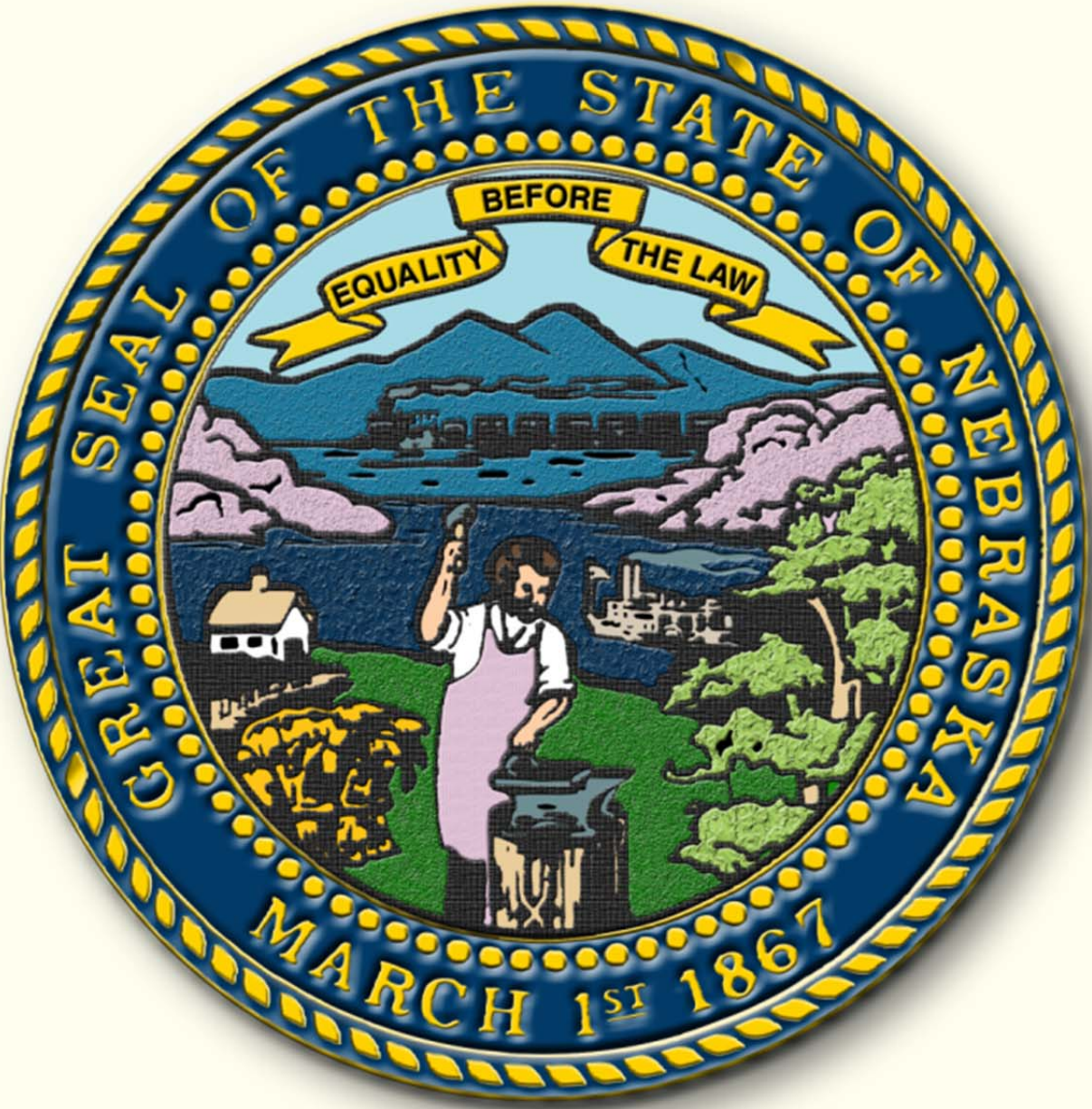


# Nebraska State Patrol 2014 Annual Report

CLICK IT  
OR  
TICKET



**BUCKLE UP**  
**NEBRASKA**  
Every Trip. Every Time





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**ON THE COVER:**

NSP Click It or Ticket

PHOTO BY Trooper Tyler Schmidt, #664, 'D'  
Unit 211, Sergeant Kyle Diefenbaugh





**Pete Ricketts**  
Governor

## STATE OF NEBRASKA

**Nebraska State Patrol**  
**Colonel Bradley D. Rice**  
Superintendent  
P.O. Box 94907  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4907  
Phone: (402) 479-4931

Dear Friends:

The Nebraska State Patrol bid farewell to Colonel David Sankey as he retired on December 31, 2014. Colonel Sankey served as Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety for three years and ten months. During his tenure, the Nebraska State Patrol grew substantially through the implementation of technology in all divisions with changes and upgrades realized in numerous areas. In addition, the Nebraska State Patrol was honorably chosen as a Flagship Agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement (CALEA) and subsequently received the Gold Standard for police accreditation in 2014.

On March 11, 2015, I was appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts to be the Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety and have enjoyed diving into this new role over the past few months. I am excited to be back at the Nebraska State Patrol serving as the Colonel of one of the largest and most spatially diverse law enforcement organizations in the state of Nebraska. Having previously served as a member of the Nebraska State Patrol for more than twenty-nine years, I want to continue the vision and mission already set in place to serve all of Nebraska.

To continue to be well-respected as a law enforcement agency in the state of Nebraska takes considerable work and effort. Being visual performing the important work of the Agency involves being effective and efficient. Seeking out collaborative partnerships with other police organizations provides for efficiency, as does continually striving to reach the goals and objectives established in every division of the Agency.

For 2015, the Nebraska State Patrol has set ambitious goals. As an Agency, we can work together to make these goals become a reality. Identifying the challenges that lie ahead will allow us to shape the future in a positive way.

On the following pages of this report, every division of the Agency tells their story by depicting important and significant events that transpired in 2014. We are a great Agency – it is my hope you will find the report both interesting and informative.

Sincerely,

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

**Bradley D. Rice, Colonel**  
Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety



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 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 seventy-seven 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; 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 2014 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.



**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 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.

**CORE VALUES**

The NSP's Core Values are introduced to the new recruits when they begin their career and training at the NSP Training Academy in Grand Island. After the daily flag lowering ceremony, the class chants the Core Values, which are incorporated into the Call for Service.

**Honesty**

- The officer demonstrates the ability to be truthful and accountable in all aspects of his/her life.

**Professionalism**

- The officer demonstrates behavior, which assists the agency as a whole to achieve its mission.

**Self-discipline**

- The officer demonstrates self-control, emotional stability, and strong sense of duty.

**Officer Safety**

- The officer exhibits a keen sense of safety at all times.

**Attention to Detail**

- The officer exhibits a keen sense of safety at all times.

**Adaptability**

- The officer demonstrates the ability to positively adjust to all situations, which arise within his/her profession.

**Sense of Urgency**

- The officer demonstrates a need to take immediate action towards any assignment, investigation, or emergency call.

**Performance Driven**

- The officer is eager to learn his/her profession.

**Team Oriented**

- The officer demonstrates behavior, which assists the agency as a whole to achieve its mission.

*"I am preparing to be a sworn officer of the Nebraska State Patrol, who is a **self-disciplined** soldier of the law. I must serve **honestly, professionally,** and if necessary, lay down my life as others have done before me. It is my duty to enforce the law equally, be **safe, pay attention to detail,** and act with a **sense of urgency.** Furthermore, it is my duty to **adapt** to all situations and be of service to anyone who is in danger or distress. I am **performance driven, team oriented,** and I will conduct myself in such a manner that the honor and tradition of the Nebraska State Patrol will be upheld."*

Organizational Chart



\* 12.01.14







**COLONEL DAVID SANKEY**  
**SUPERINTENDENT**



**LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS SCHWARTEN**  
**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

**ACCREDITATION, INSPECTIONS, & POLICY DIVISION**



The Accreditation / Inspections / Policy Division was minimally staffed during 2014 due to the retirement of its commander. Significant accomplishments in 2014

include beginning preparations for the agency's reaccreditation in the summer of 2016, auditing all in-custody property facilities, coordinating the statewide self-inspections, creating four new policies, revising 111 policies, and amending 40 agency forms. Division personnel also assisted five allied agencies by performing mock on-site assessments of their operations to help prepare them for the commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) on-site assessments.

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION**

The Legislative Liaison Division is a component of the Professional Standards Division and under the command of the Superintendent's Office. The purpose of the division is to provide communication between the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) and the Legislature.

The primary duties of the division are to assist command administration in determining legislative priorities for the agency by:

- Collecting and reviewing recommendations from agency personnel.
- Monitor legislative bills.
- Provide research and assistance to legislative committees and senators on issues affecting the Nebraska State Patrol and law enforcement.
- Update agency personnel regarding new legislative bills.
- Serve as a member of the Legislative Liaison Group.
- Work in cooperation with the Governor's Policy Research Office.



In 2014, during the 103rd Legislative, 2nd Session of the Nebraska Unicameral, the Nebraska State Patrol worked cooperatively with the Department of Motor Vehicles, State Fire Marshal's Office and Senators to sponsor two legislative bills. LB249 was passed into law and deals with the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act and the motor carrier provisions. LB 770 attempted to change provisions relating to explosives and destructive devices, however was not passed into law. Testimony was provided at three committee hearings. Technical information was provided to numerous senators on many bills.

Agency personnel were trained on the new legislative initiatives by utilizing an electronic format and deploying the capabilities of the MDC in patrol units and concept of self-paced study.

## **EXECUTIVE PROTECTIVE DIVISION**

The Executive Protection Division is a component of the Executive Protection/Capitol Security Division, which is under the direct command of the Superintendent's Office. The primary function of the division is to provide security and transportation for the Governor and/or his family. In addition, members of the division protect and secure the Governor's Residence and vehicles. The division also provides security for visiting dignitaries upon request.

The division is also responsible for providing security for the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals when they are in session. Its members provide assistance with scheduling/security for the Legislature. The division investigates criminal activity and is involved with threat assessments dealing with various types of threats made toward the Governor, Constitutional Officers, State Senators, and Justices of the Supreme and Appellate Courts.

During 2014, the Executive Protection detail was involved in the security and transportation for 169 in-state trips involving the Governor. Seven out-of-state trips were handled with the Governor. The

detail also assisted with the security and transportation of six visiting dignitaries.

In 2014, the Executive Protection detail provided security for the Supreme Court and Appellate Court in the following locations:

- Lincoln
- Omaha
- UNL Law College
- UNK at Kearney
- Creighton Law College
- Norfolk
- Papillion
- Kearney
- North Platte.

A total of 136,568 miles were driven by the detail across the state. The State plane flew 11,120 air miles with the Governor for events across Nebraska.

## **CAPITOL SECURITY**

The Capitol Security Division is a component of the Executive Protection/Capitol Security Division and under the direct command of the Superintendent's Office. The main purpose of this division is to provide security and safety to the public, state employees, elected officials, and for all state owned/leased buildings in the City of Lincoln.

Capitol Security's primary responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Monitor fire, environmental and duress alarm systems.
- Monitor CCTV cameras for the Capitol Complex Area.
- Respond to calls for service using a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) to assist the public, state employees, elected officials on state property.
- Conduct both vehicular and foot patrols for 33 buildings and 7 parking facilities in the Capitol Complex Area. This resulted in a total of 48,759 miles driven by Capitol Security personnel.
- Provide security for special events and meetings within the Capitol Complex Area.
- Provide and issue building access cards, ID cards for state employees, vendors, and visitors, etc.

The Capitol Security Division responded to the following calls for service in 2014:

- 20,520 Building Checks
- 202 Duress Alarms
- 110 Suspicious activity / persons / packages
- 105 Lost and Found
- 20 Employee Escorts
- 19 Medical Assist
- 18 Disturbances
- 18 Thefts
- 12 Welfare checks
- 10 Vandalisms

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology Division (IT) theme for 2014 was "research and upgrade." Several strategies and products were researched to provide the agency with a roadmap for upgrades in the coming years. The Division has set minimum standards for hardware, software applications, and operating systems, and has begun to implement those standards.



Replacing the Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) was one of the largest research projects completed by the division. As part of this project, Windows 8 was evaluated and the decision was made to wait for Window 10. The committee also researched MDC connectivity options (Blue Tree and built-in cellular connection on the MDC), new antennas, 64-bit vs. 32-bit operating systems, and several form factors (laptop, tablet, and convertible or 2-in-1 devices). Hardware was evaluated and tested by 15 officers and 3 devices were selected. The device mounted in the vehicle will be a ruggedized 2-in-1 device; devices not mounted in the vehicle will be business rugged 2-in-1 devices or thin laptops.

The Division also researched strategies for forms management and identified TraCS (Traffic and Criminal Software) as the primary forms management program for

law enforcement forms. For general business-related forms, it was determined a new application would be needed. After researching several options, it was decided to build the forms application in-house. The new application is called POLAR (Patrol On-Line Approval and Routing).

Members of the IT Division were actively involved in software research projects with other divisions. Those committees selected Niche as our new records management system, and Kronos Timekeeper and Telestaff as our new timesheet and scheduling program. Those programs will begin implementation in 2015.

The IT plan for high availability of our resources and disaster recovery was researched. VMware and Site Recovery Manager were selected for our software environment to implement this plan. The backup system was also evaluated and Data Protector, a new back-up solution, was acquired and implemented. This comprehensive solution provides the agency with a fully redundant system, providing high availability for our law enforcement servers with a disaster recovery solution. The plan also converted our three back-up solutions into one. This project is 75 percent complete and will be completed in 2015.

Based on the research and standards set, the division completed several upgrades this year. Three hundred twenty-six

desktop and laptop computers throughout the agency were upgraded; 47 server operating systems were upgraded; 31 SQL databases were upgraded; and at 74 network sites, the networks were upgraded.

Five new applications were created and released this year. The new applications include a custom application for liquor establishment compliance review and tracking, Intel collector, TraCS forms for automation of our law enforcement forms processing, POLAR for automation of our general business forms processing, and OCIO E-mail Photo Integration, which is used by other state agencies. The Division also performed 13 upgrades to other applications we support.

The IT Division supports collaboration and information sharing between law enforcement agencies. This year we automated the sharing of information between four of our systems with the FBI, integrated data from three other law enforcement agencies into our Fusion Center, and supported two other law enforcement agencies in implementing the TraCS program for electronic citations.

In the coming year, the division will continue the upgrades of hardware, software applications, and operating systems. The process of evaluating our data collection, storage, and reporting; and assessing needs in those areas will continue. We will continue to streamline

processes and format data consistently as we implement data warehouse concepts to make it possible for more data analysis.

This was a productive year and the division looks forward to providing another year of quality support for the agency.

### INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

The Nebraska State Patrol has consistently held a high degree of public trust. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) believes that this trust is based directly upon the perceived level of integrity of the employees within the agency. It is also influenced by our willingness and ability to address incidents of misconduct in an effective and appropriate manner. The Internal Affairs Division is simply one piece of an integral partnership within the Nebraska State Patrol working to ensure the existence of a safe, ethical, and sound working environment. It is by striving to accomplish this goal that public trust is built.

In 2014, a significant decrease was recorded in the number of investigated cases. Thirty-nine individual cases were formally investigated during the calendar year 2014. This is a decrease of 29 from 2013. The total number of complaints received in 2014 was recorded at 149, a moderate decrease.



In 2014 the Internal Affairs Division reviewed roughly 343 reports to include use of force, unit accidents, damage to patrol vehicles such as weather related damage, firearms discharges to end the suffering of animals, lethal force encounters as well as complaints from the public we serve.

In 2014, the number of unit accidents increased six percent to 48. While this is a slight increase from the previous year, it still maintains a downward trend over the last eight years from the peak of 114 in 2007. In 2008, the Nebraska State Patrol began to take a collaborative approach to address this issue. The approach was rooted in both training and philosophy in an effort to create a change in culture in a sincere effort to improve safety.

Unit accidents often do not come to mind when the terms *officer safety* and *line of duty death* are used. According to the Officer Down Memorial Page in 2014, the overall number of U.S. Law Enforcement deaths was 122. Those that can be attributed to traffic related incidents totaled 30 fatalities; second only to firearms related deaths. These sad statistics further illustrate the need to address officer safety from every angle.

Every employee of the Nebraska State Patrol has a stake in creating a safe, ethical, and sound working environment.

The Internal Affairs Division is proud to be part of this important partnership maintaining the trust of the public it serves.

