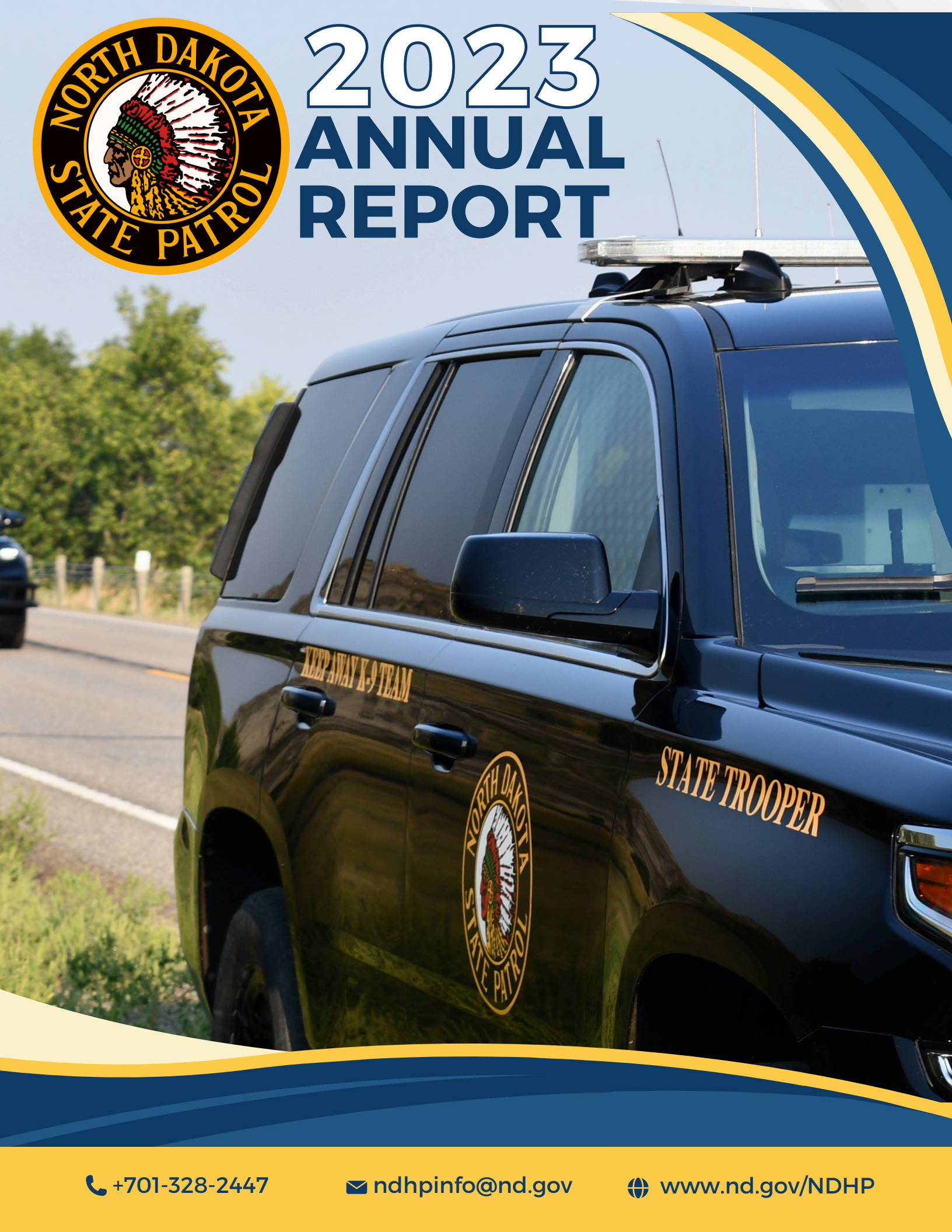




# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# MISSION, VISION, VALUES

## *Our Mission*

The mission of the North Dakota Highway Patrol is to make a difference every day by providing high-quality law enforcement services to keep North Dakota safe and secure.

