

Informer

Volume 84

2024—Third Quarter

NSP Informer Staff

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Inside this issue:

Special Operations	2-5
Criminal Identification	6
VIB	7
NSP Hosts Retirees Retreat	8
Trp. Donner and Tilt Given K9 SWAT Deployment Award	9
Personnel Actions	10-11
Photos Around NSP	12-15
Honor the Fallen	16

Summer Across the State

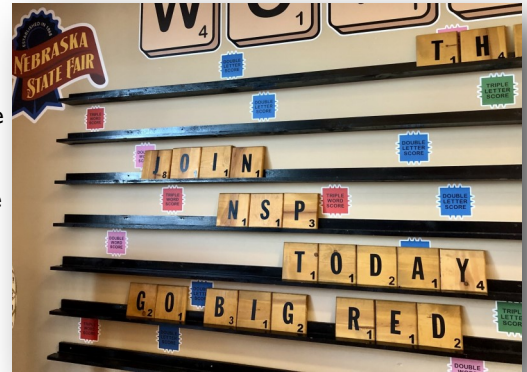
For many Nebraskans, summer is the season for fun, family, and traveling. Events like the Nebraska State Fair, Oregon Trail Days, Husker Harvest Days, local county fairs, and the start of Husker Football makes this quarter one of the busiest for our troopers. With so much going on, the Nebraska State Patrol remained focused on protecting the public.

This quarter, troopers provided security at major events across the state, including the Nebraska State Fair, Husker Harvest Days, Oregon Trail Days, and the Husker games. These events showcase the best of Nebraska, from celebrating our state's agricultural achievements to hosting fun-filled activities that provide an exciting time for all. While security was top of mind, troopers enjoyed meeting fellow Nebraskans and out-of-state attendees at the booths.

Although the patrol didn't have a booth at the Oregon Trail Days, there were booths at the Nebraska State Fair, Husker Harvest Days, and the first few Husker games!

These booths combined education with fun, featuring activities like the "Become a Trooper" basketball hoop, take-home trooper hats for kids, and demonstrations from Nebraska State Troopers!

Beyond these major events, troopers actively participated in other community-focused events across the state, including the Holmes Elementary STEM Camp, Gretna Days, National Night Out, multiple county fairs, and more! These events provided excellent opportunities for troopers to interact with the public, offering demonstrations



from different divisions, crash simulations, and career advice for prospective troopers. While summer has officially come to a close, the work of a trooper is never truly finished. Nebraska remains bustling with energy, especially as the Husker Football season continues. The Nebraska State Patrol remains steadfast in its commitment to serving the state, whether on the roads, in schools, or at community events.

As summer drew people to travel across the state, the Nebraska State Patrol continued to focus on pub-



Special Operations

Aviation Support Unit (ASU)

The Aviation Support Unit continues to remain busy. From conducting much needed surveillance, pursuits, tactical flight officer trainings, gameday traffic flights, and connecting with the community, the ASU plays a critical role in ensuring the safety of Nebraskans.

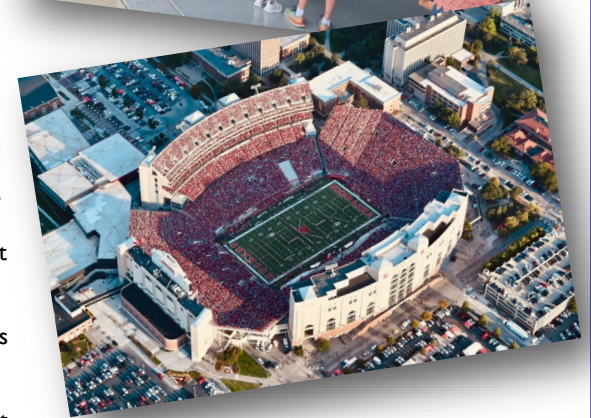
This quarter multiple Special Operations units came together to assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in locating a wanted Fugitive Murder for Hire Suspect. The suspect was found to be traveling in a semi-truck trailer (permitted load) in North Dakota and thought to be traveling south towards Nebraska. The Nebraska Permit showed the exact routes that the suspect would be traveling through.