## LEGAL DIVISION

The Nebraska State Patrol Legal Division has the statutory duty "to advise the Patrol



on all legal matters." Neb. Rev. Stat. 81-2009(2). Responsibilities handled by this division include:

- Responding to tort claims against the agency
- Handling labor matters such as grievances and Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission (NEOC) complaints
- Representing the agency at administrative hearings
- Serving as administrative hearing officers
- Promulgating agency rules and regulations
- Responding to subpoenas for documents and public record requests
- Reviewing legal documents

- Responding to legal questions, and
- Providing training of troopers on legal matters

This past year, the Legal Division provided instruction for Basic Recruits in Camps 55 and 56. In addition, the attorneys have assisted with in-service instruction, legal updates, and specialized classes for law enforcement. Assistance was provided to several committees including:

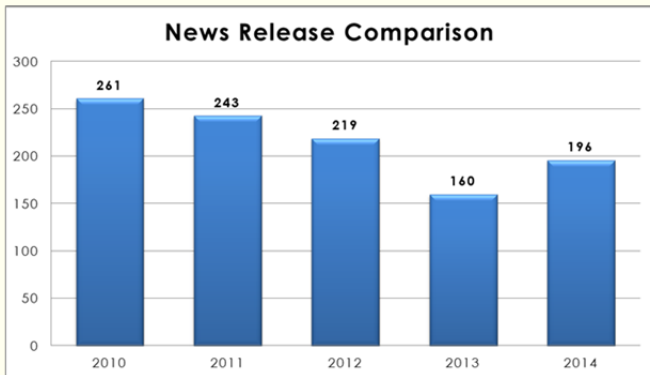
- Fitness for Duty
- Health and Safety
- Peer Support
- Digital Media
- Employment Review Board
- Strategic Planning.

Additionally, Legal assisted the Human Resources Division and the State's Chief Negotiator with bargaining the State Law Enforcement Bargaining Council contract with the state of Nebraska.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION**

The Public Information (PIO) Division works to promote the mission and services of the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) through all aspects of media relations. It also serves both NSP and allied law enforcement agencies with the clarification of audio/video casework. The PIO Division consists of two civilian employees; the Public Information Coordinator and the Forensic Audio/Video (AV) Specialist.

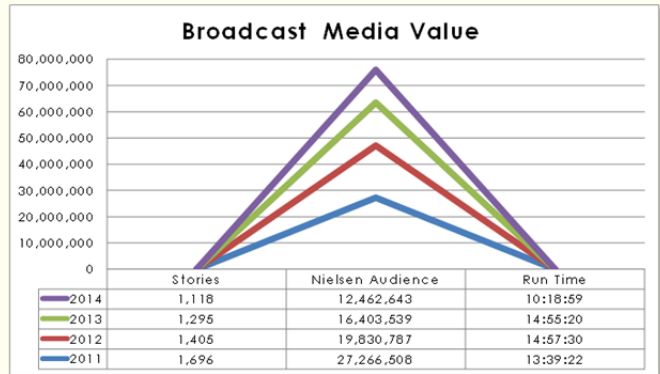
In 2014, the Public Information Coordinator issued 196 news releases, assisted with the planning of three news conferences and media availabilities focusing on agency activities, (*graph 1*).



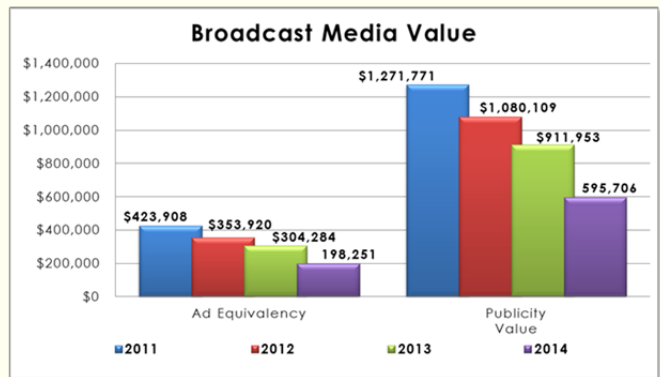
Graph 1

The media generated by the Agency resulted in 1,118 broadcast media stories airing on television and radio stations across the state. In 2014, the agency received more than 10 hours of airtime reaching a viewing audience of more than twelve million. The airtime received was the equivalent of nearly \$200,000 worth of advertising and had a publicity value of nearly \$600,000. In addition, more than 3,000 articles mentioning the Nebraska

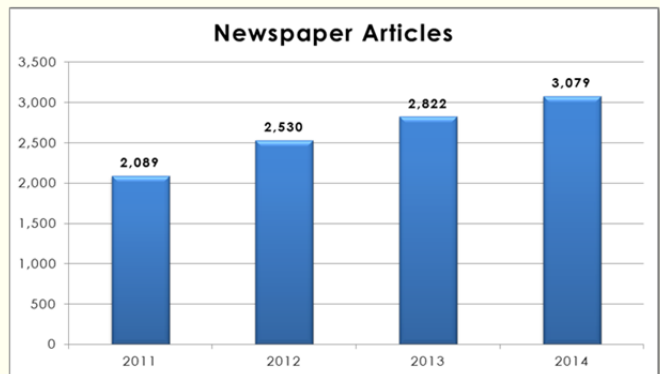
State Patrol were printed in newspapers and publications, (*graphs 2-4*).



Graph 2



Graph 3



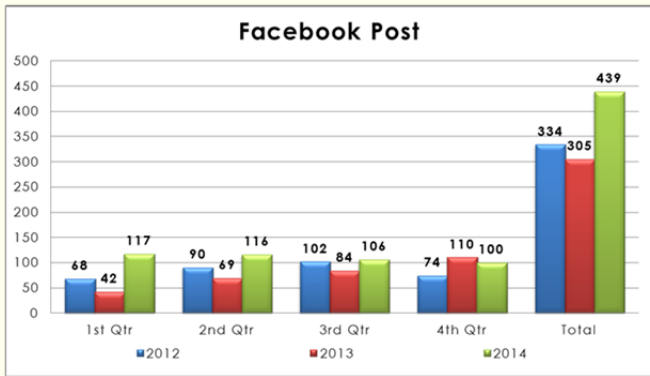
Graph 4

NSP social media continues to grow with the PIO managing the Agency Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube accounts. At the end of 2014, the NSP Facebook page had more than 8,400 fans/likes and nearly 4,000 Twitter followers. During 2014, the PIO posted 439 stories to the NSP Facebook

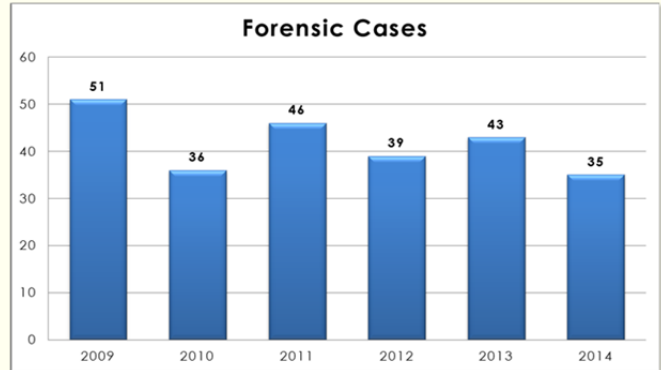


page and issued 506 tweets/retweets. Thirteen videos were posted to the NSP YouTube page in 2014. (Graphs 5-7).

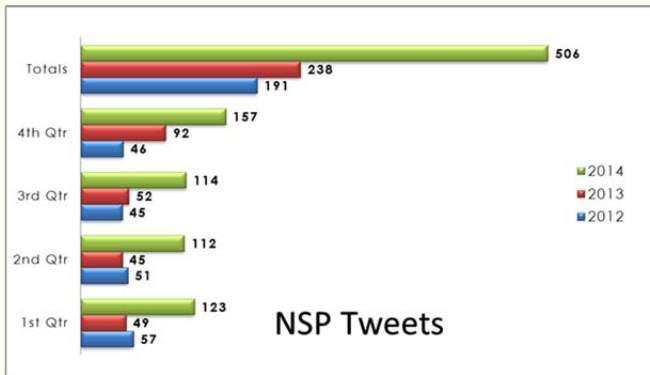
were received for miscellaneous audio/video services to include such things as photography, videotaping and reproducing CD's and DVD's.



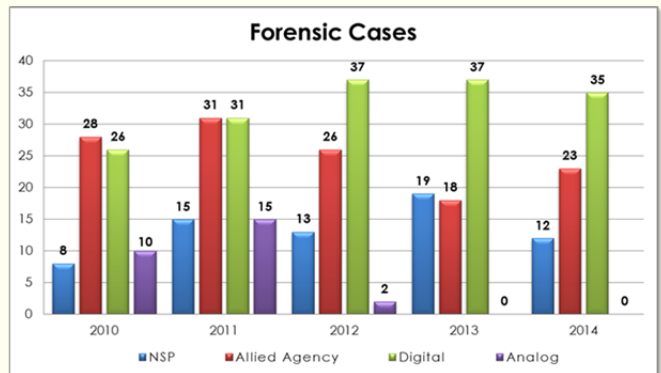
Graph 5



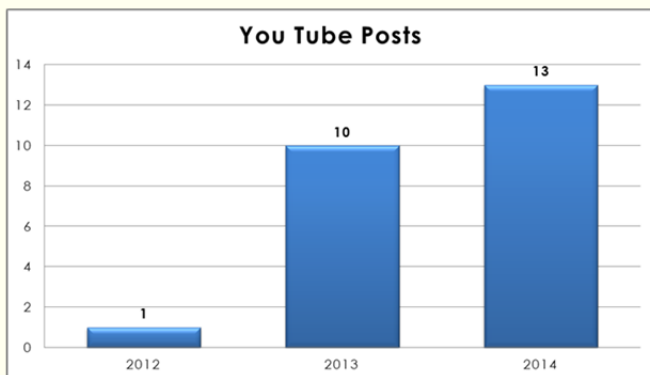
Graph 8



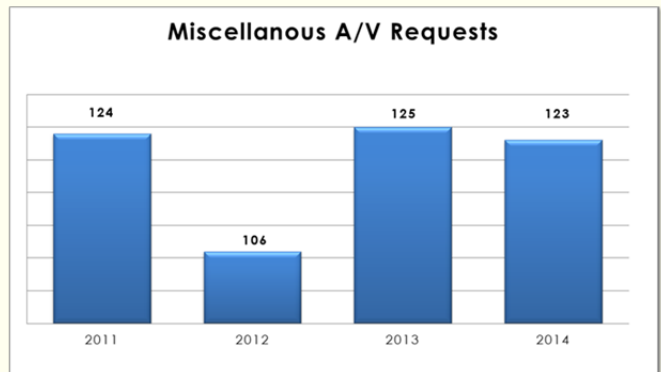
Graph 6



Graph 9



Graph 7



Graph 10

The PIO Division, Forensic Audio/Video Specialist handled 35 requests for audio/video clarification in 2014. Of those requests, 12 were NSP cases and 23 were from allied agencies (Graphs 8-10). In addition to forensic casework, 123 requests

The Pubic Information Division produced 10 videos in 2014, on a variety of topics to include, Friday Night Lights, Groundbreaking for the new Crime

Laboratory, Camp 55 Graduation, and the Blue Mass.

Finally, the PIO Division continues to publish the agency's quarterly newsletter the "Informer." In 2014, the middle section of the "Informer" highlighted the Training Academy, Aviation Support, and Purchasing Divisions.

Goal Analysis

Using the graphics on the previous page, the PIO Division has shown that it has met and seen growth in the goals and objectives set for the Division.

In the area of social media (Goal One) the PIO Division continues to manage the NSP social media pages. As shown on graphs 1-3 all aspects of NSP social media continue to see growth not only in content, but in the number of citizens engaged with NSP in these formats.

The Division continues to increase its video production and output, meeting and exceeding its second goal (graph 3). The PIO Division posted 13 videos to the NSP social media page in 2014. Of those videos, 10 were educational or informational videos produced by the Public Information Division. This shows a continued increase in video production by doubling its 2014 goal of five videos.



**INFORMATION GOVERNANCE DIVISION**



The objective of the Information Governance

Division is to ensure that all Standards of the

Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) are followed and adhered to by all Nebraska State Patrol employees. These Standards include the proper handling of records when it comes to the maintaining, preservation, and destruction of agency documents.

The year 2014 brought many accomplishments and changes to the Information Governance Division. A bigger and more informative records retention schedule was developed and approved by the Secretary of State. The schedule grew in 2014 by categorizing 339 items, which was up from 325 items the year prior. There were also 93 revisions to the retention schedule recorded in 2014, which were necessary either to generate more retention schedule items or to change retention periods of some agency records.

In order for all Nebraska State Patrol employees to learn and become familiar with how the new records retention and disposition process works, training was provided and completed in all troop areas and divisions in 2014. Training included how to read and follow the agency retention schedule; the proper way of processing the necessary forms for both the retaining and disposing of records; as

well as to emphasize the importance of keeping all record inventories current and up-to-date.

The year 2014 also saw a large Crime Lab Division clean-up project conclude, saving the Nebraska State Patrol over \$72,000 in warehouse storage costs. In 2014, the agency disposed of 338 cubic feet of paper, which, in comparison to 2013, remained at a constant level.

The agency is continuing with its historical photo review group project of holding monthly meetings with retirees of the State Patrol to help identify old



photographs

and other items. The Nebraska State Patrol is very appreciative and a big thank you to all the retirees who have given their time to help with this ongoing project.

**CHAPLAIN PROGRAM**

The Nebraska State Patrol Chaplain Program began a number of years ago as an innovative approach to meet a number of needs in our state and Agency. Several chaplains of various faiths work with law enforcement personnel on a professional level by making themselves immediately available as trained and caring professionals who can assist people in crisis situations including grief, loss, confusion, or depression. The program serves all

employees and family members as well as allowing the chaplains to broaden and deepen their ability to serve our communities.

Our State Patrol chaplains assist in a wide variety of ways. Members of the chaplaincy corps can be put in very demanding positions as their services can be requested at all hours of the day and night and under all kinds of conditions. They are bound by the same ethics as law enforcement officers, especially when it comes to confidentiality and protocols as well as by departmental policies and procedures.

There are some major differences and roles between a pastor and a police chaplain. The biggest one involves their ability to serve and not preach. A pastor will take on an active role in people's faith life development while a chaplain offers support to people where they are at that moment. Moreover, many times, this moment occurs when people are in a crisis.

Father Steve Thomlison is the Command Chaplain for the Nebraska State Patrol while Pastor Rod Armon is the Deputy Command Chaplain. As well as the previously



mentioned duties, the chaplain corps attends departmental meetings, sits on a number of Agency committees, provides chaplain recruitment, support at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy, and offers programs in the area of marital/family support as well as emergency responses.

Listed below are a number of significant events handled by the State Patrol chaplains during 2014:

- Participation in the annual Omaha Metro Chaplain Training Conference
- Played an active role during events surrounding National Peace Officer Week
- Trained State Patrol Recruits in Stress Management and Suicide Awareness
- Expanded leadership role during Blue Mass which honors fallen officers
- Monitored an Ebola patient transfer in order to assess increased stress amongst emergency responders
- Involvement in the State Patrol Fall and Winter Troop Area Meetings
- Spent time on Christmas Day with troopers in the field





## FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

The Field Services Division is under the command of Major Russ Stanczyk and encompasses uniformed patrol troopers, carrier enforcement troopers, police service dog handlers, aviation support pilots, and community service officers.

Currently, the Agency analyzes data to place troopers where they can be the most effective. By studying crash and crime data, as well as calls for service, the Agency can take a practical/analytical approach to educational concepts and enforcement efforts. Saturation patrols, high visibility enforcement efforts, detecting impaired drivers as well as occupant restraint compliance are just some of the concepts employed through studying data.

The Agency is also leveraging technology to allow troopers to perform their jobs more efficiently. Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Mobile Architecture now dispatch troopers to calls for service for Communications Handling (MACH).

MACH provides the ability for Communications Specialists to view a trooper's location on a mapping system in real time. A Records Management System (RMS) documents trooper's reports, and digital in-car cameras provide video/audio documentation of their actions. Mobile Data Computers (MDC) allow troopers to issue electronic citations, commercial motor vehicle inspections, and accident



reports. The statewide radio system (SRS) provides troopers a clearer digital communication system which is becoming interoperable with other law enforcement agencies.

The Nebraska State Patrol promotes education, awareness, and transparency by providing public safety information via social media. Upcoming "Enforcement Activities" are noted on the NSP website and arrest, educational efforts and weather related road condition updates are provided on Facebook/Twitter.

## TROOP A

Troop A is a unique troop area as it is the smallest in the state geographical area, but the most populated as it encompasses the Omaha Metro area. It covers Douglas, Sarpy, Dodge, Washington, and Cass counties. Troop A goals and objectives are geared to emphasize a reduction in accidents, especially fatality accidents. We continue to have a fatality rate that is less than the state's average and has had a lower rate in five out of the last six years. In 2014, Troop A saw a reduction of two fatalities, down from the 51 fatalities in 2013.

Troop A and the Omaha metro area have become a hotspot for all kinds of major events, including all levels of sports, recreational activities, auto shows, business meetings and educational conferences. Each Spring, the Omaha area is filled with Investors from Berkshire Hathaway who come to listen to Warren Buffet speak at the annual shareholder's conference.