## *Our Vision*

Public safety through quality service.

## *Our Values*

**LOYALTY:** We will show allegiance to ourselves, our department, the state of North Dakota, our community, and to those who came before us and sacrificed so much to ensure the safety of our citizens.

**INTEGRITY:** We are honest, responsible, and ethical. Citizens place the highest trust in the NDHP. Each member must recognize that they are held to a higher standard of accountability than the public. We must always be mindful to NEVER violate the public trust. Our conduct, both on and off duty, must be beyond reproach.

**COMMITMENT:** To fulfill the vision of the NDHP each employee must deliberately carry out their duties and responsibilities to the best of their abilities.

**RESPECT:** Because we are a diverse culture, we value each other and all members of our community regardless of age, race, gender, appearance, individual beliefs or lifestyles. We will always show understanding, respect, and appreciation for our similarities and differences.

**PROFESSIONALISM:** To be considered professional we must conform to the technical and ethical standards of our profession. Because we are highly trained and dedicated, we are capable of handling the daily demands of law enforcement and devoting our full energy and talents to the department's vision.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** Employees at all levels and ranks must accept responsibility for their actions both in their personal life and in their professional life.

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# LETTER TO GOVERNOR



May 25, 2024

Honorable Doug Burgum  
Governor  
State of North Dakota  
600 E Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Governor Burgum,

On behalf of the North Dakota Highway Patrol, I respectfully submit to you and the citizens of this great state the highway patrol's 2023 Annual Report.

The highway patrol's dedicated team members remain committed to making a difference every day by providing high quality law enforcement services to keep North Dakota safe and secure.

The highway patrol's core values of professionalism, accountability, integrity, and respect are reflected through our performance and outcomes. We're grateful to be living and working in the state of North Dakota where citizens value peace officers and public service.

Thank you for your tireless leadership and continued support for the North Dakota Highway Patrol and all of our state's courageous first responders.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. Solberg".

BRANDON J. SOLBERG  
Colonel, NDHP  
Superintendent



600 East Boulevard Avenue Dept 504 | Bismarck ND 58505  
PHONE: 701.328.2447 | TOLL-FREE: 1-844-474-6347 | ND.gov/NDHP

**VISION ZERO**  
Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) is comprised of two components: field operations and administration. Field operations includes four geographic regions and motor carrier operations. Administration includes finance, safety and education, support services, human resources, and the North Dakota Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA).

The LETA provides basic and advanced training to law enforcement officers from multiple agencies. 435 employees from local, state, tribal, and federal agencies attended training in 2023, and 164 of those graduated from basic training to become newly licensed peace officers in North Dakota.



Colonel Brandon Solberg

A variety of specialized assignments and programs contribute to the highway patrol's success including canine officers, crash technicians and reconstructionists, emergency response team members, criminal interdiction team members, drug recognition experts, an aircraft section, and a motor carrier safety assistance program.

State troopers work diligently to eliminate injuries and fatalities that result from traffic crashes, and the NDHP is a primary sponsor of the Vision Zero initiative. Core areas of enforcement include impaired and distracted driving, right-of-way and speed violations, and occupant protection. Troopers investigate complex crashes, enforce all criminal laws, protect highway infrastructure, and conduct commercial motor vehicle safety inspections.

NDHP team members focus on prevention and education efforts to improve driving behavior. In 2023, the NDHP provided 283 safety presentations to a variety of educational institutions and civic groups.

The NDHP is committed to fulfilling our public safety mission and providing professional law enforcement services to North Dakota citizens and the motoring public. Our employees value and respect the trust and authority that has been placed in them.