The Aviation Support Unit conducted surveillance and found the semi traveling south through the state. This surveillance allowed the vehicle to be contacted at a controlled location and the suspect was arrested without issue by the FBI Special Weapons and Tactics team. This proved to be good teamwork with our allied agencies along with other State Patrol units and divisions such as the Police Service Dogs Unit, Investigative Services, Patrol, and Carrier

Enforcement Divisions.

The ASU has also assisted in numerous pursuits throughout the quarter. This has allowed the patrol to continue to have a visual on suspects who flee from law enforcement, ensuring a swift apprehension.

In addition to these flight missions, the ASU was able to host the Cub Scouts Pack 20. Engaging with youth is a rewarding opportunity for our Troopers. It creates a lasting connection and hopefully inspires the next generation to join the patrol!



Emergency Preparedness Coordination

The Nebraska State Patrol's Emergency Preparedness Coordination comes in many forms. This quarter the patrol received an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request for Troopers to assist in providing security for the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

So, what exactly does this request mean? The EMAC is a nationwide system dedicated to sharing resources across all 50 states. When a state is in need of extra assistance during major events or emergencies, they are able to submit a request for additional personnel resources. Due to the size of the event, Wisconsin requested additional personnel to ensure the safety of all those in attendance.

The Nebraska State Patrol responded to the request and de-

ployed 12 Troopers to Milwaukee for the event, from July 13th to 19th. The Troopers received great reports from the Milwaukee Police Department's command staff and the Secret Service on their hard work and professionalism. The Secret Service did seek out our Troopers due to work ethic/professionalism during this assignment.

The Nebraska State Patrol remains committed to providing emergency assistance to fellow states when needed.



Hazardous Device Technician (HDT)

This quarter the Hazardous Device Technicians (HDT) unit kept busy with multiple calls.

Last month, in Jefferson County, a potentially hazardous device was found by a local trash company in one of their dumpsters. Thankfully, the device was determined to be a hoax. However it was good for our allied agency and the trash company to take the potential threat seriously by contacting the Nebraska State Patrol's HDT team for assistance.

Great work by our HDT team in working with our allied agencies!



Special Operations

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Basic took place this quarter at Hasting Greenlief NNG training site, September 23rd to October 4th, with a total of 11 Troopers completing the two-week program.

This training allowed those who have an interest in becoming a SWAT team member to attend. While in attendance, the trainees were able to not only work on their individual skills, but practice working with a small team.

Team skills were tested during the final week of training in a 20-hour training evaluation with a 7-mile team challenge at night. The challenge required the trainees to perform various tasks that simulate a real life emergent scenario. Trainees needed to accomplish building clearing, raid planning, manhunt formations, team lifts, a military obstacle course, a rope climb, and much more while dressed in full SWAT gear. The evaluations are not made to be simple or easy. They are designed after possible scenarios that the SWAT

team may need to be prepared for.

Many SWAT team members put in long days of teachings and prepping, so those attending could be challenged. Thank you to Troop Area Leadership in supporting the Troopers

who attended and/or taught at this year's SWAT basic training!



Police Service Dogs (PSD)

This quarter was filled with hard work and accolades for the Nebraska State Patrol's Police Service Dogs. Last month was National Dog Day and to celebrate the PSD team put together a video that highlighted the training the dogs undergo as well as some fun moments throughout the year.

Trooper Donner and K9 Tilt were honored by the National Tactical Officers Association at the NTOA convention in Kansas City last month for their work with the NSP SWAT Team. They were specifically honored for a deployment during a barricaded subject call which posed significant officer safety risks. Way to go, Trooper Donner and K9 Tilt, for your continued hard work. While Trooper Donner and K9 Tilt have been earning well-deserved recognition, their fellow troopers and K9 partners have also been hard at work.