From June 14-25, over 347,000 fans attended the 2014 NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) College World Series at TD Ameritrade Park. Troopers from Troop A assisted the Omaha Police Department with traffic control on the Interstate system. The College World Series at the TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha

was number 14 in the national ranking for Top 100 Stadium Experiences for 2014.

On June 3, 2014, a hailstorm rolled through the upper portion of Dodge County, and most of Washington County, including the small towns of Blair and Herman and the northern part of Omaha. The hailstones ranged anywhere from a quarter to softball sized hail. Millions of dollars of damage were reported in those areas, including totaling out an NSP marked patrol unit and damaging a couple others.

The first part of September, the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) began taking patients infected with the Ebola virus. UNMC is one of only four



hospitals in the United States of America equipped to treat people with the Ebola virus. Over a period of four months, the Nebraska State Patrol and Omaha Police escorted four patients from the airport to UNMC.

## TROOP B

Troop B is the largest and one of the most diversified Troop Areas within the Nebraska State Patrol, spanning over 22,000 square miles. Its current authorized strength is 45 uniformed officers.

In May 2014, the first phase of a three-phase plan to consolidate the Nebraska State Patrol Communications Centers from six to three was underway. NSP consolidated Troop B Norfolk Communications Center with Headquarters Troop-Lincoln. Headquarters Troop-Lincoln began dispatching overnight calls for Troop B in January in preparation for the consolidation.

On June 16, 2014, three EF four tornados struck the village of Pilger and rural areas of Stanton/Cuming Counties. Approximately seventeen individuals were injured with two fatalities. Numerous residences, several commercial and farm businesses were destroyed. Troop B provided law enforcement services for one week in the aftermath. Personnel from Traffic Services (TS), Carrier Enforcement (CEO), Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team (NHIT), Investigative Services (IS), Police Service Dog (PSD), SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics), & Aviation Support Division (ASD) responded; approximately 30 troops in all. The Mobile Command Post (MCP) was dispatched and set up to provide a command site for the area.



On June 19, 2014, a severe storm passed through southeastern South Dakota, southwest Minnesota, and northwest Iowa, swelling rivers and causing floodwaters to shut down part of Interstate 29 near Sioux City. Traffic was diverted in South Dakota into Nebraska via Highways 15 & 12.



Additional troops were assigned 12 hours shifts to monitor this detour.

In the early morning hours of June 20, 2014, a male subject committed a violent felony and engaged a trooper in a gun battle, then fled in a vehicle from an attempted apprehension near a residence in Columbus, Nebraska. The initial response was for an assault with a deadly weapon/domestic disturbance call. The subject then attempted to car jack another vehicle in the Walmart parking lot in Columbus. A pursuit involving NSP units, along with Columbus P.D. and Platte County began a short time later in rural Platte County. NSP units arrived at the termination point of the pursuit in Schuyler. At this time NSP units observed the male subject exit his vehicle in an attempt to execute a Platte County Deputy. The subject re-entered his vehicle, then backed up with excessive speed and crashed into police and county vehicles. NSP Troopers showed meritorious duty while using deadly force to end the violence that was the result of the subject fleeing from, ramming and firing rounds at responding troopers and officers.

On September 27, 2014, Antelope County more than doubled in size as 8,000 people flocked to the Tanderup farm north of Neligh to hear music legends Willie Nelson and Neil Young perform in support of the Keystone XL oil pipeline opponents. For six years, TransCanada has been attempting

to secure approval for a pipeline that would stretch from Canada through the plains states to the refineries on the Texas Gulf Coast. NSP coordinated resources



*Harvest of Hope Concert at Tanderup Farm*

with local law enforcement and organizers of the event to provide a safe and secure concert.

## TROOP C

In 2014, 30 individuals lost their lives in 26 crashes in Troop C. That number was unfortunately up from 27 deaths that occurred in 2013. Failure to use seatbelts was a factor in at least 50 percent of those crashes. Because of the inability to know in some of the incidents, it may have been as high as 65 percent. Nine crashes (34 percent) occurred at intersections including two on state highways, four on county roads, and three within city limits. Alcohol was involved in at least 15 percent of the incidents and may have been as high as 25 percent. Two drivers (7 percent) under age twenty-one were involved in fatality crashes and four were over age sixty-five. Troop C will continue to utilize education and enforcement as its primary tools in an effort to reduce fatality crashes to zero.

On January 14, 2014, Troop C Road Operations Division troopers, Carrier Enforcement Division troopers and command staff responded to a request for assistance from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for traffic control related to a large cornfield fire that started north of Interstate 80 east of the Aurora Exit. Strong north winds and dry conditions promoted the rapid spread of the fire and heavy smoke south across the interstate. With virtual zero visibility, troopers positioned themselves to slow and stop

traffic from both directions prior to driving into the hazard. Despite efforts, there were still two property damage crashes



that occurred as vehicles entered the smoke and were unable to see the stopped cars/semis in front of them. It was fortunate that no motorists, firefighters, or law enforcement officers were injured during this event.

In March, troop area crash reconstruction personnel were called to assist allied agencies with two separate incidents involving the tragic loss of life. The first was a request for assistance with investigating the death of a three-year-old child who had been run over by an SUV on a private driveway in a trailer park in Hastings. Reconstructionist worked the scene of the incident and examined physical evidence that enabled them to determine that the death was accidental with no criminal conduct on the part of the driver involved. Semi-tractor vs. minivan

crash on State Highway 11 near Cotesfield prompted a request for assistance from the Howard County Sheriff's Office. Troopers were able to work the scene and provide evidence that resulted in a motor vehicle homicide conviction of the driver of the semi-tractor.

A mid-April snowstorm resulted in westbound Interstate 80 closure at Kearney for over seven hours. Conditions were bad in Troop C and worsened further to the west. Icy roads in Troop C resulted in the death of one elderly motorist who was involved in a two-vehicle crash south of Kearney on State Highway 44. Troop C personnel throughout the day and night of April 13 worked nearly fifty additional crashes and weather related motorist assists.

Severe weather on June 3, 2014, turned out to be destructive to the area and challenging for staff assigned to the troop



area. Tornados occurred in Clay County with heavy damage to multiple buildings on the main street of Sutton. Large hail, high winds, and heavy rain caused

damage to crops, pivots, homes, trees and power lines in Howard County, Merrick County, and Polk County as well. Seven marked patrol units sustain damage from hail during the event. On a side note, 34 years earlier to the day, a series of tornadoes hit Grand Island causing deaths and severe damage to homes and businesses in the South Locust area of the city.



Crashes that occur at intersecting roadways are one of the critical emphasis areas that troopers attempt to have a positive influence on through education and enforcement. An early morning crash at the intersection of U.S. Highway 6 and State Highway 14 in Clay County on August 28 served to illustrate the continued need for attention in that area. Three out of four family members were killed when a semi-tractor trailer that failed to stop at a stop sign controlling the intersection struck their vehicle (traveling on U.S. 6). Clay County Sheriff's deputies requested reconstruction and post-crash Carrier Enforcement Division assistance at the scene of the incident. The investigation

would show that the truck driver was traveling with an unauthorized passenger, had been drinking, and had little sleep prior to the crash. He was charged with three counts of motor vehicle homicide. Due to the hard work of Troop C crash reconstructionist, the 53-year-old truck driver from Eagle, Nebraska, pleaded no contest in November 2014 and was sentenced to 40 years in prison for the deaths.

As has been the case since 2010, the approach of Fall brings the Nebraska State Fair to Grand Island and Troop C. Weather again proved to be a factor for the event. Frequent rains over the two-week period of the fair caused a decrease in overall attendance.

The Husker Harvest Days working farm show



takes place one week after the state fair finishes up. The rain that occurred during the fair continued and intensified. Parking areas at the show site became impassable due to excessive muddy conditions caused

by heavy rains and resulted in an unprecedented cancellation of the second day of the show. The show opened again for the third and final day. In and outbound traffic remained slow due to continued muddy parking lot conditions.

Troop C has a diverse group of allied agency partners with varying degrees of self-sufficiency. Troopers and investigators may provide assistance in piece meal work on a case or may be requested to work the incident from start to finish. One of the most frequent requests made of Troop C Road Operations Division personnel is assistance with serious and fatal traffic crash investigations. Seven crash reconstruction investigators responded to 22 calls during 2014. Fourteen of those came at the request of another agency.

They have a reputation for producing a final product that is professional in appearance and thorough in content. This is all directly related to the dedication of these individuals who stay proficient through self-review, continuing education and maintaining national accreditation status.

Retirements, transfers and a resignation resulted in the loss of one sergeant and five troopers during 2014. It is hoped that Troop C can return to its full-authorized strength of forty-six in early 2015.

## TROOP D

The Troop D Traffic Services Division of the Nebraska State Patrol, headquartered in North Platte, is responsible for a myriad of daily tasks; however, the trooper's primary function is the enforcement of motor vehicle traffic laws and the investigation of motor vehicle crashes. Troopers also provide assistance for our partners and stakeholders in other law enforcement and public service agencies across Troop D, to include DUI/DUID (Driving under the influence/Driving under the influence of drugs) investigations, assistance with criminal investigations, assisting with many different educational programs, and numerous calls for service.

Troop D had more motor vehicle crash fatalities in 2014 than we experienced in 2013, with 29, for a 45 percent increase. However, the 2014 number was lower than the 33 fatality crashes that occurred in 2012. With a data driven mindset, troopers continue to focus on enforcement and education in our efforts to work towards zero motor vehicle fatalities in Troop D. By being cognizant of our goals and objectives, we continue to stress critical emphasis areas including DUI/DUID enforcement, youthful drivers, seatbelt usage, distracted driving, and lane departure issues.

In 2014, there were less meteorology-based occurrences in Troop D. They experienced some rangeland grass fires and some warm

season thunderstorms that produced hail damage, but not experience the devastating storms that eastern Nebraska experienced or the massive rangeland fires and flooding from earlier in the decade.

The summer of 2014 brought the arrival of seven new troopers from Camp 55 assigned to Troop D Traffic Services with duty stations including Mullen, Ogallala, McCook, and Lexington. For a brief period of time, Traffic Services was at full staff until a retirement and a lateral move out of the troop area resulted in two vacant positions short of our authorized strength of 39 by the end of the 2014. However, the troopers currently assigned to Troop D continue to focus on problematic areas with selective enforcement and directed patrolling.

Troop D troopers continued their interdiction enforcement efforts across the troop area in 2014, locating large amounts of illegal controlled substances, arresting those in possession of the substances, and seizing United States currency with a drug nexus. In focusing on Lincoln and Keith Counties, troopers made 321 cases involving controlled substances or currency in 2014.

Troopers continued their annual tradition of working different festivals and summer events across the troop area, including patrolling the Harlan County Reservoir area during Memorial Day Weekend, Lake

McConaughy during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and the Chase County Fair during August. Lake McConaughy experienced a record number of visitors across the course of the three major summer holidays with an attendance of approximately 1.3 million enjoying the large reservoir. Troopers, on several occasions, assisted Nebraska Game and Parks officers and Keith County Deputies with calls for service at the largest reservoir in Nebraska.

During 2014, troopers assigned to Traffic Services, Carrier Enforcement, and the Police Service Dog Division started utilizing ruse checkpoints at the Roscoe Interchange to upgrade the Patrol's effort to locate and remove illegally controlled substances being transported in western Troop D on Interstate 80. The results of these checkpoints have produced many arrests for possession/transportation of controlled substances.

In October 2014, an operation to execute a search and arrest warrant was conducted in Stratton, Nebraska. Previous investigations had revealed that the male target was involved in methamphetamine distribution, sexual assault, and the manufacturing of child pornography. This was a task force-based operation which included troopers from nearly all the divisions in Troop D, including the BRAVO SWAT Team. The SWAT team utilized a light armored vehicle to breach a wooden security fence and a reinforced entrance door to the target's residence. The SWAT

team deployed out of the armored vehicle, entered the residence, and arrested the target without incident. Subsequently, troopers assigned to the Investigative Services Division executed the search warrant. At this time, the target is being prosecuted by the Hitchcock County Attorney's Office and the United States Attorney's Office.



The highly experienced and dedicated troopers assigned to Troop D will continue the mission of serving residents of Nebraska with professional law enforcement services, and a continued emphasis on traffic enforcement and fatality crash reduction.

## TROOP E

The Field Services Division of Troop E continues to chart progress in history by maintaining record low fatalities. During 2014, the area achieved 81 days without a fatal crash which challenged a previous



97-day record. Alcohol related fatalities declined to 29 percent and observed restraint uses increased to 68 percent. Troop E ended the year with 17 fatalities, which tied a 2013 milestone for the fourth lowest fatality rate in 60 years.

Progress in highway safety is attributed to committed troopers who constantly assess enforcement techniques for greater efficiency. Whether high visibility focuses on restraint, alcohol, and data driven (RADD) or intensive goal-oriented fatality reduction strategies, it is the resilient mission of our troopers who keep the public safe.

Despite this firm progress in fatality reduction, the troop area recognizes the only morally acceptable number is zero.

To this end, traffic fatalities are viewed as preventable – and not inevitable. Troop E's commitment to solving fatal crashes in 2014 were accomplished largely through innovative enforcement operations.

Sobriety checkpoints contributed to continuous state patrol presence which served as both a deterrent and effective means to remove impaired drivers from the roadway. In total, 47 late night and early morning checkpoint operations were completed throughout the year.

From August 18 – September 30 a total of 62 county road restraint enforcement operations took place in Scotts Bluff County. This grant funded enforcement initiative was in response to a number of unbelted fatal crashes occurring on county roads.



Troop E did not encounter a single county road fatal crash during the 45-day enforcement wave.

The troop area skillfully controlled three significant vehicle pursuits, which resulted in multifaceted search operations.

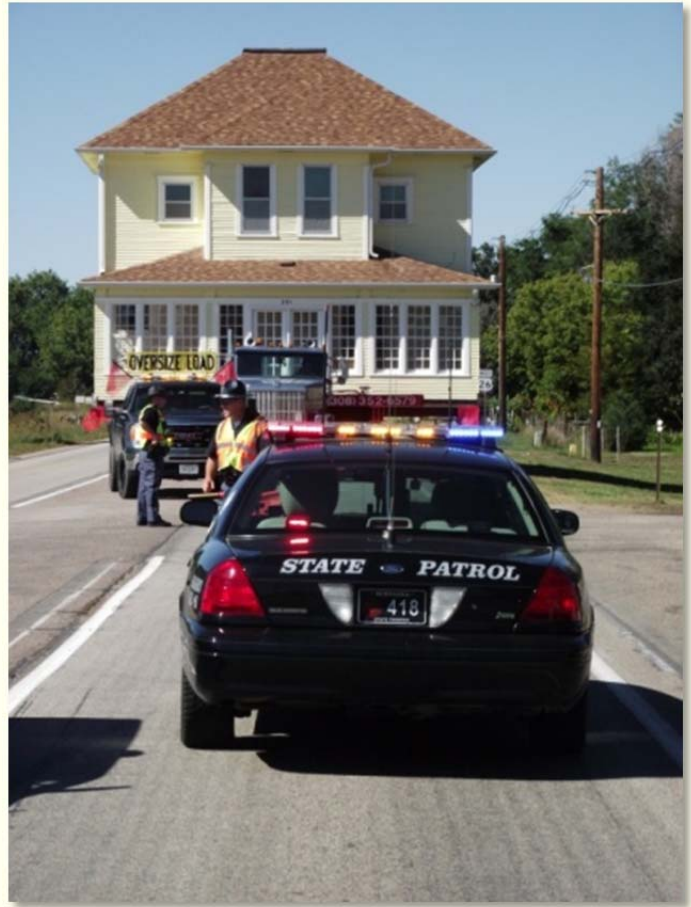
A January pursuit from a fuel theft went off- road for 20 miles northeast of Alliance. When the vehicle mechanically gave up in a ravine, two suspects fled on foot into the remote sand hills. Days later, both subjects were apprehended and charged with multiple felony drug and theft charges. In May, a sobriety checkpoint resulted in a suspect fleeing 25 miles until

escaping on foot in rugged terrain south of Scottsbluff. The suspect was successfully located after a three-hour foot search that resulted in felony property and drug charges. In the month of August, two suspects, in a stolen vehicle fled from a state patrol traffic stop and entered the Chadron State Park. Once their vehicle became disabled, the couple fled into a wooded canyon area resulting in a four-hour search until both subjects were apprehended. All three incidents were successful due to the professionalism of both Troop E staff and allied law enforcement agencies who partnered resources for a positive outcome in our rural landscape.

Troopers provided assistance to a number of allied law enforcement agencies throughout the year. Some high profile situations included

- A police officer shooting of an armed suspect.
- The spouse of a police officer robbing a local bank.
- The Valentine's Day murder of a Detention Officer by an inmate.
- Assisting the Air Force with a recovery.
- Subsequent destruction of high explosive ammunition on Interstate 80.
- The escorts of a residential house move in Morrill.
- Assisting with the 2014 Cattleman's Ball.