## Marcellus Red Tomahawk

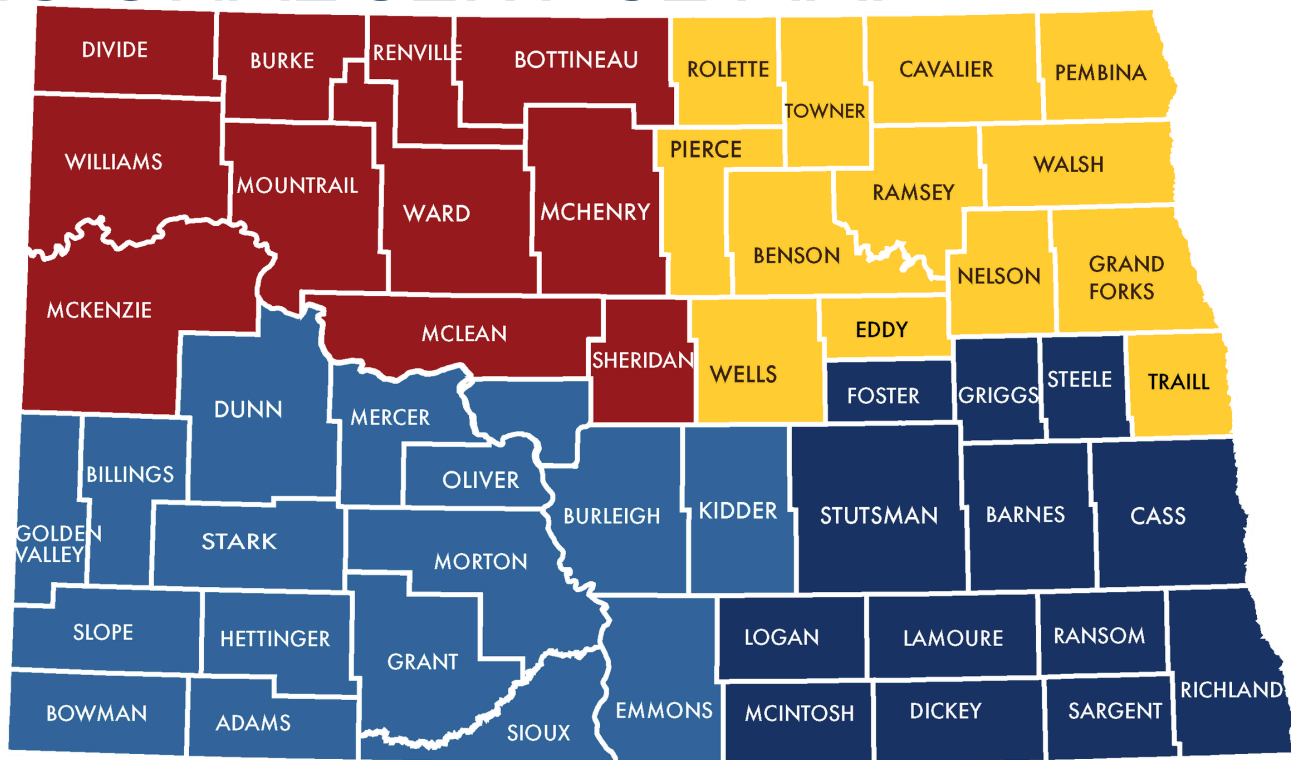


The North Dakota Highway Patrol's emblem contains a profile of Marcellus Red Tomahawk, a Teton Dakota (Sioux) Indian who served as a government officer in the early years of North Dakota's statehood.

Red Tomahawk, a sub-chief, encouraged harmony among all Americans. He lived on his land near the Cannon Ball River on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation south of Mandan. He was considered a champion of his people, a noble American, and a just man.

The North Dakota Highway Patrol officially adopted the profile of Red Tomahawk as the department symbol in 1951. Red Tomahawk was inducted into the North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor in 2016, and he was recognized for his efforts in education, law enforcement, and leadership.

