cordico, does not collect data or track any movement within the app. They have designed numerous apps

for first responder agencies across the country and have prioritized privacy as part of that process. If you have any questions or recommendations, there is a confidential feedback section on the app, or you can also reach out directly to Dr. Deb Hoffman.



New Hires

January 2023

- Annette Newton, Records Analysis/Criminal History Supervisor, CID-Lincoln
- Wyatt Anderson, Officer Candidate, TA
- Kak Ayaj, Officer Candidate, TA
- Iris Bishop, Officer Candidate, TA
- Victoria Brady, Officer Candidate, TA
- Margarita Clouse, Officer Candidate, TA
- Noah Coleman, Officer Candidate, TA
- Brett Evans, Officer Candidate, TA
- Dylan Frerichs, Officer Candidate, TA
- Dylan Grassmyer, Officer Candidate, TA
- Gage Hyberger, Officer Candidate, TA
- Ashley Jackson, Officer Candidate, TA
- Hunter Lassen, Officer Candidate, TA
- Gabriella Ochoa, Officer Candidate, TA
- Seth Reighard, Officer Candidate, TA
- Jared Sutphin, Officer Candidate, TA
- Mike Ford, Office Tech-Backgrounds, CID-Lincoln

- Sarah Kroll, Officer Specialist– Customer Service, Lincoln

February 2023

- Scott Webster, IT Help Desk/Coord/SR– IT, Lincoln
- Javier Betancourt, IT Applications Dev/SR-PCH, Lincoln

March 2023

- Lorraine Walton, Records Analysis Supervisor, CID-Lincoln
- Taylor Dukes, Communications Specialist– Lincoln
- Edward Kelley, Office Specialist-DSV, Lincoln
- Tom Schlegel, Accountant I, Lincoln

Transfers

January 2023

- Greg Miller, Captain-TA, Grand Island to Captain–Trp. Commander, Omaha
- Michael Grummert, Lt.–Patrol, Omaha to Lt.-Patrol, Lincoln
- Nancy Kozisek, Research Manager-CID to Program Manager (QAIP) CID

- Cory Comstock, Forensic Tech-Crime Lab to Crime Analyst/Counter Threat

February 2023

- Marcus Warnke, Trooper – CE Wavery to Inv.-CE Compliance Review, Lincoln
- Christine TenHulzen, Office Specialist-CID Front Desk to Office
- Christopher Moore, Trp.–Patrol, Omaha to Trp.-Aviation, Lincoln
- Ryan Edmondson, Trp.-Patrol, NE City to Trp.-Patrol, Omaha
- Brian Farmer, Trp.-Patrol. Omaha to Trp.-Patrol, Fremont



Promotions

January 2023

- Heidi Klar, Office Specialist– DSV to Administrative Tech– CID
- Derek Lohner, Crime Analyst– Counter Threat to Cyber Threat Analyst– NIAC

February 2023

- Michael Thorson, Sgt-Patrol, Beatrice to Lt– Executive Protection

March 2023

- Jeremy Thorson, Sgt.-Patrol, Omaha to Lt.-Patrol, Omaha
- Andrew Ecklund, Lt.– TA, Grand Island to Captain-TA, Grand Island
- Dean Riedel, Lt. Patrol– Grand Island to Captain– Trp. Commander– Grand Island



Separations

January 2023

- Krystal Hoang, Accountant I, Lincoln

February 2023

- Coleen Jacobsen, Admin Tech-Criminal History, CID-Lincoln
- Ashleigh Broughton, Admin Tech-Concealed Handgun, CID-Lincoln
- NiCole Blue, Paralegal I, Lincoln

- Courtney Larson, Office Specialist, Patrol Division, Troop E
- Alexis McQueen, Office Technician, NCHIP, CID-Lincoln
- Antonina Anderson-Trumble, Crime Analyst-HIDTA, INTELL-Lincoln
- Elizabeth Mayfield, Office Specialist-Patrol Division, Troop A

March 2023

- Lee Wunderlich, Electronic Tech/SR, Lincoln
- Jared Sutphin, Officer Candidate, TA
- Seth Howard, Trooper-Patrol Division, Lincoln
- Karen Carr, Security Guard, Lincoln
- Jeff Avey, CID Director, Lincoln
- Ellis Collins, Research Manager– NIAC, Lincoln

Retirements

January 2023

- Nancy Colwell, Office Tech-Backgrounds Team, CID-Lincoln
- Scott Olson, Trooper-Carrier Enforcement, Lincoln
- Kevin Chase, Trooper– Patrol Division, Troop A

February 2023

- Joey Fynbu, Inv- CE Compliance Review, Lincoln
- Jason Dean, Lt– Research and Planning, Lincoln

March 2023

- Karen Magnuson, Office Specialist, Patrol Division, Troop A

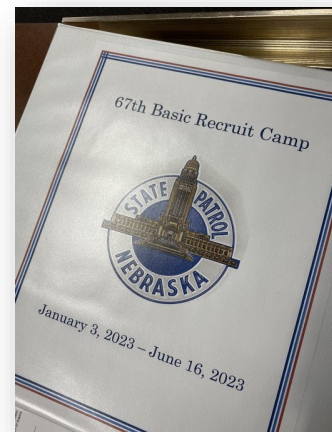
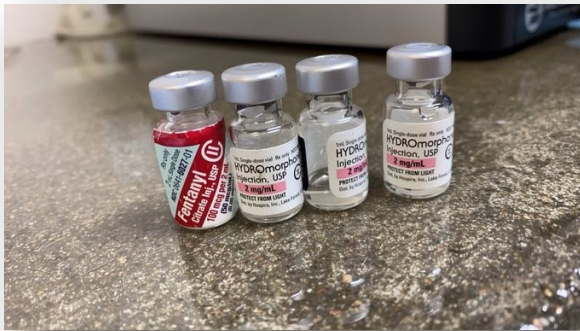
- Lynnee Thiemann, HR Specialist/ Gen.-Payroll, Lincoln



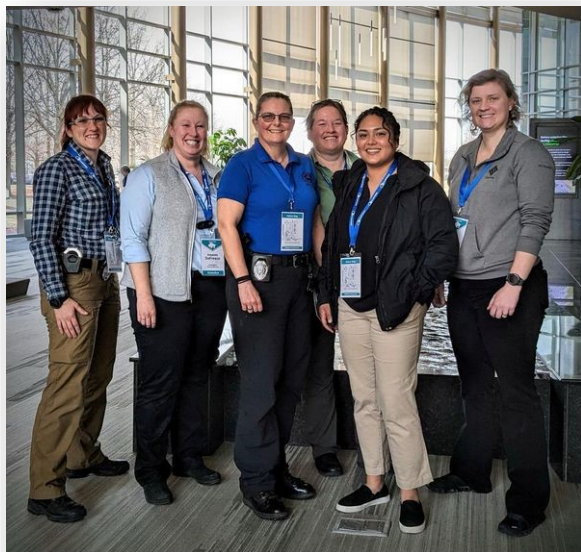


All images were taken by various NSP personnel and friends around the State during the first quarter of 2023!









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PATROL

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



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

Loyal M. Zink (#43)

John T. Meistrell (#67)

Vernon C. Rolfs (#129)

Marvin L. Hansen (#98)

Duane F. Nichols (#133)

Raymond M. Koerber (#108)

George W. Amos Jr. (#9)

Michael D. Farber (#427)

Robert J. Chab (#221)

Donald Matejka (#192)

Mark P. Wagner (#168)

Jerry L. Smith (#373)



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