- On-going assistance with sovereign citizen land disputes.



In July, a western Deputy Attorney General's Office was added to the Panhandle. Working with State officials this new office was established within the Troop E Headquarters Building and has added an additional criminal justice resource and partnership to the troop area.

Change is inevitable and after 31 years of co-locating with Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR), the Sidney sergeant area office was relocated to a new building in downtown Sidney. Although the close partnership of NDOR is missed, the new facility offers much needed room for



expansion and future flexibility of additional resources for both NDOR and the Sidney sergeant area.

The unincorporated community of Whiteclay, whose economy is based on alcohol sales, experienced only one alcohol protest in 2014. In February, eighteen activists damaged one business with spray paint. This was a substantial improvement over past years of insistent civil unrest.



Weather always plays a significant role in Troop E and 2014 proved no exception. In February, dangerous winter weather

affected over 100 miles of Interstate. Seventeen inches of snow closed highways while troopers responded to 28 weather related crashes. April rushed in 70 mph winds to the Panhandle blowing over nine semi-trucks and closing the Interstate for eight hours due to zero visibility caused by clouds of dirt. The year ended, to an unusual extent, when December snowstorms produced three separate 12-inch snow events and record below zero temperatures of -28 degrees.

The calendar year of 2015 will undoubtedly provide Troop E opportunities for greater challenges and triumphs towards public safety. By continuing the persistent mission towards zero fatalities, achieving what was once, thought impossible is a determined reality of the Troop E desire to succeed.

## HEADQUARTERS TROOP

Headquarters Troop (HDQ) Area is different from other troop areas in the Nebraska State Patrol due to the urban and rural elements incorporated therein. HDQ Troop covers 8,800 square miles in southeastern Nebraska with over 19,000 combined road surface miles between the interstate system, state highways, county roads, and city streets. Four-hundred and fifty thousand citizens reside inside Headquarters Troop Area spread out amongst 15 counties. The state's capitol is located in Lincoln as well as the University of Nebraska main campus, and all athletic events. Sixty-five thousand plus vehicles travel daily across the troop area on Interstate 80.

HDQ has 52 sworn uniformed officers and 3 civilians. Approximately 50 volunteers also complement HDQ Troop Area staff personnel by patrolling the interstate on a daily basis during peak traffic times to aid stranded motorist(s). During 2014, 27,212 calls for service were answered in HDQ's Troop; up 3.5 percent from 2013's calls of



26,298. Calls for service range from REDDI

(Report Every Dangerous/Drunk Driver Immediately) reports, crash investigations, impaired driver arrests, contraband and cash seizures, and assists to allied law enforcement. HDQ's Troop also completed hundreds of enforcement initiatives in which troopers worked specific high traffic events.

In 2014, we saw an increase in written activity generated by HDQ's troopers. Summons, violations, and warnings increased 3.6 percent to 57,293 as compared to 54,334 in 2013. This is a remarkable feat considering HDQ's Troop lost a net four officers equivalent to 8 percent of our sworn strength from the field due to transfers last year. The increase in activity generated may be due to trooper's engagement in more grant and non-grant selectives in 2014, along with prioritizing resources in high traffic areas.

Unfortunately, fatality highway deaths increased 13 percent in 2014. HDQ's Troop counties saw 51 lives lost as compared to 45 in 2013. Slightly less than 60 percent of the fatalities were unrestrained. The city of Lincoln and Lancaster County saw a troubling trend with 23 (45 percent) of the deaths compared to the other 14 counties inside HDQ Troop. Only one death (pedestrian) occurred on I-80 in Lancaster County.

Nebraska Office of Highway Safety, (NOHS) released the list of top 22 counties in

Nebraska that have a higher percentage of fatal and serious injury crashes involving impaired and unrestrained drivers. HDQ's Troop had seven counties on the list in 2013 including Saline County. In 2014, HDQ's Troop personnel targeted Saline County since it had one of the highest rates of impaired and/or unrestrained drivers in the troop area.

Through the diligent work and increased emphasis of restraint and alcohol related selectives targeting Saline County last year, zero fatalities occurred compared to three in 2013. Saline County was recently removed from the NOHS priority county list after several years and no others were added to HDQ's Troop. This leads credit to the theory that high visibility enforcement coupled with greater emphasis on restraints and alcohol violations can result in safer roads, and less loss of life or serious injuries in a targeted area over a specific period.

In 2014, HDQ's Troop personnel experienced one major incident in which troopers were exposed to deadly force assaults against them.

In June, HDQ's Troop personnel were assisting Troop B while their officers were providing site security for the tornado damaged community of Pilger. A 32 year-old felon on probation kidnapped a young female victim from a bar in Columbus and took her to his residence. The victim escaped and called police. The subject

fled in his pick-up and was later stopped by a HDQ's trooper on a county road outside of town. Shots were exchanged and the subject fled the area only to be located later by another trooper and engaged in second pursuit. The driver was shot and killed after he rammed several police vehicles.

Officers assigned to the Headquarters Troop Area - Field Services Traffic, work every day to keep the highways safe for the citizens of Nebraska. Recognizing and taking enforcement action against behaviors that cause serious crashes continues to be their goal.

By reviewing data from 2014, HDQ's Troop will deploy resources in 2015 to those specific areas that experienced an increase in fatalities and serious crashes. Plans are already in place and alliances fostered with allied law enforcement, coalition groups, and other state agencies to strive towards reducing highway deaths in the troop area.

In 2015, new concepts and resources have been identified to develop better strategies in modifying those actions that result in injuries or deaths to motorists.



## AVIATION SUPPORT DIVISION

The Aviation Support Division (ASD) continues to provide NSP and allied agencies with ready and capable pilots and aircraft fleet for an array of operations. Despite shorter staffing levels and numerous division commitments, over 5,100 contacts were generated during traffic enforcement activities to reduce accidents. The ASD continues to provide assistance in searches, surveillance, national disaster responses, and many other operations. Key operations include the Pilger tornado response, Branched Oak and Ashland fires, superload monitoring from Wyoming to Ogallala and multiple DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency), and FBI



(Federal Bureau Investigation) surveillance missions. A key operational experience

this year was the coverage of Ebola patients sent to Omaha for treatment at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The division has evolved in technological capabilities by maximizing use of current technology and fine-tuning systems while



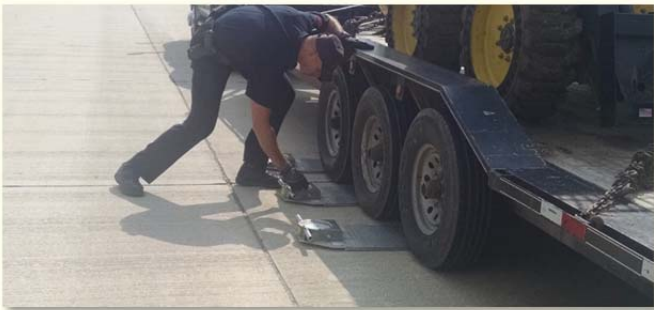
*Fire near Branched Oak Lake*

seeking cost-effective means for upgrading equipment. The in-house division aircraft mechanic provides quality mission capable aircraft with 39 scheduled inspections completed, 85 discrepancies corrected and zero missions aborted due to maintenance. The ASD continues to seek funding for a complete transition to digital downlink as well as a high-definition FLIR (Forward-Looking Infrared Imaging) upgrade and mapping system and new FLIR monitor in fixed-wing aircraft. A plan is in place to progressively upgrade the aircraft fleet as the service hours accumulate and the mission evolves. A self-evaluation was completed revealing some opportunities to enhance our service capabilities. The division is taking a highly

proactive approach to maximizing that potential.

### **CARRIER ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

The Carrier Enforcement Division's (CE) primary focus continues to be promoting public safety, preserving and protecting the state highways and bridges, and preventing immoderate and destructive use of our roadways through enforcing the weight and size statutes, and inspecting commercial motor vehicles. This is accomplished with the operation of 11 weigh stations, 29 portable scale units,



public/industry and interagency education programs, reviews and audits, as well as partnerships with both Federal and State agencies. The Division's authorized strength of 89 uniformed and eight civilian personnel will continue to play an integral part in ensuring that Nebraska's highways remain safe for the motoring public.

The Carrier Enforcement Division statically weighed 1,368,262 trucks in 2014, which is an increase of 4 percent from 2013. The Division issued 22,766 enforcement contacts for 2014 of which 10,271 summons were issued for violations of the weight statutes. The majority (62 percent) of

these weight violations were for axle and gross weights, which exceeded from 1 percent to 10 percent over the legal limitations.

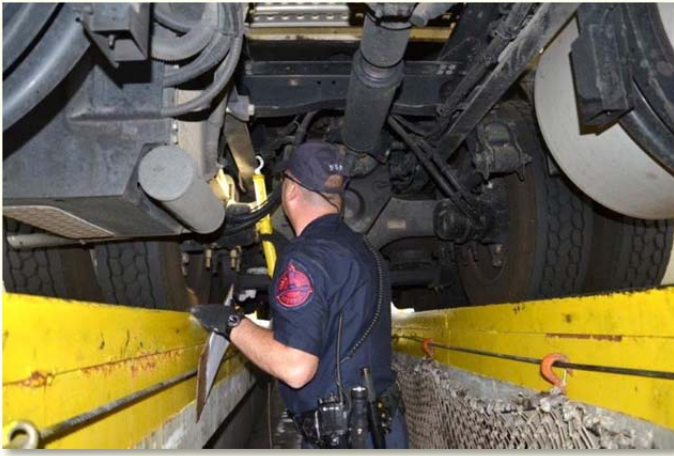
The Division completed 21,666 roadside inspections of commercial motor vehicles resulting in 42,122 violations. A total of 6,002 critical vehicle violations were found leading to 34.4 percent of the vehicles being placed out-of-service. In addition, there were 1,874 critical driver violations documented causing 7.1 percent of the drivers to be placed out-of-service. Due to the fact that an emphasis on "driver" factors has the greatest positive impact on improving highway safety, the Division conducted 1,845 traffic enforcement inspections, focusing such efforts in the High Accident Corridor areas.

In cooperation with allied law enforcement agencies, the Division completed 827 inspections during 15 Metropolitan Aggressive Preventive Selectives (MAPS) in 2014. These selectives focus on



commercial motor vehicles that normally do not travel outside the cities, or pass

through the weigh stations. The inspections resulted in documenting 2,742



violations, with 349 vehicles (42.2 percent) and 55 drivers (6.7 percent) being placed out-of-service; along with a total of \$58,830.00 in fines being assessed.

The Carrier Enforcement Division has an ongoing relationship with both the Internal Revenue Service and the Nebraska Department of Revenue to help ensure proper fuel taxes are remitted. The Division has one of the most aggressive fuel fraud detection and prevention programs in the nation. During 2014, the Division completed 8,477 roadside fuel inspections and/or fuel transporter destination inspections, leading to the Nebraska Department of Revenue assessing \$10,000 in penalties.

The Statutes and Regulations governing the operation of commercial motor vehicles are very complex. With this in mind, the Division sets specific goals, allocating many resources to provide educational programs and materials to the trucking industry and other law

enforcement agencies. The education of private industry plays a vital role in obtaining voluntary compliance with the law and improving highway safety for all. Efforts in 2014 included presentations at the Nebraska State Fair and Husker Harvest Days, as well as 60 seminars and 9 Town Hall meetings across the State for the motor carrier industry.

Aside from its roadside efforts, the Division conducts both Compliance Reviews and New Entrant Audits of motor carriers. Realizing that a truly effective enforcement program must contain processes other than just roadside efforts, the Division continues striving to strengthen its Compliance Review Program. During 2014, the Division conducted 40 compliance reviews resulting in civil



penalties of \$64,525.00 being assessed. Additionally, 561 safety audits were completed in an attempt to assure new interstate motor carriers are fully aware of the regulations and have the necessary processes in place to assure compliance.

Realizing the devastating consequences of an accident involving a commercial motor vehicle, the Division continues to be a leader nationally in providing specialized training in the area of Post-Crash Inspections which is attended by Law Enforcement Agencies from across the United States. The Post-Crash Inspection Course was designed to replicate real life scenarios, and challenges students when called upon to conduct such inspections roadside. During the week of September 22 - 26, 2014, the Post-Crash Inspection (PCI) Course was held in Grand Island, NE at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy. This course brought together 20 students from nine different jurisdictions, including four students from the Nebraska State Patrol. The week long course provides five separate staged wrecked vehicles to be inspected. The vehicles are positioned as they may be found at a scene; some even tipped over on their side. Students are encouraged to engage instructors as well as use their critical thinking skills. They learn how to determine the correct course of action, scene documentation, proper data collection, and evidence preservation.

Each year the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) recognizes the best of the best by hosting the North American Inspector Championship. In 2014, Trooper Ben Schropfer represented the State of Nebraska at the Championship and placed second in the Hazardous

Materials/Transportation competition. Competitors are judged on the level of expertise and professionalism they deploy in properly conducting inspections on commercial motor vehicles.

### Police Service Dogs

The Police Service Dog (PSD) Division experienced several changes in personnel in 2014. The Eastern Sergeant position was vacated and filled from the promotional list. One PSD died from an infection and was replaced. Three new PSD's were purchased and trained. One experienced PSD was placed with a new handler and certified.



The Police Service Dog Division is recognized as leaders in the training of Police Service dogs. PSD personnel facilitated basic training for 13 new PSD teams (to include three NSP teams), 80 certifications of existing teams, and conducted two training seminars, one in Omaha and one in North Platte. Testimony before PSAC (Police Standards Advisory Council) in favor of a mandatory state standard was provided, which became effective Jan. 1, 2015. The Division provided an evaluator for, and facilitated a certification process for the Heartland of



America Canine Association in Kansas with 27 teams that were certified.

## INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Investigative Services Division is under the Command of Major Bret Friesz and shares the vision that "Safe Children Represent Safe Communities." This purpose driven philosophy is centered around four central pillars of excellence within the division.

1. Internet Crimes against Children and the prevention of child exploitation.
2. Comprehensive Liquor license regulation and drug enforcement efforts encouraging voluntary compliance to ensure safer neighborhoods.
3. Effective crime investigation and prosecution to make Nebraska a difficult and unfriendly place for those that would commit crime.
4. Through Public and Private Partnerships we can protect our state and national security by sharing information and protecting our cyber and critical infrastructure.



In order to implement this shared vision, the Division is comprised of five principal areas of service: the Nebraska State Patrol Crime Lab, Troop area field investigations, statewide specialized investigative units, Criminal Identification Division (CID), and the Nebraska Information Analysis Center (NIAC), which hosts the Intelligence and Homeland Security functions of the NSP. Many specialized units fall under the five principal sections, such as the Nebraska Sex Offender Registry, Commercial Interdiction, Cyber Crimes, Polygraph, Auto Theft/Fraud, and Hazardous Device Technicians. The NIAC also provides investigative support and collaborative information sharing with allied law enforcement and private-sector partners.





In 2013 the NSP received legislative approval to move forward with relocation of the NSP Crime Lab to a new facility. The design phase began with anticipated completion scheduled for the summer of 2015. The new facility will be approximately twice the size of the current lab and will be designed to greatly improve efficiency and meet current forensic laboratory design standards.

In 2014, officers assigned to the Investigative Services Division participated in a full-time basis with the U.S. Marshals' Fugitive Task Force, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Safe Streets Task Force, Joint Terrorism Task Force, FBI Cyber Crimes Task Force and several Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) led federal task force operations throughout the state.



**TROOP A**

Troop A Investigative Services is in a unique position in the Omaha Metro area. Being situated in the most heavily populated jurisdiction and policed by several large law enforcement entities presents a variety of challenges and opportunities. A clear vision and focus on needs has provided a roadmap to address challenges and maximize our effectiveness. Strong relationships have been developed with other state, federal, military agencies, as well as private corporations, to share resources, equipment, and techniques. We have leveraged technology and trained our people to maximize workflow and become more efficient while increasing our quality of services. We have structured ourselves to limit duplication and specialize in areas where outside agencies have limited resources.

Pharmaceutical crime is an area in which NSP investigators have developed into subject matter experts. This response has been directly influenced by the high rate of Medicaid and Medicare fraud committed by known abusers and health care professionals. In an effort to address this problem, Troop A Investigative Services committed one investigator to the DEA Tactical Diversion Squad.

There are several major transportation hubs located in Troop A. They include Eppley Airport, AmTrak, and a regional bus

line. Additionally, there are two commercial shipping companies that move millions of packages for the region. To confront the problem of people transporting large shipments of controlled substances, the NSP developed a group of investigators that interdict these loads. In 2014, investigators seized nearly 172,610 grams of marijuana, 1,146 grams of cocaine, 14,908 grams of methamphetamine, 7,992 grams of Heroin and 25 guns during arrests and search warrants. These duties are in addition to assisting the FBI's Greater Omaha Safe Streets initiative targeting violent crime.