# REGIONAL SERVICE MAP



## OUTPOST LOCATIONS

### NORTHEAST

- Devils Lake
- Grand Forks
- Grafton
- Hillsboro
- Northwood
- Rolla
- Rugby

### NORTHWEST

- Bottineau
- Crosby
- Garrison
- Minot
- Stanley
- Watford City
- Williston

### SOUTHEAST

- Carrington
- Fargo
- Jamestown
- LaMoure
- Lisbon
- Oakes
- Valley City
- Wahpeton

### SOUTHWEST

- Bowman
- Bismarck
- Dickinson
- Glen Ullin
- Hettinger
- Linton
- New Salem
- Steele
- Washburn

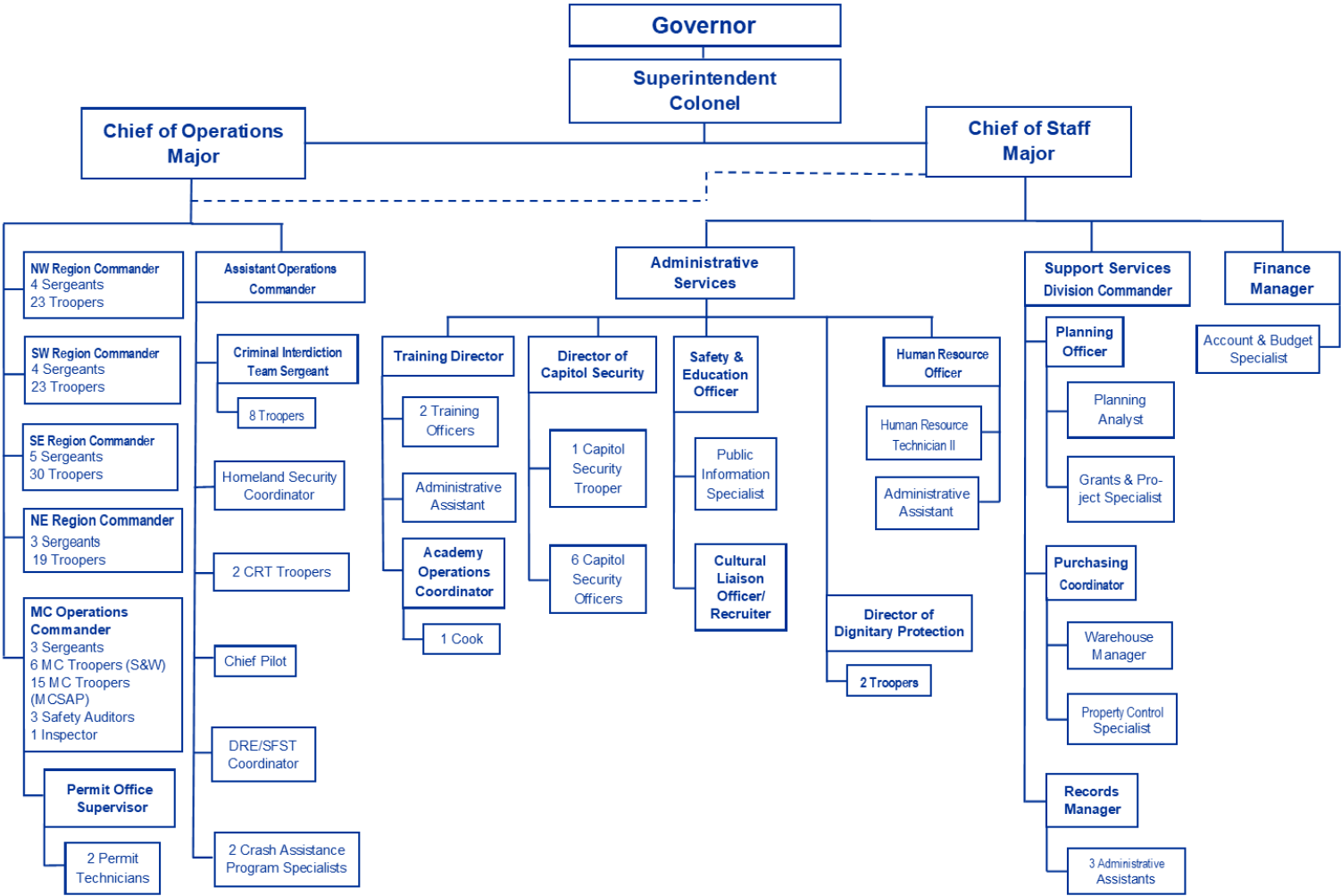
## AUTHORIZED STRENGTH

*as of December 31, 2023*