Trooper Potthoff and his K9, Amos, recently assisted in a significant narcotics bust. While responding to a traffic stop

initiated by Trooper Sutton near mile marker 328 on I-80 Eastbound, K9 Amos alerted to the presence of narcotics. A subsequent search of the vehicle uncovered 13 pounds of marijuana.

From awards to critical operations, the Nebraska State Patrol's Police Service Dogs continue to demonstrate their vital role in keeping communities safe.



Featured Divisions: Criminal Identification Division and Vehicle Installation Building

Criminal Identification Division (CID)

The Criminal Identification Division (CID) is comprised of 65 employees across 11 teams.

As we enter the last quarter of 2024 and the upcoming 2025 Legislative session, the Criminal Identification Division (CID) will be working with NSP Professional Standards to both submit legislative proposals that enhance public safety, as well as monitor new legislation that will impact the division. Each year the number of categories CID is required to perform background checks for increases due to Legislative mandates. We expect this to be true for 2025. As a result, we are proactively planning for the additional workload.

CID recently completed an audit conducted by the Legislative Performance Audit Committee. This audit was to evaluate the process at DHHS and NSP for background checks of daycare providers and staff. The final audit report was re-

leased in September and is available to the public. We appreciated the opportunity to be involved in the audit and assist in improving services directed towards the daycare providers throughout the state.

Grant funding for projects both inside and outside of CID have increased each year. CID currently manages a total of 3 grants, with the most recent award amounts exceeding \$4.7 million dollars. These grant funds drive many projects and staffing for several CID teams, including: Centralized Protection Order Office (CPO), Concealed Handgun Permits (CHP), Sex Offender Registry (SOR), Administrative Office of the Courts/JUSTICE Program (AOC), National Instant Criminal Background System (NICS), National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP), Quality Assurance Information Program (QAIP) and Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).

One of the many projects that CID is working on is a \$11.35M major upgrade of the state AFIS system, which is nearing end-of-life. With grant funding assistance through the NCHIP grant, this project will provide best-in-class accuracy, lights out matching for both tenprint and latent, multi-incident matching, move to a secure government cloud environment with Evergreen support, AFIS workstation upgrades every five years, and more. This project is expected to begin in early 2025.



Vehicle Installation Building (VIB)

The staff at the NSP Supply and Engineering have seen several recent changes. After 43 years of dedicated service, Steve Krueger walked out the door of the VIB as an employee for the Nebraska State Patrol for the final time on August 2nd 2024. Steve's retirement was a big one for NSP as he will be missed. When Steve started building cars for NSP the technicians had a shop in the basement of NSP State Headquarters. Steve was instrumental to the agency during many changes over the years. Steve retired as an Electronic Technician Leader at the VIB. This was a position Steve had held since July 2003. Prior to that, Steve was the Facility Maintenance Specialist. He started his career in 1981 as an Auto Mechanic II. Steve's Electronic Technician Leader position was recently filled by Kari Hernandez. Kari was promoted to this position from an Electronics Technician Senior position. Congratulations Kari!

The VIB is currently (2) positions short, and an additional FTE was removed from our previous authorized strength. We have put a lot of work into sourcing and social media with the hope of having a successful hiring process to fill these positions. NSP will be taking applications for the position of Electronic Technician Senior starting October 1st. Our team is ready to welcome a few new teammates to come on board.

Currently, the agency has 13 Troopers out of camp working in the field in the FTO program. We were able to get units issued to all 13 Troopers. Some were issued units as early as 2 months prior to working the road on their own. This

allowed the Troops on FTO to work out of their own units while in training. To make this happen, it took a lot of great communication with the command staff in each troop area. It is pretty rewarding for the VIB team to see new Troopers come in and get issued their first patrol car.

A recent renovation project is nearing completion at the VIB facility. Pallet racking has been installed in two locations within the building. The idea is to get everything off the ground to create more space to park completed units and to create more space to work. With this we were able to organize supplies to increase efficiency for the technicians when building units. A new vehicle lift is on the horizon.