The Nebraska State Patrol has taken a lead in the FBI's Cyber Crimes Task Force. The number of qualified investigators that have a desire, and more importantly an aptitude, to investigate cyber security and child exploration is limited. Participating in the task force has allowed the NSP the opportunity to assist allied law enforcement with qualified personnel and the necessary skill set to investigate these crimes. In 2014, Cyber investigators executed 20 federal and state search warrants.

Investigators have acquired expertise in determining the cause and manner of death which led them to attend autopsies at the Douglas County Morgue. This service is invaluable to other agencies that may not have the ability or resources to attend a post mortem examination and assist the

pathologist with evidence collection and analysis.

The highly trained, committed, and experienced staff of Troop A Investigative Services are proud of the accomplishments achieved in 2014. Continued efforts to analyze the effectiveness of our results will only further the advancements we have made and the services we provide.



## TROOP B

Troop B is the largest and most diversified troop area within the Nebraska State Patrol, spanning over 22,000 square miles. Its current authorized strength is 15 sworn officers, 2 staff assistants and is commanded by Lieutenant Dan Wilson.

In 2014, investigators responded to 846 calls for service within the 23 counties encompassing Troop B; generating 377 new cases, which resulted in 135 arrests. In addition to their primary investigative duties, Investigative Services (IS) personnel made 2,770 allied agency contacts throughout the year with local, county, federal, and tribal partners. Moreover, 47 educational programs were presented to 1,795 individuals. These programs ranged from drug and criminal awareness to cyber and social media crimes.

Liquor and tobacco enforcement plays an integral part within the division and is responsible for ensuring that vendors remain compliant with the established laws and regulations pertaining to these products. During 2014, 345 liquor inspections were conducted in association with 113 alcohol compliance checks and 99 tobacco compliance checks. The results of the alcohol checks revealed a seven percent failure rate with the tobacco checks producing a 22 percent failure rate. Since it is rare to acknowledge retailers who had successfully passed these checks, a

formalized letter was developed and implemented in Troop B providing accolades and gratitude for their outstanding work and compliance.

Troop B IS is a strong supporter and participant of the SNARE (Specialized Narcotics Abuse Reduction Effort) Drug Task Force. During the past year, one hundred thirty cases were generated, resulting in eighty-seven arrests. Of these cases, over \$49,000 in U.S. currency was seized along with a vehicle, six guns, and 4.8 lbs. of methamphetamine, .25 lbs. of cocaine, .13 lbs. of heroin and .07 lbs. of psilocybin (mushrooms).

Troop B IS is also an active participant in the Tri-State Drug Task Force, a federal task force based in Sioux City, IA. In the past year, this task force worked 154 cases, resulting in 143 arrests. Seizures for the year included .02 lbs. of cocaine, 48.6 lbs. of marijuana, 2.3 lbs. of methamphetamine, .01 lbs. of heroin, and 90 OxyContin pills.

Several significant events took place during the past year in Troop B including;



1. The June 16 twin EF-4 tornadoes that destroyed Pilger injuring scores of others and ultimately killing two;
2. A CyberTip was received which led to the arrest of a highly regarded "family man", and Financial Planner in Wayne for the possession and distribution of child pornography. This individual is currently facing multiple state and federal charges with the investigation expanding into four other states: Oklahoma, Virginia, New Jersey, and Wisconsin where the Sturgeon Bay Police



Department had made an arrest; and

3. In December, three individuals were arrested in rural Platte County on multiple drug charges after a search warrant was executed by members of the SNARE Drug Task Force.

## TROOP C

New IS cases in Troop C during 2014 increased by 95 percent, cleared cases increased by 360 percent, arrests by went up 91 percent, agency assists increased by 188 percent; agency contacts went up by



59 percent and direct field supervision hours increased by 65 percent. Troop C investigative staff "walked the walk" when it came to doing more with less in 2014.

Specific areas of comparison from last year to this year include theft cases up from 14 to 21, sex assault cases up from 16 to 25, and physical assaults were up from 13 to 36 this year. With 29 at the YRTC (Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center) alone. Death investigations went from five to six and burglaries from one to two, while fraud cases declined from 18 to 12. Liquor backgrounds increased from 41 to 46 and premise inspections increased from 143 to 280. An interesting twist for the drug unit this year was that 25 percent of their cases involved the sale or diversion of pharmaceutical controlled substances. It will be interesting to see if this was an anomaly or a trend. Investigators also administered 33 polygraphs, seven more

than in 2013, and attended 19 autopsies; four more than last year.

Most of the increase in activity was due to the hard work by Troop C investigative staff, but some was also due to an increase in efficiency. Near the end of 2013, Troop C converted a storage closet into a secure forensic computer lab. Prior to that, a forensic computer investigator had to be physically present during downloads to assure integrity of the evidence. Now an investigator is able to initiate a download, secure the lab and leave to conduct other casework. In 2014, approximately 250 man-hours were spent downloading and analyzing 88 phones, 13 computers, and 2 GPS units. Without the secure lab, it is conservatively estimated that investigators would have needed to be present for an additional 750 hours to ensure case integrity.

A sample of significant cases for Troop C investigators in 2014 included:

- A homicide/suicide in Garfield County in January involving a 30 year-old man and his three year-old daughter.
- In March, an Adams County chiropractor was caught on video stealing pharmaceuticals from a patient during an appointment.
- In May, during premise inspections, a liquor investigator observed herbal cigarettes on display and remembered reading on an

intelligence item that they contained an illegal controlled substance. After verifying a lab report, through the intelligence source, the investigator seized 322 packs of herbal cigarettes which the NSP Crime Lab subsequently found to contain XLR11, a synthetic cannabinoid. DEA adopted the case and is pursuing federal prosecution of the manufacturer.

- In August, investigators received multiple reports of a woman using different names but, with a distinct appearance and using the same method of operation, fraudulently was obtaining prescription painkillers at various pharmacies, clinics, and hospitals in east-central Nebraska. Through contacts with pharmacists and medical professionals, a suspect was developed and identified through photo lineups. Through collaboration with local law enforcement officers, other pharmacies and medical providers were asked to call authorities if the woman attempted to obtain medication. In late October, drug investigators arrested the woman at a Grand Island pharmacy while she was attempting to pick up Hydrocodone under a false name. She is now facing felony charges in Hall, Howard, Hamilton, Adams, Jefferson, York, Lancaster, Seward,

Saline, Colfax, and Sherman Counties.

- Serious, but less successful, in March, investigators responded to a rural Nuckolls County building site after a subcontractor who was working alone was severely beaten by two unknown males. No motive has been developed and this case remains unsolved.

### TROOP D

The Nebraska State Patrol Troop D Investigative Services Division is headquartered in North Platte. They are comprised of three divisions; Drug Division, Criminal Division and the Liquor Division. They are responsible for 23 counties located in central and southwest Nebraska. Assigned to the three divisions in 2014 were; seven Investigators, one sergeant, 2 staff assistants and 1 lieutenant.



In 2014 Troop D Investigators conducted 149 new investigations, 252 allied law enforcement agency assists, 317 premise inspections, and 71 liquor applications.

In June, Troop D Investigators recovered 99 stolen firearms in rural Lincoln County. This was the result of a very lengthy drug investigation by the CODE (Cooperative Operation for Drug Enforcement) Task Force in which the drug investigators are active members. During the follow-up investigation, an additional six stolen firearms were recovered. To-date, several arrests have been made and related investigations continue.

Also in October, Troop D investigators, troopers, K-9, CODE Task Force, BRAVO SWAT team, and the Hitchcock County Sheriff's Office, served a high-risk search



warrant in Stratton. This resulted in two arrests for sexual assault, illegal drug possession, possession of child porn, felon in possession of a firearm, and felony child abuse. The residence was heavily fortified and equipped with numerous surveillance cameras. The

SWAT team utilized the Light Armored Vehicle to safely gain



access to the residence. Illegal drugs, firearms and an immense amount stored

electronic media were seized in the search warrant. This investigation will continue into 2015.

The highly motivated, experienced, and dedicated investigators and staff assistants assigned to Troop D Investigative Services are proud of their accomplishments in 2014. The goal for 2015 is to be actively engaged in the Investigative Services Division's shared vision of "Safe Children Represent Safe Communities."

### **TROOP E**

Troop E Investigative Services Division saw a reduction in caseload for the second year in a row starting 36 drug cases, 100 criminal cases, and 30 Liquor cases. Troop E Investigative Services made 69 arrests and assisted on another 439 cases. Our Investigative Services numbers went up by 3 percent in large part because of our continued involvement in assisting the WING (Western Nebraska Intelligence & Narcotics Group) Drug Task Force. Our investigative services numbers remain high with ISO (Investigative Service Officer) personnel conducting 20 child forensic interviews at CAPstone, attending 29 autopsies, conducting 49 polygraphs, completing 114 liquor inspections, and presenting 61 public programs to over 4,800 people.

In 2014, Troop E Investigative Services started the year off by:

1. Assisting the FBI with a search warrant after a bank robbery in

Sidney. The suspect was a law enforcement officer's wife.

2. ISO staff handled an officer involved shooting in Scottsbluff, and
3. Handled a homicide investigation of a corrections officer in Gering. The 15-year-old suspect was found guilty of second-degree murder,
4. An ISO investigator stopped for a motorist assist in July ran a check on the driver and discovered the driver had a warrant for her arrest. After handcuffing the suspect, the investigator was made aware the driver and her passengers were wanted for questioning in a motor vehicle homicide case on the Pine Ridge Reservation,
5. An arrest in the attempted homicide of a female in Alliance,
6. An arrest regarding an embezzlement of over \$500,000 and,
7. An investigator making an off-duty arrest of a shoplifter ended our year.

Troop E ISO staff who work ICAC cases generated 32 ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) related investigations for Possession, Distribution and Manufacture of Child Pornography Enticement by Electronic Communication Device and Child Sexual Assault. Seven of these cases went federal in the states of Florida, Massachusetts, Texas, South Dakota and three in Nebraska, after investigators received videos displaying children being sexually assaulted and photographs of



child pornography. Investigators made 12 arrests total doing proactive ICAC work and assisted agencies in the Panhandle 197 times downloading content from cellular phones and computer devices.

Troop E Drug Division while participating with the WING Drug Task Force, had another productive year. Task force investigators continue to see marijuana, THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) infused products and methamphetamine coming from neighboring states into Nebraska and those arrested for possession of these products are being tracked by the Task Force for use with grant applications. Two such seizures occurred in Chadron and Bayard as evidence was tracked through the postal service and search warrants and arrest warrants served. Two marijuana grows were discovered and dismantled. The Drug Division also assisted an NSP trooper who was selling an X-box on a local swap shop and was offered marijuana as payment. Two suspects were arrested and three children removed. The Task Force continued to assist probation and parole and the Scotts Bluff County Drug Court with in-home searches in Kimball, Scottsbluff, Gering, Mitchell, and Alliance.

ISO staff presented at three Hostage Negotiations Seminars in Baltimore, Maryland, in February; in Colorado in September; and, Texas in November, regarding the Thiele Pharmacy incident in

Alliance, in June 2012. One investigator completed a polygraph internship and one investigator completed polygraph school.

## HEADQUARTERS TROOP

Headquarters (HDQ) Investigative Services Division serves 15 counties in southeastern Nebraska. These counties include Lancaster, Cass, Saunders, Butler, Seward, Fillmore, Thayer, Jefferson, Gage, Pawnee, Johnson, Richardson, Nemaha, Otoe, and Saline. Our mission is to assist local prosecutors and local law enforcement in these counties with criminal, drug, and liquor enforcement. We also work on the State level and assist the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, and all other state agencies, with cases that involve State Government and threats against State Government. HDQ ISO also works closely with the United States Attorney's office, and all Federal Agencies, in cases that are prosecuted federally.



HDQ ISO is also tasked with investigating crime at State Institutions/hospitals located in Tecumseh, Lincoln, Geneva, and Beatrice. These institutions/hospitals include the State Penitentiary, Tecumseh, Lincoln Correctional Center, D&E, Lincoln

Regional Center, Community Corrections, BSDC, and the Geneva Youth Facility.

The HDQ ISO Criminal Unit is comprised of six investigators and one Sergeant. In 2014, this unit initiated 125 new investigations for criminal offenses dealing with crimes of simple assault to homicide. Cases of note in 2014:

- Homicide investigation in Seward County, the town of Beaver Crossing, where a young man was found near a bridge deceased. Investigation showed foul play was involved and this investigation continues.
- HDQ Criminal also investigated the early release of inmates from the Nebraska Department of Corrections. This investigation was at the request of the Attorney General's office and the Lancaster County Attorney.
- Law Enforcement shooting of a suspect in Colfax County after suspect fired shots at and rammed his vehicle into law enforcement vehicles.

The HDQ ISO Drug Unit is made up of four investigators and one Sergeant. This unit produced 108 new drug cases in 2014. The type of drugs cases formed dealt with marijuana, heroin, cocaine, LSD, methamphetamine, and prescription drugs. Actions of note in 2014:

- Five federal indictments for drug trafficking in southeastern Nebraska.
- Assisted Troop H Traffic Division with 16 criminal interdiction cases.
- Responded to three allied agency requests for meth lab clean-up.
- Seizure of 15,000 grams of K2 from package interdiction.

The HDQ ISO Liquor Division is made up of two investigators and one sergeant. This sergeant is also the State Coordinator for liquor Investigation for the Nebraska State Patrol. In 2014, this group completed 190 applications for liquor licenses in HDQ's Troop. Actions of note during 2014:

- Worked "parking lot" enforcement to curtail underage drinking and the procuring of alcohol for minors.
- Completed 100 tobacco checks to verify that businesses were not selling tobacco products to underage individuals.
- Completed 304 premise inspections of liquor establishments to assure they are following the guideline of the Liquor Control Act.
- Began a pilot project for Liquor Investigators. The goal is to bring technology to the forefront to assist the investigators in their daily business to be more effective.

The Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory has reached a new milestone in accreditation. While the laboratory has been accredited at the national level for many years, in 2014 the lab became accredited to the ASCLD/LAB-*International* Program, ensuring that the laboratory meets all of the rigorous standards currently in place



for forensic crime laboratories on an international level. The lab now complies



with the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 17025 standards, as well as other supplemental standards. Last July, the laboratory underwent a week-long

assessment. The assessment team consisted of seven experts from the different forensic disciplines in which the laboratory performs testing. After verifying laboratory compliance with over 1,200 standards, only one minor finding was issued. This finding was administrative in nature and was quickly resolved.

During the customer feedback survey conducted in 2013, the laboratory learned that many customers found certain lab reports to be difficult to understand due to the very technical information being conveyed. Of special interest was DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) reports. As a result, in 2014 the laboratory convened a focus group consisting of law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, and defense attorneys to evaluate DNA lab reports. Those efforts resulted in a new lab report format being implemented that will hopefully clarify several areas that were confusing and difficult to understand while maintaining the technical integrity of the reports.

Overall, the NSP Crime Laboratory received 6.8 percent more cases in 2014 than in 2013. Over the last five years that increase has been 17.5 percent. The Biology Unit experienced the largest increase in 2014 at 24 percent, followed by 13 percent in Toxicology and 6 percent in Controlled Substances testing. Trace evidence experienced a large caseload decrease in 2014 due in part to the

cessation of paint and unknown testing late in 2013.

With the increase in case submissions, the laboratory continues to look for any trends or specific events that may influence the caseload. During 2014, case submissions from the Omaha Metro area increased approximately 31 percent. An even larger increase is anticipated in 2015, due to the closure of the private Eastern Nebraska Forensics laboratory and the new sharing of services between Omaha Police Department and Douglas County Sheriff Office. These laboratory service changes in the Omaha area have resulted in all toxicology testing services being shifted to the NSP Crime Laboratory as of the first of this year. It is too early to determine what other impact may result from this shift. During 2014, the Firearm / Tool Mark Section saw great improvement in their backlog because of careful analysis of case trends, which lead to a change in their case management system. Unfortunately, after eliminating the NIBIN

(National Integrated Ballistic Information Network) backlog, the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives) re-evaluated their NIBIN program. A shift in ATF program priorities resulted in the ATF removing the NIBIN program from the



*Colonel Sankey, Pam Zilly, Lt. Col. Schwarten*

laboratory in January of this year.

Construction of the new NSP Crime Laboratory facility at 3977 Air Park Road is on schedule and completion is expected in September of 2015. The complexities of moving laboratory instrumentation and evidence will require a period of down time and backlogs will temporarily increase. All efforts are being made to keep the down time to a minimum. Some tour opportunities will be planned prior to complete casework resumption so that interested parties will be able to see the entire facility, including areas that will be restricted once casework is under way.



## CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

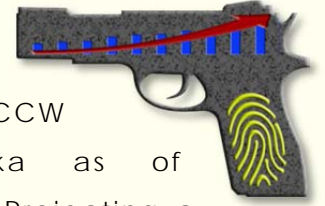
The Criminal Identification Division (CID) serves as the central repository of all criminal records for the state of Nebraska. Located in Lincoln, CID is responsible for maintaining criminal history records, dissemination of criminal history record information to those authorized to receive that information, issuing concealed carry and explosives permits, and providing public services such as fingerprinting. CID also includes the Sex Offender Registry (SOR) section and the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault (DV/SA) Program. The DV/SA Program conducts statewide training and an annual regional conference on topics related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

PayPort was implemented in May 2014. PayPort allows individuals to pay for fingerprint-based background checks online rather than by sending payment through the mail. Seven hundred and sixty five payments were received through PayPort in 2014, representing approximately 16 percent of those eligible to use the system.

The Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) implemented formal audits of agencies receiving criminal history record information (CHRI) from CID to ensure proper handling of the CHRI. A total of 19 state agencies will be audited every three years. The first nine agencies were

audited in 2014 and the remaining ten will be audited in 2015.

In 2014, 10,557 Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) permits were issued. There were 36,094 active CCW permits in Nebraska as of December 31, 2014. Projecting a conservative 15 percent growth in initial applications per year, along with the current 75 percent renewal rate, there would be a minimum of 72,922 CCW permit holders by the year 2019.



CID relies heavily on grant funding for a variety of programs and projects. In 2014, NSP was awarded nearly \$1.2 million in Federal grant funds through the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) and National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) grants and an additional \$73,000 as a sub-grantee of the Nebraska Crime Commission's Federal STOP Violence Against Women Act grant. These grant funds are used for projects to improve the accuracy and completeness of Nebraska's criminal history records, to close gaps in information available to the NICS for the purpose of evaluating if an individual is eligible to possess or purchase a firearm, and to fund NSP's Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program. Also, Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) grant funding allowed the SOR to deploy 57

iPads to sheriff offices in 2014 to complete on-line sex offender registrations and verifications.

The Quality Assurance Improvement Program was created in 2014 with NCHIP grant funding for the purpose of establishing a procedure to review processes and procedures at every step of the criminal justice process. The goal is to ensure that all information that needs to be shared between criminal justice stakeholders is, in fact, being shared so that Nebraska's criminal history records are as complete and accurate as possible.

The Centralized Protection Order Office (CPO) was established in 2013 with NARIP grant funding to assist local law enforcement with the entry of protection orders into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). This function is critical in that protection orders cannot be enforced statewide or nationally if they are not entered into NCIC. In 2014, the CPO launched a Protection Order Portal to create a single point of entry for protection orders into the Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System (NCJIS) that will then automatically record the order in NCIC. The portal was launched in 21 counties across Nebraska in 2014. Of those 21 counties, 12 were not previously entering protection orders into NCIC. A total of 316 new protection orders were entered into NCIC through the protection order portal in 2014.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT

The Technical Support Unit (TSU) is a specialized unit and its purpose is to



provide surveillance resources and expertise to law enforcement officers to enhance ongoing investigations with telephonic, video, and GPS (Global Positioning System) surveillance.

Officers can spend numerous hours researching and learning various types of technical surveillance techniques and tools. By utilizing the resources of TSU, a case officer can incorporate technical support tools & ideas without sacrificing limited investigative time. The current capabilities of the TSU include the areas of Covert Pole Cameras, GPS Tracking, Pen Registers & Telephone Intercepts. Services offered by TSU are becoming more widely known in the Law Enforcement area. Requests for investigative support saw a rise from two official requests documented in 2013 to over 30 in 2014.

The TSU Supervisor also serves as NIAC's Fusion Liaison Officer Coordinator and the State Patrol's statewide representative to the Nebraska Law Enforcement Intelligence Network (NLEIN) board. This allows the position to promote the services

of NIAC, understand the benefit of good intelligence and information coming from the field, and is a resource to other agencies in the area of technical & NFIN support.

TSU also supports the Nebraska State Patrol's Lincoln Access Point (LAP). The LAP is a server that allows connections for law enforcement agencies to connect to any nationwide telephone companies for PEN Register Data. This is a nationwide program and we have 43 law enforcement agencies that are connected.

## HOMELAND SECURITY

The Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Nebraska State Patrol serves as the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #13 – Public Safety and Security



representative to the State of Nebraska. This position integrates state public safety and security capabilities and resources to support the full range of incident management activities associated with potential or actual incidents requiring a coordinated response. General duties include maintaining situational awareness, pre-incident planning and coordination, preparedness planning and exercises.

The Emergency Preparedness Coordinator serves as the Governor's designee for

receiving advance notice of nuclear shipments (10CFR Parts 71 and 73), routing and security, and the State Emergency Response Guide administrator to the State's public response organizations.

Nebraska has approximately 96,725 total miles of public roads, including a major interstate, multiple airports, two nuclear power plants, and the largest rail switchyard in the world. Nebraska's Interstate 80 serves as the primary corridor for the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) shipping of low-level nuclear waste. WIPP is the nation's only repository for the disposal of nuclear waste known as transuranic, or TRU, waste. It consists of clothing, tools, rags, residues, debris, soil, and other items contaminated with small amounts of plutonium and other man-made radioactive elements. Disposal of transuranic waste is critical to the clean-up of Cold War nuclear production sites. Waste from Department of Energy (DOE) sites around the country is sent to WIPP for permanent disposal.

Two isolated events took place at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in February. On February 5, 2014, a salt haul truck caught fire. Workers were evacuated, and the underground portion of WIPP was shut down. Six workers were treated for smoke inhalation. Nine days later, late in the evening of February 14, a second, unrelated event occurred when a continuous air monitor (CAM) alarmed during the night shift. Only 11 employees

were at the WIPP site on the surface, and no employees were in the underground. The CAM measured airborne radioactivity close to the operating location where waste was being emplaced.

Because of these February events -- the DOE has suspended all shipments through the state of Nebraska.

Nebraska also experienced three federally declared disasters and an additional state-declared disaster. The Nebraska State Patrol, along with local, state and federal agencies worked together to effectively respond to the areas affected by the disasters.

- On May 11–12, Clay, Fillmore, Saline, Saunders, Seward, and York counties experienced severe storms and tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding.



- On June 16, 2014, National Weather Service reported 12 preliminary tornadoes across the state of Nebraska with the primary damage in Stanton, Cuming, and Wayne

counties. Forty-five to 50 homes were destroyed in Pilger, and two fatalities were reported; one in Pilger and one in Cuming County.

- June 3, 2014 golf ball, even baseball sized hail rained down in Blair. It was pushed along by more than 80-mile per hour winds. At least 20-people caught in the hail storm were treated for injuries. Homes did not fare any better. Hail shredded the siding, roof, and windows of numerous homes. All 4,300 cars at Woodhouse Auto Family in Blair were pummeled shattering windows, sunroofs, and leaving huge dents on the hoods, roofs, and trunks. The car dealer expects the damage to top \$162-million.



Cooper Nuclear Power Plant successfully completed their first Hostile Action Based (HAB) Exercise on August 5, 2014. HAB drills/exercises involve a scenario in which the plant is attacked by an individual or group, such as terrorists. Nuclear facilities like Cooper are required to participate in



these types of drills, and are evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. HAB drills require participation from an array of organizations at local, state, and federal levels. The exercises require participation of law enforcement and emergency response units (first responders such as fire, ambulance, etc.), a greater involvement of Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) Security personnel, and others. The August 5 drill scenario involved a multi-faceted attack on the station. As the drill kicked off, personnel were alerted that a plane was headed for the station. Subsequently, simulated adversaries emerged from a diesel tanker truck already on site, and a busload of protesters, with adversaries in the mix, stormed Cooper's "Protected Area" fence. Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant will conduct a similar exercise in 2015.

On August 8, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the current Ebola outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history.

The Nebraska State Patrol is collaborating with the Department of Health and Human Services, city, state, and local partners engaged in Ebola planning. This working group will create protocols for infectious disease response. Specifically, escorts of medical vehicles containing patients, transportation of specimens, and Security/monitoring of quarantined

patients within and outside of a medical facility.

## NEBRASKA INFORMATION ANALYSIS CENTER



The NIAC intelligence fusion center is a collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies working in partnership to detect, prevent, apprehend and respond to criminal and/or terrorist activity, as well as promote the resiliency of Nebraska critical infrastructure from an all-crimes and all-hazards basis. The mission of the NIAC is to collect, evaluate, analyze, and disseminate information and intelligence regarding criminal and terrorist activity to federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies, other Fusion Centers, and to public and private entities, as appropriate.

A Nebraska State Patrol Investigative Services Captain assigned to the NIAC as the Fusion Center Director, provides the day-to-day leadership of the NIAC processes which includes the enforcement of the NIAC Privacy Policy, in consultation with the Nebraska State Patrol Investigative Services Lieutenant assigned as the NIAC Privacy Officer. The NIAC receives further strategic guidance from its governance board made up of the senior leadership from the Nebraska State Patrol, Lincoln Police Department, the Omaha Police Department, the Nebraska Sheriffs Association, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In 2014, in the interest of inter-agency law enforcement information sharing designed to support Nebraska law enforcement operations, the NIAC continued to deploy the Nebraska Fusion Information Network (NFIN), which serves as a tool for collecting intelligence information from law enforcement across the state. This system allows vetted law enforcement officers and analysts to input and query intelligence information, Comprehensive Suspicious Activity Reports (SAR) and Field Intelligence Cards via a secure web portal. This inter-jurisdictional system integrates data from many state and local data sources including NSP, LPD, and OPD. In 2014, the NIAC continued to deploy NFIN by training deputies and officers from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, North Platte Police Department, and Gothenburg Police Department. Efforts to expand trained NFIN users in the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office and University of Nebraska Police Departments continued through 2014 and into 2015.

In addition to expanding NFIN users, the

if you  
SEE something,  
SAY something  
Report suspicious activity...call 911



NIAC in collaboration with developers from the NSP IT development staff have deployed a web-based submittal form titled the "Intelligence Collector." The Intelligence Collector allows users to quickly and easily submit information into NFIN from the roadside where internet connectivity is sparse. Currently, NFIN has 618 total users representing 65 local, state, and federal agencies throughout Nebraska. In 2014, the NIAC processed 846 Requests for Services (RFS) from law enforcement officers throughout the state. In the interests of homeland security, infrastructure protection, and public safety, the NIAC has different product lines, which it shares with its law enforcement and public/private sector partners to promote situational awareness relating to the dynamic threat landscape. The NIAC continued to engage private sector partners through development of the Weekly Critical Infrastructure Awareness Brief.

The NIAC is very proud of its 2013 DHS Fusion Center Assessment of 95.8 percent compared to the National Fusion Center network average of 96.3 percent. This assessment measures the NIAC's ability to receive classified and unclassified information from federal partners; assess the local implications of threat information through the use of a formal risk assessment process; disseminate threat information to other state, local, tribal, and territorial entities; gather locally-generated

information, aggregate it, analyze it, and share it. Those abilities are considered core competencies that each fusion center must achieve. In addition, fusion centers are measured in their ability to protect Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. This is essential to maintain the confidence of the public we support.

The NIAC continues to use the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN), to securely share sensitive but unclassified (SBU) intelligence and resources, such as Active Shooter and cyber-security materials, with its law enforcement and vetted public/private sector partners. HSIN-Nebraska is divided into For Official Use Only (FOUO) and Law Enforcement Sensitive (LES) areas.



## AUTO FRAUD

The Nebraska State Patrol Fraud Division consists of a Statewide Coordinator Sergeant, one Crime Analyst, and one Staff Assistant II who are located at the Investigative Service Center in Lincoln. There are criminal investigators designated from the six troop areas from the Investigative Service Divisions that have received specialized training to assist with vehicle fraud and identity theft investigations when needed.

The Fraud Division is responsible for the Sheriff's Title Inspection Certification training program and maintaining the database of active certified inspectors. In 2014, seven certification-training sessions were conducted with 97 people being certified. The Fraud Division processed 498 out-of-state title inspections (NSP455) in 2014, a decrease of 5.6 percent from the 542 that were processed in 2013.

The Fraud Division casework in 2014 included title fraud, forgeries, alteration of vehicle identification numbers, vehicle thefts, and identity thefts. The Fraud Division conducted 53 vehicle fraud related case investigations resulting in 11 arrests. The NSP Fraud Division Troop Area designees worked in conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicle Fraud Unit and investigated 40 Identity Theft/Criminal Impersonation cases in 2014



compared to 17 cases in 2013; a 135 percent increase from 2013 to 2014.

The Fraud Division conducted 56 vehicle inspections in 2014 compared to 50 conducted in 2013 a 12 percent increase.

Seven salvage yard inspections were conducted in 2014, which was 5.38 percent of the total salvage yards in Nebraska.

In 2014, the Fraud Division continued to work with the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles Fraud Unit as part of the Nebraska Identity Theft Task Force utilizing the L-1 Facial Recognition program. In 2014, the NSP Fraud Crime Analyst processed 17 Facial Recognition comparisons for Nebraska State Patrol investigators as well as investigators and detectives from federal and local law enforcement agencies compared to 24 conducted in 2013; a 29 percent decrease.

In 2014, the NSP Fraud Crime Analyst/HDQ Field Intelligence drafted 13 subpoenas for Troop H criminal and drug investigators, and conducted 35 lien, phone, and utility checks for various Nebraska State Patrol personnel.

## Sex Offender Registry

Effective January 1, 1997, the Nebraska Legislature tasked the Nebraska State Patrol with creating and administering a Sex Offender Registry (SOR) for those offenders who had been convicted of certain sexual related crimes. Since that time, the amount of offenders that must be registered, verified, updated, and published on the SOR website has increased to 4,754 persons in 2014. The SOR relies heavily on the partnership of federal, county, and local law enforcement agencies as well as state and federal probation and parole officers, and the public, to assist in keeping the SOR as up-to-date as possible for the information and protection of the citizens of Nebraska. The SOR division deployed 57 iPads to sheriff offices in 2014 to complete on-line sex offender registrations and verifications, saving the sheriff offices and Nebraska State Patrol time and keeping the Registry up to date in a timely manner.



## INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN (ICAC) / TECHNICAL CRIMES

The Nebraska State Patrol is a member of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, which is funded by the Department of Justice (DOJ), and is comprised of sixty-one (61) task forces across the nation whose mission is to combat child exploitation that is facilitated by the Internet and technology.

The Nebraska State Patrol ICAC unit consists of a statewide coordinator, a computer forensics laboratory, three (3) Forensic Analysts, one (1) Crime Analyst, and six (6) Investigators stationed across the state that have been trained to conduct ICAC investigations. Nebraska's ICAC Task Force includes sixty (60) federal, state, county, and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutor's offices throughout Nebraska.

During the 2014 fiscal year, the Nebraska State Patrol was awarded a grant of \$271,377 from the Department of Justice to aid the operation of the Nebraska ICAC Task Force.

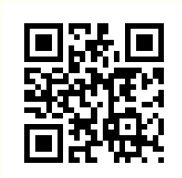


National Center for **Missing & Exploited** Children

[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)

During 2014, the Nebraska ICAC Task Force initiated 345 ICAC investigations, made sixty-four (64) arrests, and received/investigated 415 Cyber tips (received by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children). The Nebraska ICAC Task Force conducted 1,706 forensic examinations. Additionally, the Nebraska ICAC Task Force conducted fourteen (14) training sessions, trained 257 law enforcement personnel; and conducted 81 presentations for 7,804 attendees.

During 2014, the Nebraska State Patrol Computer Crimes Lab received 171 evidentiary items for 61 separate ICAC, criminal, and drug investigations. One hundred forty-seven (147) forensic examinations were conducted, examining more than eight (8) terabytes of data.



## HAZARDOUS DEVICE SQUAD



The Nebraska State Patrol's Bomb Squad was created in 1972 in response to a recognized need for subject matter experts to respond statewide to explosive related incidents. The Bomb Squad is a nationally accredited bomb squad through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) consisting of six FBI certified Hazardous Devices Technicians (HDTs). The Bomb Squad maintains an inventory of specialized equipment and vehicles to effectively respond statewide to explosive related incidents to aid in public safety.

The Bomb Squad's primary function is to respond statewide to explosive related incidents and render safe any explosive threats. During 2014, HDTs were deployed on approximately sixty-five explosive related incidents. Deployments included post blast investigations, SWAT deployments, special assignments, search warrants, and approximately two hundred hours of render safe operations including but not limited to, the following explosive materials and improvised explosive devices (IEDs):

- 560 Destructive Devices
- Approximately 150 explosive items

- Approximately 2,600 pounds of explosive precursor chemicals
- Approximately 250 pounds of homemade explosive materials

HDTs also spent approximately one thousand, one hundred and thirty-six hours of readiness training for explosive related incidents and bomb squad equipment purchased through grants. Highlights of 2014 training were three HDTs completing the ATF's Advanced Explosive Destruction Techniques course, two HDTs completing ATF's Homemade Explosives course and one HDT completing an Advanced Ordnance Recognition course. During 2014, HDTs began providing Bomb Squad support during the University of Nebraska home football games consisting of seven games supported.