- **Sworn:** Authorized: 171 Present: 162 Vacancies: 9
- **Capitol Security:** Authorized: 6 Present: 6 Vacancies: 0
- **Motor Carrier Inspectors/Safety Auditors:**  
Authorized: 4 Present: 4 Vacancies: 0
- **Support Staff:** Authorized: 24 Present: 24 Vacancies: 0
- **TOTALS:** Authorized: 205 Present: 196 Vacancies: 9

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

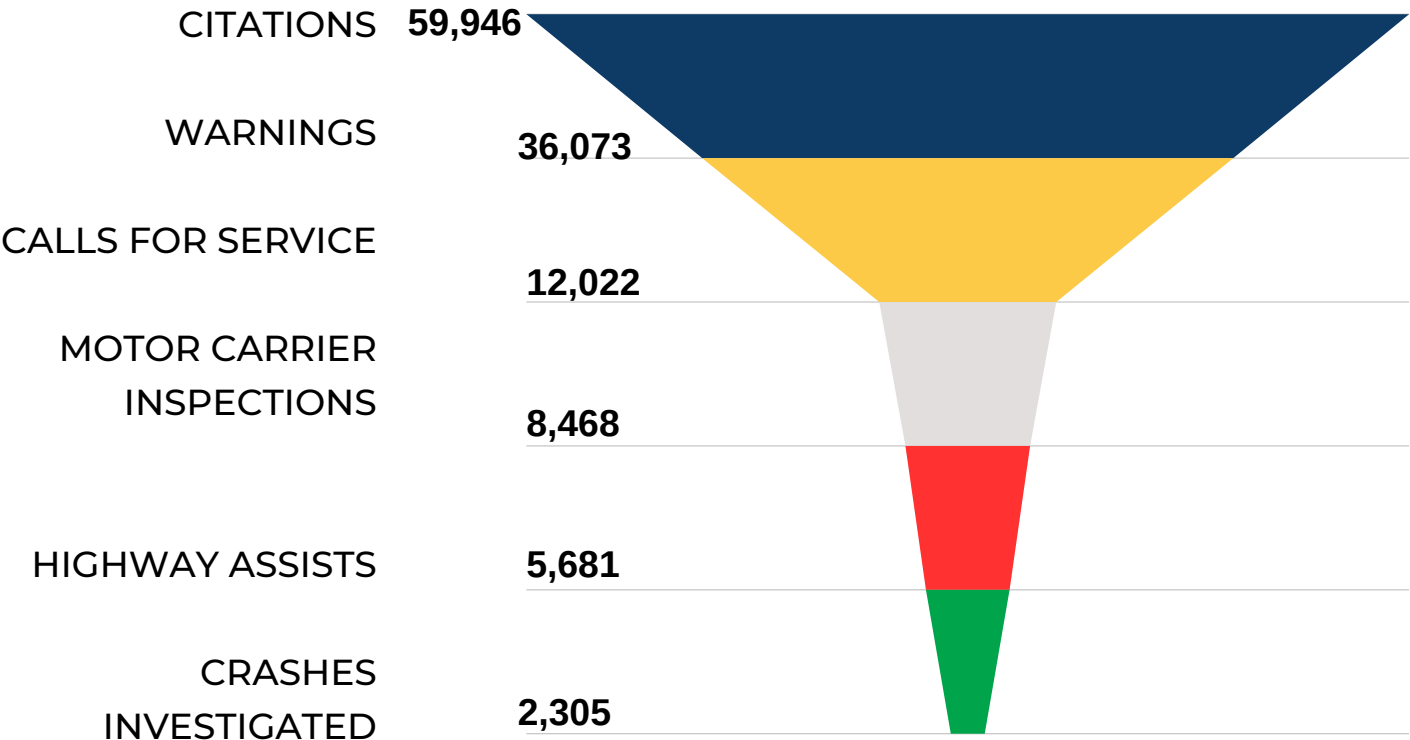
## NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL ORGANIZATION



