

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | October 18, 2021

## **NDHP Airplane Detail**

**NARRATIVE:** The North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP), Bismarck Police Department (BPD), Burleigh County Sheriff's Office (BCSO), Mandan Police Department (MPD), and Morton County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) conducted a detail on Friday, Oct. 15 and Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021, involving the NDHP airplane. During the detail, the NDHP airplane monitored traffic stops conducted by law enforcement agencies in the Bismarck-Mandan area. This two-day detail resulted in several arrests and the recovery of a stolen vehicle. Here is a description of the events that occurred over the two-day detail.

- On Friday, Oct. 15, a BPD Officer located a suspected stolen vehicle. When the BPD officer attempted to stop the vehicle, the driver fled with the vehicle. The NDHP aircraft was monitoring and tracked the vehicle north of Bismarck where an NDHP trooper initiated a traffic stop. The driver and vehicle fled through rural Burleigh County on paved roads, gravel roads, and eventually went off-road. The NDHP airplane tracked the vehicle during the pursuit, allowing officers to disengage when the vehicle went off-road. The suspect vehicle drove into a field east of Highway 83, approximately 5 miles south of Sterling, where it got stuck. The airplane monitored the suspect vehicle until officers were able to take the two subjects inside the vehicle into custody. The McLean County Sheriff's Department assisted with this incident.
- On Friday, Oct. 15, the NDHP airplane was targeted by a green laser from a subject on the ground. The airplane located a suspect in the 500 block of East 14th Street in Bismarck. Officers responded to the area but were unable to locate the suspect. **The NDHP is requesting the public's assistance in identifying the individual from this incident. If you have any information, please contact the NDHP at 701-328-2447 and request to speak with a SW Region Supervisor.**

- On Saturday, Oct. 16, a BPD Officer initiated a traffic stop on a motorcycle for a traffic violation. The driver fled on the motorcycle. The NDHP airplane was monitoring the traffic stop and tracked the motorcycle to a residence in northeast Bismarck. BPD Officers responded to the residence and took the driver into custody.
- On Saturday, Oct. 16, a BPD Officer attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation. The driver and vehicle fled. The NDHP airplane was monitoring the traffic stop and tracked the vehicle to a neighborhood in east Bismarck where the occupants fled on foot. The NDHP airplane was able to track the individuals and eventually led BPD Officers to the suspects location where they were taken into custody.

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Incidents of drivers fleeing law enforcement has been increasing. Drivers who flee place themselves, other motorists, pedestrians, and others in danger. The NDHP will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, to include use of the NDHP airplane, to monitor traffic stops conducted by these agencies. This partnership will allow law enforcement to more effectively and safely apprehend suspects that choose to flee law enforcement, ultimately enhancing safety to the public and law enforcement officers.

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**For More Information Contact:** Lt. Adam Dvorak, 701-328-2447, [ajdvorak@nd.gov](mailto:ajdvorak@nd.gov)