The Hazardous Devices Coordinator (HDC) is responsible for final review; approval/denial of applications for NSP issued explosive permits. During 2014, the HDC approved 242 explosive permits and denied two.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULT (DVSA) PROGRAM:**

The DVSA Program conducts statewide training and an annual regional conference on topics related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. The program works collaboratively with state and local domestic violence and sexual assault teams, NSP investigators and troopers and statewide victim advocacy groups to identify and promote statewide training initiatives, track domestic violence related fatalities in Nebraska and provide support to local response teams. The program also manages the Centralized Protection Order Office (CPO) which was established in 2013 to assist local law enforcement with the entry of protection orders into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Using funds from the NICS Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) grant, the CPO launched a Protection Order Portal to create a single point of entry for protection orders into the Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System (NCJIS) that will then automatically record the order in NCIC. The portal was launched in 21 counties across Nebraska in 2014. Of those 21 counties, 12 were not previously entering protection orders into NCIC. A total of 316 new protection orders were entered into NCIC through the portal in 2014.



## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division (ASD) is under the Command of Major Kyle Otte, and is comprised of ten support divisions. These support divisions include;

- Grants.
- Research and Planning.
- Accounting.
- Supply/Radio Engineering.
- Project Management.
- Communications.
- Human Resources.
- Purchasing.
- Training Academy.
- Combined Law Enforcement Information Network (CLEIN).

Troopers, investigators, civilians, and other



*Diane Conley receiving Years of Service Award (45) from Col. Sankey, & Major Otte*

specialized personnel make up the customer base for all of Administrative Services to support. The NSP motto, "Pro Bono Publico", for the good of the public,



holds true for this division as well as the support of the Agency through prompt, efficient, and effective support of all employees.



## ACCOUNTING

The Accounting Division is responsible for payroll, benefits assistance, accounts payable processing, deposits and accounts receivable processing, grants accounting and reporting, audit coordination, cash management, budgeting, forecasting, legislative fiscal notes, leases, financial reconciliations, and financial reporting and analysis. The team's goals include providing accurate, timely, and meaningful financial information.



*Kerry B., Lynnee T., JoAnn M., Jackie K., Carol A., and Susan R.*

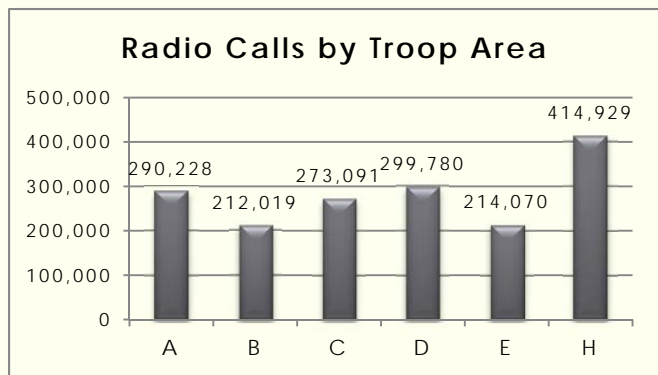
The Division successfully closed out Fiscal Year 2014 on June 30, 2014, and opened the books for Fiscal Year 2015, beginning the second year of the budget biennium. New appropriations and prior year carry-over amounts were established and input into the Accounting system for future monitoring and tracking. The Agency received total new appropriations for \$76.2 million, which went into effect on July 1, 2014. This does not include additional Grant funds that may be awarded to the

Agency throughout the fiscal year. The Division also completed an analysis of the Agency's financial needs that will occur during the next biennium and submitted the Agency's Budget Request on September 15, 2014 for the upcoming budget biennium for fiscal years 2015 and 2017.

During 2014, the Division processed 26 bi-weekly payrolls and 12 monthly payrolls. Processing of salary increases that became effective on July 1, 2014 also occurred. Other activities of the Division included the completion of 25 Legislative Fiscal Notes analyzing the financial impact to the Agency of various proposed Legislative Bills. From a transactional perspective, the Accounting Division processed expenditures totaling approximately \$76 million during Fiscal Year 2014 (7/1/13 – 6/30/14). This included approximately \$21.6 million of accounts payable transactions consisting of operating expenses, travel expenses, capital outlays and government aid, as well as approximately \$54.4 million in payroll and benefit expenses. The Division also processed expenditures funded via various grants totaling approximately \$6.1 million for Fiscal Year 2014. Lastly, the Division also coordinated several audits and reviews related to the Agency's financial transactions during 2014.

## COMMUNICATIONS

This is the second year for NSP Communications to be supervised by the Administrative Services Division. On October 1, 2014, the communications director went from being directly under the command of the Administrative Services Major to the command of the Administrative Services Captain.



One of the primary goals of the Communications Division was to start the consolidation process to eventually go from six centers to three centers over a three-year period. The first consolidation occurred on May 18, 2014, with the closure of the Norfolk Communications Center. Operations were moved to Lincoln.

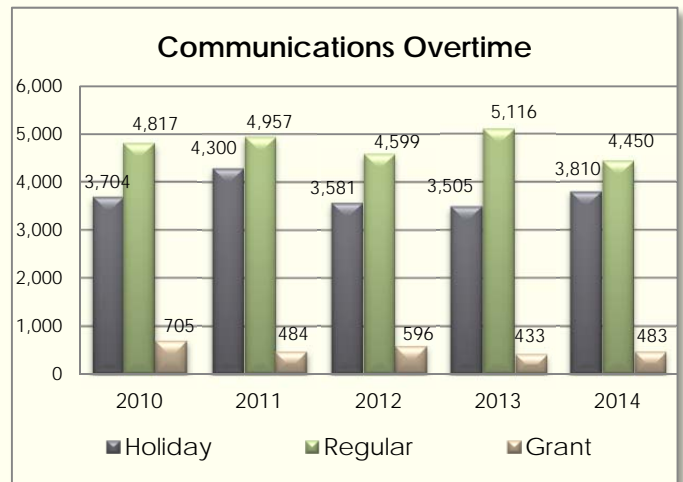
There were several projects undertaken throughout the year. Communications personnel were very heavily involved in the radio training provided to all NSP personnel. They helped to facilitate basic Statewide Radio System (SRS) Training, which began in 2013 and ended during the first part of 2014. This involved scenario

based training to both Communications Specialists and Troopers.

Local emergency personnel through the use of radio consolettes can also access



the SRS. Communications Supervisors have been working with staff from the Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officers on implementing consolettes throughout the state. This has involved weekly testing and regular training of dispatchers throughout



Nebraska. Staff has been involved in the training of local dispatchers on the use of the ROC (Regional Operations Channel) Talk groups. Use of the ROC Talkgroups has increased in 2014.

Work is being done to standardize training and procedures across the state. This project is not yet completed, but is progressing.

The biggest challenge in 2014 is staffing levels and strong local economies. Human Resources have been working closely with Communications staff during the hiring process. Overtime in some centers has been impacted by the turnover rate, primarily Lincoln, with over 3,000 hours. However, overtime as a whole was down 311 hours compared to 2013.

### CLEIN

The Combined Law Enforcement Information Network (CLEIN) provides secure connectivity for 110 Nebraska law enforcement and criminal justice agencies



*Diane G., Tom P.*

to the FBI's National Crime Information Center, other national criminal justice related databases and law enforcement agencies nationwide. The Nebraska State Patrol, FBI-designated manager of the CLEIN system, also conducts statewide audits and certification training for the 110 user agencies and their 3,800 operators.



## GRANTS DIVISION

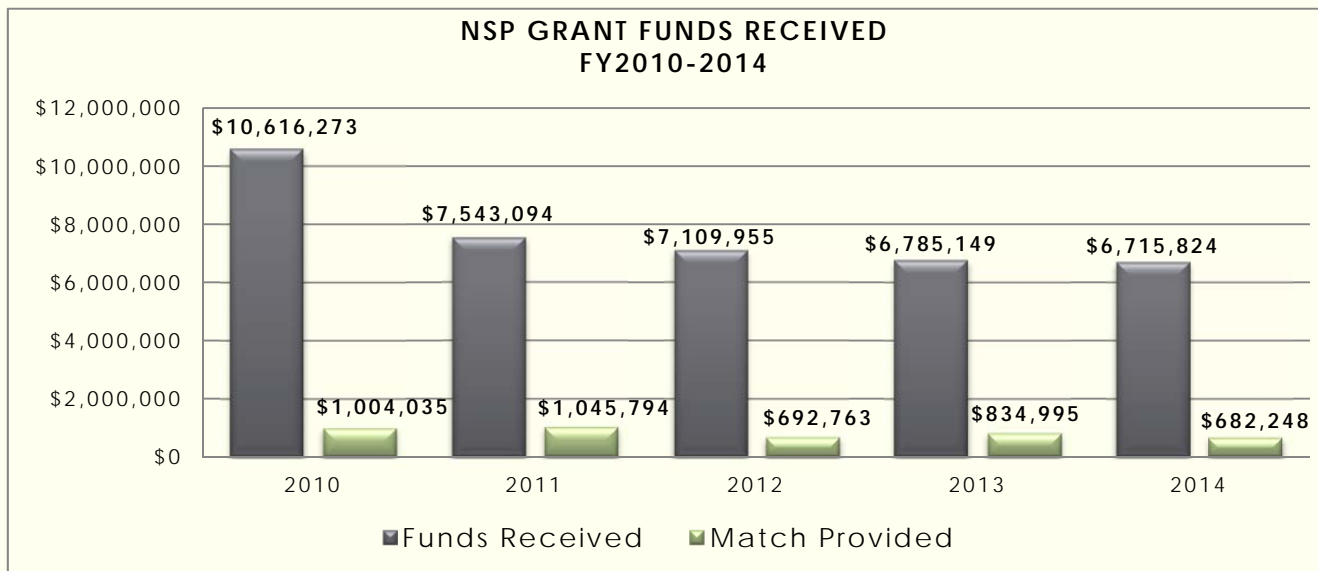
The Grants Division oversees the development and implementation of agency projects funded through outside sources. Most of the \$6.75 million grant dollars administered in fiscal year 2014 were federal and match funds devoted to crime, highway safety, and homeland security. Foundations, County Drug Boards, and traffic diversion programs also provided resources to the agency.

In addition to requesting and receiving grant funds, the Grants Division sub grants funds to other state and local governmental agencies. Grant dollars awarded to eighteen different entities in fiscal year 2014 totaled nearly \$900,000.

The Nebraska State Patrol Foundation works closely with the Grants Division in securing funds that would otherwise not be available to the agency. Of the approximately \$165,000 received in 2014, \$45,000 was dedicated towards the



Patrol's community service officer program in support of educating youthful drivers. The most popular program, Friday Night Lights, grew from a localized program to statewide because of the financial support received from State Farm Insurance Company, Cornhusker Motor Club Foundation/ AAA Nebraska, and Motorola Solutions Foundation.



## HUMAN RESOURCES

### Civilian Recruitment



There was an increase in the number of civilian position vacancies in 2014 compared to 2013, which coincides with the number of civilian resignations and terminations. Human Resources completed 51 selection processes for civilian vacancies; many of these positions had to be posted several times. The Human Resources Manager and Assistant assigned to civilian recruitment coordinated the process to fill vacant positions utilizing best practices to select the most qualified individuals. They completed the onboarding of the selected applicant and coordinated their orientation to the agency for a smooth transition to their new position. The agency continues to experience higher turnover in the Security Guard, Communications Specialist, Crime Analyst, Forensic Scientist, and Information Technology positions compared to other civilian positions.

### Sworn Transfers/Promotions

Human Resources continues to manage the recruitment processes for lateral transfers and promotions of sworn vacancies. There were three statewide lateral postings (two are required by the SLEBC Labor Contract) and there were 36 selection processes for vacancies in numerous divisions including, but not limited to: Investigators, PSD Handlers,

Sergeants, Lieutenants, Captains, and one Major.

### Grievances/Charges of Discrimination

Human Resources staff received 26 grievances in 2014; 25 which were SLEBC covered employees and one NAPE covered employee. There were two complaints of discrimination filed, one of which had a determination of No Reasonable Cause. One complaint is pending investigation and determination.

### Talent Management System Implementation

Human Resources continues to manage the Performance Management System of the Employee Development Center and represent the agency on the implementation team. The NSP Policy for Employee Reviews has been revised and is pending approval and posting.

### Communication Center Consolidation

Human Resources prepared and implemented the Rules and NAPE layoff plans due to the closure of the Troop B Communications Center. The Human Resources Administrator served as a member of the Communications Center Consolidation Committee.

### CAMP #56

The 2014 Sworn Officer Selection Process began on February 24, 2014. A comprehensive recruitment effort was completed with 42 Officer Candidates entering the agency's Training Academy Recruit Camp on October 20, 2014. As of

February 2015, 39 recruits are in camp, with three females and three minorities. Camp #56 is scheduled to graduate May 1, 2015.

#### Employee Relations

Human Resources participated in bargaining for the 2015-2017 SLEBC and NAPE Labor Contracts led by AS Employee Relations Division. Command staff input was received and agency representatives identified. Negotiations concluded with agreement the week of January 5, 2015. The Human Resources staff advises Command Staff and supervisors concerning compliance with labor contract provisions as needed.

#### Employee Recognition Program

Information on anniversary dates is provided to the Superintendent's Office for awards and other recognition purposes. The Human Resources Division receives and notifies the agency commanders when specific nominations are required for Employee and Manager of the Year Awards become available.

#### Employee Assistance Program

Deer Oaks continues to serve as the State of Nebraska's Employee Assistance Program. Information is sent out agency wide when it is received by Deer Oaks, including information posted regularly on the S: drive for all agency employees to access. Utilization of the program was on track at around four percent.

#### Classification & Compensation

Two employee requests for classification review were submitted in 2014, with one being reclassified and one staying the same. Two management classification reviews were submitted and approved for reclassification. Three vacant positions were submitted for classification review; one was reclassified upward, one downward, and one was changed from discretionary to Rules covered. Three new positions were requested and created; two for Communications and one for CID.

#### 2014 Sergeant Promotional Process

The 2014 Sergeant Promotional Process exam was administered October 22, 2014, state-wide. There were 84 participating troopers, and the final list was posted with 52 troopers eligible for promotion. There were no appeals filed. The process will be evaluated in 2015 for the next process, which will be in 2016.

#### Committee Participation

Human Resources Division staff continued to serve on several internal committees including Communications, Policy Review, Medical Case Management, and Health and Safety. Several of the committees are still active.

#### Training

Attending and conducting training continues to be an important role for the Human Resources Division staff. Human Resource focused trainings are provided by Administrative Services for all state

agency representatives. State Patrol Human Resources Division and the Accounting Division staff attend these trainings. Training includes the Interactive Informational Forums, Payroll/HR User Group meetings, and special topics training.

Human Resources continues to conduct Human Resource Management for supervisor training for both civilian and sworn supervisors.

#### Legal Division and Human Resources Division

The Human Resources Division and Legal Division work collaboratively to review and consult with command staff concerning medical cases, Grievance/Compliant review, and other areas of responsibility including, labor contract provisions, policies, procedures, forms and other documents.

#### Accounting Division and Human Resources Division

Responsibilities for processing employees in Workday (Employee Work Center) and E1/NIS (Payroll and Financial Center) are shared by both the Accounting and Human Resource Divisions. Communication continues to be a key in the success of the implementation of new programs used by both divisions. HR and Accounting continue to meet regularly and work collaboratively together to manage processes, implement new systems, and compile data for Command staff decision-making and awareness.

#### Temporary Employees

Investigative Services, Criminal Identification, and Traffic Communication Divisions are three areas that currently utilize the majority of temporary employees. Eleven temporary employees were hired during 2014; four terminations, nine resignations, and eleven temporary employees were hired into permanent positions with the Patrol. Salaried cost of agency temporary employees in 2014 was approximately \$258,500, and salaried cost for SOS temporary employees in 2014 was approximately \$29,600.

#### CALEA Documentation and Information

The Patrol's CALEA Accreditation review was successful in 2013, and the Human Resource Division staff continues to be consistently approached for information to complete the standards related to Human Resources responsibilities. Human Resource Division staff strives to be proactive in providing required documentation information in a timely manner as it becomes available in order to meet the CALEA standards. The next accreditation process is scheduled for 2016. A retired sworn officer serves as the CALEA Accreditation Manager in a civilian discretionary position.

#### Requests for Information, Serve as Professional Resources, & Consult with Others

Contract interpretation, retirees, EAP, personnel matters, training, organizational charts, and requests for service are just a

handful of the items that the HR Division staff deals with daily. In offering services, they also consult with other divisions and agencies for assistance or expertise in getting the job done.