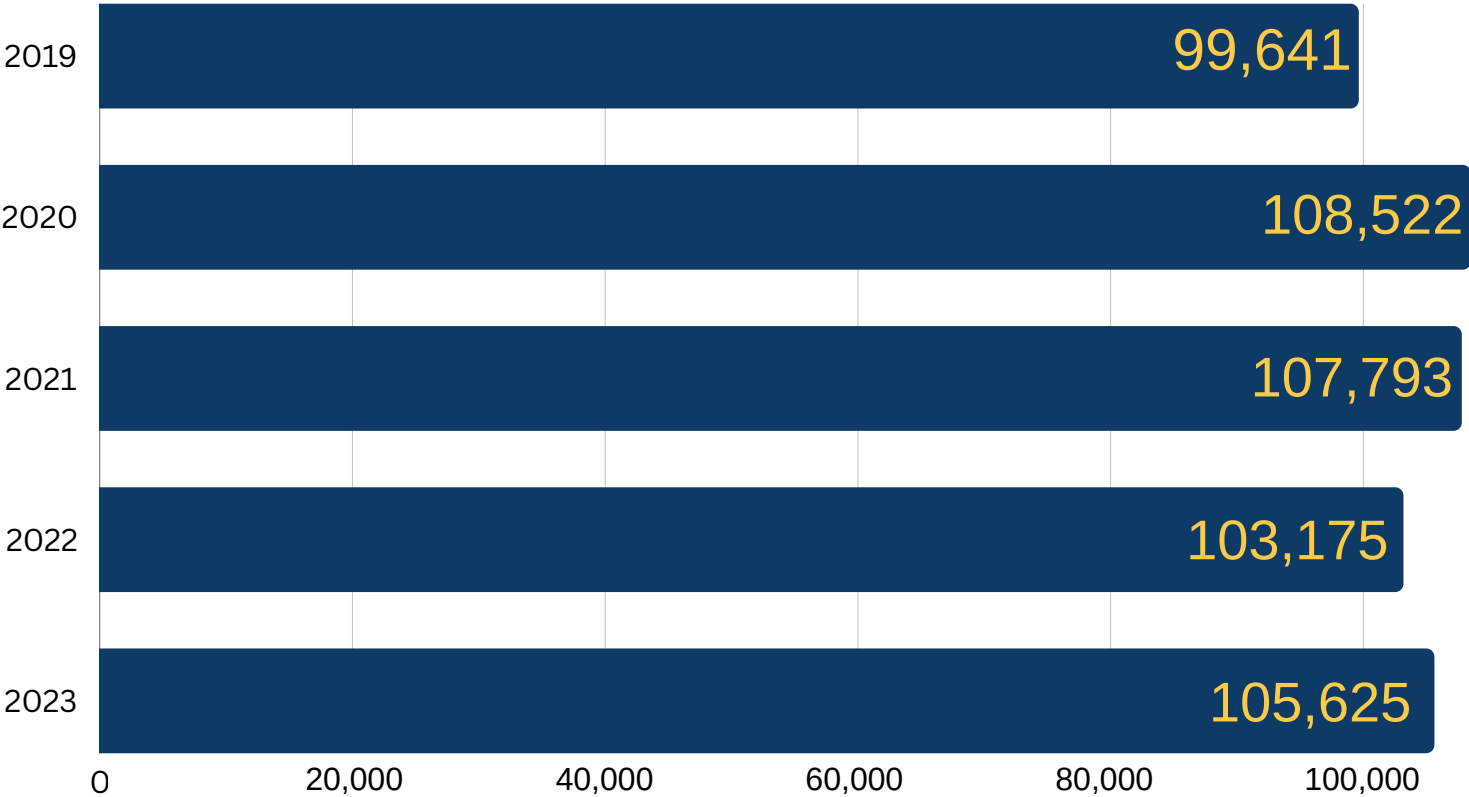
February 2024

# FIELD OPERATIONS