The VIB team traveled the state and reprogrammed nearly 420 radios. This project took approximately one month. The Troopers have several new radars in the field. The team has replaced 80 radars that were not longer serviceable. Jeff Kubitz and Pat Olsen have been busy as always. Jeff was previously tasked with managing unit damage claims which is very time consuming. Pat is on top of the supply inventory so the Troopers can stop in an get what they need without delay.



It is that time of year to order more units for future builds. NSP will know what is available shortly. You may see a few Chevy Tahoe's in the future for the patrol division. The Dodge Durango and the Ford Explorer ECOBOOST will likely be on the list as well. Dodge is also coming back with the Dodge Charger in the spring of 2025. Customer Service for our Troopers remains a top priority to our team. There are great things coming in the future.

Featured Stories: NSP Hosts Retirees Retreat
Trp. Donner & Tilt Given K9 SWAT Deployment Award

NSP Host First Retiree Retreat

In August, the Nebraska State Patrol had the honor of hosting over 100 retirees and their spouses at the first-ever Retiree Retreat for NSP sworn officers. This event, made possible thanks to the State Troopers Association of Nebraska (STAN), provided an opportunity for retired troopers to reunite with former colleagues and see how the patrol has changed throughout the years,

both informative and memorable for all.

Attendees saw a range of presentations, a tour of headquarters, and equipment displays. A highlight for many was seeing the aircraft, drones, and patrol cars while meeting with current troopers, investigators, and professional staff. The event brought together over 2,000 years of combined NSP experience, making it truly special.

Thank you to STAN President James Estwick, retiree representative Scott Black, and the entire STAN Board for organizing this event. Special recognition is in order for Trina Chervovsky and Tami Ringland from HR, who went above and beyond to ensure the event was



Trp. Donner and Tilt Given K9 SWAT

Congratulations are in order for Trooper Donner and K9 Tilt for having received a national honor for their work with the Nebraska State Patrol SWAT Team.

Trooper Austin Donner and K9 Tilt were awarded the K9 SWAT Deployment Award by the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) at the organization's annual conference on Monday, September 9th, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Founded in 1983, NTOA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting law enforcement personnel. Its mission is to improve public safety through providing training and educational resources to law enforcement professionals around the country.

"Our Police Service Dog handlers and K9s provide tremendous value for our SWAT Team," said Captain Dain Hicks, Commander of NSP Special Operations. "The skill these teams demonstrate on a regular basis is outstanding, no matter the situation. Trooper Donner and Tilt are well deserving of this recognition."

Trooper Donner has been a K9 handler for six years and has been a member of the NSP SWAT Team for seven years. Tilt has been assigned to Trooper Donner for three years. Tilt is a 4-year-old Belgian Malinois, named in honor of decorated U.S. Army Special Forces MACV-SOG veteran John Stryker "Tilt" Meyer.

This award not only represents their skill, but also the relentless dedication that they display in the field. Whether it's an everyday patrol or a high-stakes situation, Trooper Donner and K9 Tilt remain ready to consistently protect and serve the state of Nebraska.



New Hires

July 2024

- Chelsea McAlevy, Office Specialist-Patrol Division, Grand Island
- Amanda Pflueger, Attorney III, Lincoln
- Jissell Cruz, Forensic Technician—AFIS, Lincoln
- Holly Riley, Office Specialist—CE, Lincoln
- Justin Beaird, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Kelsee Colgrove, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Daniela Cuevas, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Jamie Garrison, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Tyson Guzman, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Ryan Hilliard, Officer Can-

didate, Grand Island

- Zachariah Johnson, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Jordan Orduno, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Isaac Scharff, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Matthew Walker, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Jared Weber, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Logan Buhr Forensic Technician-Crime Lab, Lincoln

Specialist-CID Front Desk, Lincoln

- Calleigh Tatum, Security Guard, Lincoln
- Carson Mathison, Accountant I, Lincoln
- Saylor Von Seggern, Admin Tech-Criminal History Specialist, Lincoln
- Domenic DosSantos, Communications Specialist, Lincoln
- Ritchie Morales, Federal Aid Administrator III-Grants, Lincoln