### **ENGINEERING/SUPPLY DIVISION**

During 2014, the Radio Engineering Division travelled to the outlying troop areas in the state to complete repairs on equipment and vehicles. Sending several technicians across the state saves time and money and allows for the Agency to be very efficient. In addition to maintaining the current assets, much work was also accomplished in the area of upgrades to existing equipment, as well as to the new Statewide Radio System.

The Executive Protection Division and Capitol Security Division are currently testing a radio system which will allow both entities to fully migrate from the city of Lincoln radio system to the Statewide Radio System. By installing components at the top of a state office building located at 1526 K Street, the anticipation for the migration is sooner rather than later.

All RADAR units utilized by the Patrol Division and Carrier Enforcement Division are recertified by Radio Engineering on an annual basis at the troop area level. Along with this necessary function, the technicians also completed the installation of radio accessories in the Omaha Dispatch Center and began installing automatic repeater activation and

deactivation circuits in all Agency marked units. The last major upgrade for the Division included the purchasing of high capacity batteries for all in-car camera systems.

With upgrades to the Radio System firmly in place, the removal of old radio system-base station equipment is fully under way with all the older equipment headed for the State Surplus Property Division. Discussion is also taking place to begin the disposal of all the old radio tower sites.

The Vehicle Installation Division completed all required vehicle equipment installations and removals for vehicles owned by the Nebraska State Patrol, State Fire Marshal, and the Game and Parks Commission. One hundred new vehicles were issued to personnel in addition to the patrol vehicles issued to those graduating troopers from the 2014 Academy Class.

The supervisor of the Vehicle Installation Division is obligated to maintain a high degree of understanding regarding the vehicle bid and purchase process. Every year, vehicles are changed insuring the appropriate specifications are written and understood. A computer spreadsheet is being utilized to keep track of the necessary information.

The Supply Division was tasked with completing an inventory of the Statewide Radio System in order to verify data on file with the Office of the Chief Information Officer. The supervisor of the division



works closely with the Accounting Division to maintain current inventories which include federal grant logs and other equipment with a dollar value higher than \$1500.00. Finally, the Supply Manager attended the 2014 Modex Expo Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, to learn about inventory control and asset management systems.

**RESEARCH AND PLANNING**



The Research & Planning Division of the Nebraska State Patrol serves as support for the Superintendent’s Office, as well as for the rest of the Agency. The responsibilities of the Division include general planning to include the implementation of progressive and innovative changes in the law enforcement field. The Division provides research and development support to all areas of the Agency and works cooperatively with all employees to meet established objectives and improve department law enforcement and non-law enforcement items.

During 2014, the Research & Planning Division worked on a number of significant projects to include International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Chief’s Challenge, Bias-based Policing Report, Selective Enforcement Analysis, Annual Report, Strategic Plan, Personnel Allocation, Conspicuity Study, Policy

Development, and Implementation. Additionally, considerable time was devoted to committee assignments. Among them: Nebraska Crime Commission Racial Profiling Committee, Fitness for Duty Committee, and the Safety Committee.

**PURCHASING DIVISION**

The Purchasing Division of the Nebraska State Patrol is responsible for the acquisition and distribution of all goods



Shelly R., Mike Y.

and services integral to the day-to-day operations of the Nebraska State Patrol. In performing this task, every effort is extended to ensure supplies, equipment and services obtained are of the highest quality available. Normally these items are obtained either by statewide contracts or by means of competitive bids solicited from reputable vendors who are registered to do business with the state of Nebraska through the Department of Administrative Services.

Creating an environment where employing the most effective and innovative methods for procuring commodities and services, while following all policies and state of Nebraska statutes, is at the heart of this Division. Dedication to providing employees of the Agency the safest products possible is vital. The Division is

constantly researching the newest products and technology to insure the Nebraska State Patrol is utilizing the best products on the market for the most affordable price.



## PROJECT MANAGER

In 2014, the Project Manager (PM) continued to work with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), and the Patrol as allied agencies, as part of the development process of the Statewide Radio System. The PM assisted with the planning for a statewide reprogramming of all Patrol radios. New frequencies for the three new tower sites allowed the Patrol to use these three sites as soon as they became active. The Patrol also added several new features for its radios and additional vehicle repeater frequencies. The PM assisted with the gathering and development of training materials and assisted with the planning for the effort to minimize the impact on Patrol operations. Working with OCIO and NPPD, the PM assisted with the analysis and resolution of trouble reports filed by troopers and Patrol dispatchers.

The PM worked with OCIO regarding the fiscal reconciliation of radio equipment and payment issues by analyzing documents received in 2014 from OCIO. The PM also assisted the Auditor of Public Accounts as part of the SRS audit of Patrol equipment. New radio policies and SOPs drafted by the PM regarding the SRS were finalized, routed, and adopted by the Patrol.



To facilitate interoperability with other agencies, agreements were reached with USMS, DEA, and ATF to share Patrol talk-groups and several more are in process. The Interlocal Agreement negotiated by the PM with Douglas County was executed by OCIO and Douglas County making the Patrol a user agency on the Orion system. STARCOMM talk-groups were programmed into Troop B radios for interoperability with South Sioux City. Interoperability was improved by the completion of tie lines between Omaha dispatch, Douglas County, Sarpy County and others.

The PM assisted in the selection process of a new law enforcement records management system (RMS) and a contract was signed with NICHE. The MDC Committee, including the PM, researched what other state police agencies were using for personal computers. The PM arranged for a number of demonstrations and later field-testing of three models for Field Services and several for ISO and other divisions, to help the Patrol narrow its selection process of new PCs. The Patrol will begin buying new PCs in 2015 to replace outdated models. The PM also helped develop a funding plan to purchase the new PCs.

## TRAINING ACADEMY

The Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy (NSPTA) is responsible for all training including basic recruit training, advanced training, specialized training, and in-service training for sworn and non-sworn personnel of the Nebraska State Patrol. The NSPTA is a co-located facility with the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center located in Grand Island, Nebraska.



In 2014, NSPTA completed 14 In-Service sessions covering all sworn personnel with a variety of courses ranging from TIMS, Peak Performance, Legal Blood Draws, and Business Letter Writing. In addition, NSPTA



held 12 specialized courses and two advanced courses including LPO (Leadership in Police Organizations) and

Dr. Gilmartin (Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement). Furthermore, the annual Jr. Law program sponsored through the local



American Legion Clubs was held in June. Thirty-five girls and boys attended a weeklong program facilitated by NSPTA providing basic classroom instruction on various topics to morning physical fitness training. In August, FLETC (Federal Law



Enforcement Training Center) conducted three, eight hour Tactical Medical Course and a one day (DT) Control Tactics Courses for DT instructors. As customary, the NSPTA held the annual SWAT training for members of the Alpha, Charlie, and

Bravo teams. This is a week-long training session covering a variety of topics specific to SWAT.

In a supportive role, the NSPTA assisted the Human Resources Division with a selection process providing an orientation presentation to applicants desiring to become Nebraska State Troopers. Additionally, members of the NSPTA staff facilitated the physical fitness portion of the selection and civilian staff assisted with grading of the TABE test. Furthermore, the Training Academy worked closely with Glock, Inc. in producing an article "Guardian of the Plains" about our agencies history with the Glock. Lastly, NSPTA held basic recruit training for Classes 55 and 56. Class 56 continues to be trained and will graduate May 2015.



**Lifesaver (1)**

Russ Tice, NEMAP Volunteer



**Military (3)**

Capital Security Officer Zachary Freauf – United States Army

Trooper Courtney Horak #234 – United States Navy

Trooper Ryan Trost #249 – United States Navy and Navy Reserve



**Public Service Award (4)**

Megan Kommers

Officer Jeff Uhl, Columbus Police Department

Officer Joshua Loontjer, Columbus Police Department

Officer Drew Behn, Schuyler Police Department

**Seat Belt Award (3)**

Garrison Hazen

Connor Hazen

Zachary Hazen

**Certificates of Appreciation – Outside Agencies (9)**

Bendix

Great West Casualty Company

Nebraska Trucking Association

Hitz Towing

Nebraska Peterbilt

Kramer's Wrecker Service, Inc.

Behlen Towing

Kearney Towing and Repair Center, Inc.

Nebraska Attorney General's Office



**Superintendent's Group** (4 Total Submissions)

**Cooperative Operation for Drug Enforcement and the Western Nebraska Intelligence and Narcotics Group Task Forces** (9)

Investigator Beth Bauer #368

Intelligence Analyst Staci Behne

Investigator Brian Buxbaum #292

Field Intelligence Representative Latisha Connelly

Investigator Brian Eads #159

Investigator Becky Harris #461

Sergeant Dana Korell #261

Investigator J.J. Pedersen #348

Sergeant Eric Rice #198

**Statewide Radio System** (14)

Buck Boje, Sergeant #24

Doug Bramhall, Electronic Technician/Senior

Jeff Frazier, Electronic Design Specialist

Greg Goltz, Trooper #316

Manuel Jimenez, Trooper #300

T.J. Kripal, Electronics Manager

Ron Lehms, Electronic Section Supervisor

Mike Maytum, Trooper #207

Andrew Mohr, Trooper #378

Travis Oliva, Electronic Technicians/Senior

Jason Prante, Trooper #659

Stephen Rasgorshek, Investigator #222

Scott Rutten, Sergeant #233

Monica Spanke, Communications Specialist Supervisor

**June 20, 2014 Pursuit** (3)

Captain Frank Peck #438

Sergeant Brian Petersen #173

Trooper Michael Grummert #397

**Troop B Personnel Pilger Storm Response - On June 16, 2014** (1)

**Retirement Acknowledgement to Outside Agencies** (5)

Major Les Braunn, Arkansas State Police

Mike Jones, Sarpy County Deputy Sheriff

Chief Leonard Houloose, Papillion Police Department

Andy Russell, Department of Personnel

John Wood, Lincoln Airport Authority

**Years of Service Awards** (80)

10 Years - 7

20 Years - 27

25 Years - 19

30 Years - 21

35 Years - 2

40 Years - 1

45 Years - 3

**Distinguished Service Awards** (6)

Investigator David Kleensang #395

Investigator Chris Kober #346

Trooper Michael Mallery #52

Trooper Tyler Kroenke #51

Sergeant Jim Bills #182

Deb Davis, Communication Specialist

**Distinguished Service Awards - Retirees** (23)

(A Total of 609 Years!!)

Trooper Fred Bastron - 24+ Years

Trooper Charles Elley - 28+ Years

Captain Howard Cofer - 33 Years

Colonel David Sankey - 27+ Years

Trooper Kenneth Meier - 37+ Years

Investigator Lloyd Morrow - 30+ Years

Communications Specialist Linda Nelson - 25 Years

Trooper Kenneth Moody - 23 Years



Records Technician Melinda Hudson – 7+ Years  
Sergeant Daniel Bartling – 30 Years  
Investigator Don Pounds – 30 Years  
Federal Aid Administrator Jeannine Davison – 40+ Years  
Lieutenant Vicki Streeter – 27 Years  
Account I Kim Heitmann – 2+ Years  
Sergeant Kevin Kavan – 30+ Years  
Sergeant Martin Costello – 30 Years  
Personnel Assistant Valerie Dugger (Smith) – 3+ Years  
Communications Specialist Ken Bohlken – 39+ Years  
Staff Assistant Jody Jones – 11+ Years  
Investigator Kent Hanlin – 26 Years  
Lieutenant David Dishong – 33+ Years

**Letters of Recognition (2)**

Fred King, Agency Counsel  
Sergeant Shane Flynn #60

**2013-2015 Awards Board Committee**

Chair: Lieutenant Colonel Tom Schwarten  
Major Russell Stanczyk  
Captain Frank Peck  
Lieutenant Tim Arnold  
(Replaced Lieutenant Lynn Williams who was promoted to Captain)  
Sergeant Kevin Waugh  
Research Manager, Anthony Loth  
(Replaced Research Manager Nicole Moran who resigned)

**Troop A**

**Captain Brenda Konfrst**

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- 4411 S 108<sup>TH</sup> STREET / OMAHA, NE 68137 / 402.331.3333
- [brenda.konfrst@nebraska.gov](mailto:brenda.konfrst@nebraska.gov)

**Troop B**

**Captain Paul Hattan**

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- 1401 EISENHOWER AVENUE / NORFOLK, NE 68701 / 402.370.3456
- [paul.hattan@nebraska.gov](mailto:paul.hattan@nebraska.gov)

**Troop C**

**Captain Chris Kolb**

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- 3431 WEST OLD POTASH HIGHWAY / GRAND ISLAND, NE 68803 / 308.385.6000
- [chris.kolb@nebraska.gov](mailto:chris.kolb@nebraska.gov)

**Troop D**

**Captain Lynn Williams**

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- 300 WEST SOUTH RIVER ROAD / NORTH PLATTE, NE 69101 / 308.535.8047
- [lynn.williams@nebraska.gov](mailto:lynn.williams@nebraska.gov)

**Troop E**

**Captain Mike Gaudreault**

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- 4500 AVENUE I / SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69363 / 308.632.1211
- [mike.gaudreault@nebraska.gov](mailto:mike.gaudreault@nebraska.gov)

**Headquarters  
Troop**

**Captain Joseph Rogers**

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- 4130 NW 37<sup>TH</sup> STREET / LINCOLN, NE 68524 / 402.471.1316
- [lance.rogers@nebraska.gov](mailto:lance.rogers@nebraska.gov)

**Carrier  
Enforcement**

**Captain Gerry Krolikowski**

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- 3920 WEST KEARNEY / LINCOLN, NE 68524 / 402.471.8624
- [gerry.krolikowski@nebraska.gov](mailto:gerry.krolikowski@nebraska.gov)

Division	Name	Address
<b>Administrative Services Division</b>	Captain Jeff Pelowski	1600 Hwy 2 / Lincoln, NE 68502 402.479.4920 <a href="mailto:jeff.pelowski@nebraska.gov">jeff.pelowski@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Investigative Services Division</b>	Captain Michael Jahnke	1600 Hwy 2 / Lincoln, NE 68502 402.479.4947 <a href="mailto:mike.jahnke@nebraska.gov">mike.jahnke@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Investigative Services Division NIAC / Fusion Center</b>	Captain Kevin Knorr	3800 NW 12 <sup>th</sup> Street / Lincoln NE 68521 402.479.4930 <a href="mailto:kevin.knorr@nebraska.gov">kevin.knorr@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Professional Standards Division</b>	Captain Sean Caradori	1600 Hwy 2 / Lincoln, NE 68502 402.479.3506 <a href="mailto:sean.caradori@nebraska.gov">sean.caradori@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Training Academy</b>	Captain Mark Williams	3600 N. Academy Rd / Grand Island, NE 68801 308.385.6030 <a href="mailto:mark.williams@nebraska.gov">mark.williams@nebraska.gov</a>

Division	Name	Address
<b>State Headquarters</b>		1600 Hwy 2 Lincoln , NE 68502 402.471.4545
<b>Accounting</b>	Carol Aversman	402.479.4945 <a href="mailto:carol.aversman@nebraska.gov">carol.aversman@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Aviation Support</b>	Captain Frank Peck	402.471.3260 <a href="mailto:frank.peck@nebraska.gov">frank.peck@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>CLEIN Network</b>	Tom Prevo	402.479.4927 <a href="mailto:tom.prevo@nebraska.gov">tom.prevo@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Crime Lab</b>	Pam Zilly	402.471.8967 <a href="mailto:pam.zilly@nebraska.gov">pam.zilly@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Criminal Identification</b>	Lieutenant John Shelton	402.471.8493 <a href="mailto:john.shelton@nebraska.gov">john.shelton@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Executive Protection / Capitol Security</b>	Lieutenant Todd Kinghorn	402.440.6123 <a href="mailto:todd.kinghorn@nebraska.gov">todd.kinghorn@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Grants</b>	Marisue Wagner	402.479.4017 <a href="mailto:marisue.wagner@nebraska.gov">marisue.wagner@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Human Resources</b>	Jerry Lee Jensen	402.479.4904 <a href="mailto:jerrylee.jensen@nebraska.gov">jerrylee.jensen@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Information Technology</b>	Pam Kunzman	402.479.4041 <a href="mailto:pam.kunzman@nebraska.gov">pam.kunzman@nebraska.gov</a>

Division	Name	Address
<b>Internal Affairs</b>	Lieutenant Kevin Ryan	402.479.4947 <a href="mailto:kevin.ryan@nebraska.gov">kevin.ryan@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Legal</b>	Wendy Wussow	402.479.4062 <a href="mailto:wendy.wussow@nebraska.gov">wendy.wussow@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Policy / Accreditation / Inspection</b>	David Dishong	402.479.4940 <a href="mailto:david.dishong@nebraska.gov">david.dishong@nebraska.gov</a>
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<b>Public Information</b>	Deb Collins	402.479.4985 <a href="mailto:deb.collins@nebraska.gov">deb.collins@nebraska.gov</a>
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