August 2024

- Kelly Baumbach, Office Specialist—Patrol Division, Omaha
- Ricky Cleary, Security Guard, Lincoln
- Mollee Gribble, Office

September 2024

- Christopher Vong, IT Business Systems Analyst-Crime Lab, Lincoln
- Jonathan Tidyman, Security Guard, Lincoln

Transfers

July 2024

- Ryan Stirn, Criminal Investigator to Patrol Trooper, Hastings
- Jacob Oshlo, Forensic Lab Supervisor to Forensic Scientist III, Lincoln

August 2024

- Neal Trantham, Trooper to Investigator—Tech Crimes, Lincoln
- Brandon Wilkie, PSD Sergeant to CE Sergeant, Lincoln to Waverly
- Brenda Vicich, IT BS Analyst Coordinator to Cyber Threat Analyst –Intel, Lincoln

- Isaac Banks, Trooper-Patrol Division, Neligh to Hartington
- Levi Cockle, Trooper-PSD to Patrol Division, Columbus
- Joshua Beckwith, Trooper-CE Division, Omaha to Lincoln
- Dakota Wilson, Trooper-CE Division, Nebraska City to Blair

September 2024

Separations

July 2024

- Emily Redmond, Communications Specialist, Lincoln
- Sabastian Peek, Security Guard, Lincoln
- Kendall Reed, PSD Trooper, Aurora
- Desiree Wordlaw, Admin Program Officer—QAIP, Lincoln
- Justin Beaird, Officer Candidate, Grand Island
- Lillyana Yebra, Accountant I, Lincoln
- Paul Payne, Attorney III, Lincoln

August 2024

- Brittne Westerman, Rec-

ords Analysis Supervisor-Permits, Lincoln

- Austin Sandusky, Forensic II-Biology, Lincoln
- Amy Quarles, Communications Specialist, North Platte
- Jacob Oshlo, Forensic Scientist I-Chemistry section, Lincoln
- Josephine Svoboda, Forensic Scientist I-Chemistry section, Lincoln

September 2024

- Holly Riley, Office Specialist-CE, Lincoln
- Cheri Ivers, Crime Analyst-HIDTA, Lincoln
- Emma Armstrong, Office

Specialist—CID Front Desk, Lincoln

- Ruth Mecham, Communications Specialist, North Platte
- Daniela Cuevas, Officer Candidate-Camp 70, Grand Island
- Mark Watson, Process Improvement Manager, Lincoln
- Noah Larson, Electronic Technician/Sr, Lincoln
- Calleigh Tatum, Security Guard, Lincoln.

Retirements

July 2024

- Pamela Zilly, Crime Lab Director, Lincoln

August 2024

- Gary Bergmeier, Inv.—CE New Entrant Auditor, Hebron
- Steve Krueger, Electronics

Tech Leader, Lincoln

- Bradley Hand, Trooper-Patrol Division, Valentine
- Larry Gibbons, Admin Programs Officer I-CLEIN, Holdrege

September 2024

- Ben Swanson, Program

Analyst-Research & Planning, Lincoln

Promotions

July 2024

- Spencer Effle, Forensic Scientist II to Forensic Lab Supervisor—Drub, Lincoln

August 2024

- Jeffery Bracht, Forensic Lab Supervisor to Forensic Lab Manager-Biology, Lincoln

- Jesse Pfeifer, Patrol Sergeant to Patrol Lieutenant, Columbus to Norfolk

September 2024

- Matthew Guzman, CE Trooper to CE/MCSAP Sergeant, Fremont to Lincoln

- Rachel Andrew, Office Specialist to Admin Program Officer (QAIP), Lincoln
- Megan Boyer, Office Specialist to Procurement Specialist, Lincoln



All images were taken by various NSP personnel and friends around the State during the third quarter of 2024!









Pro Bono Publico

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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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