## ACTIVITIES: 2023

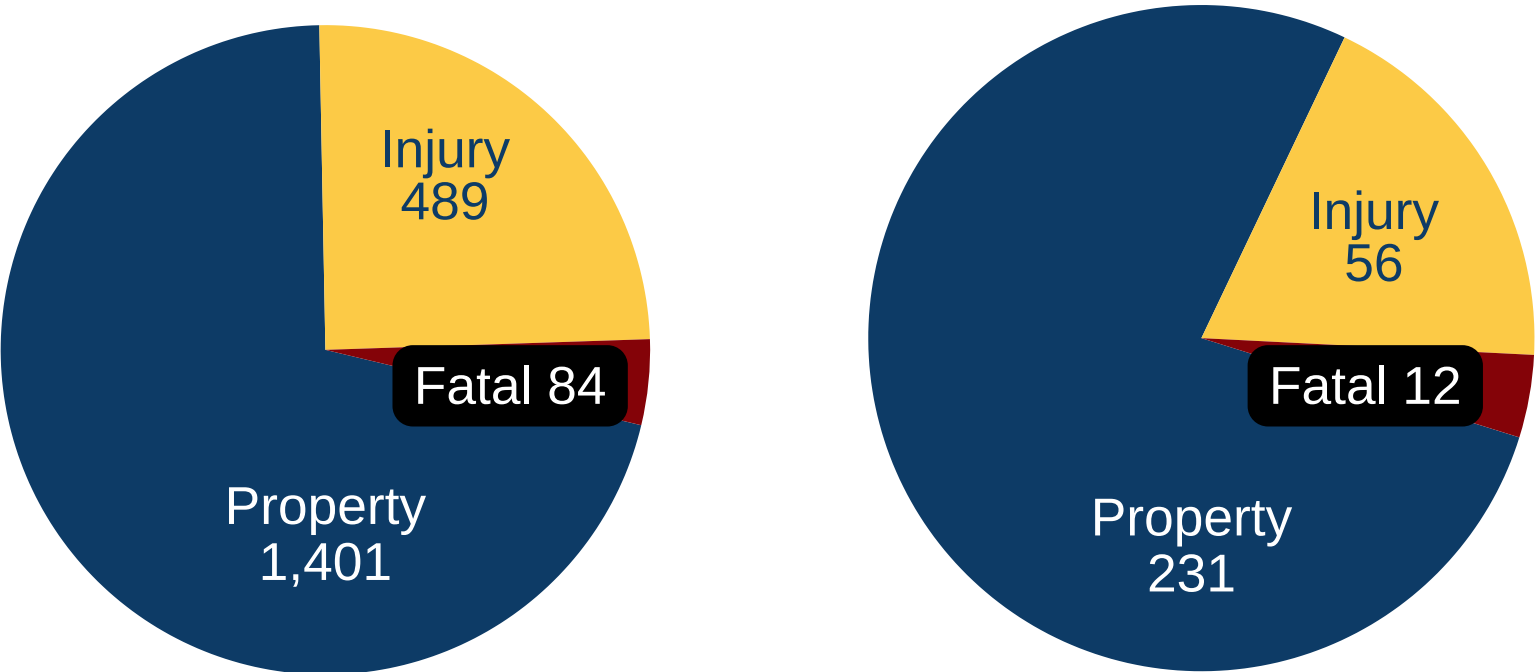


## CONTACTS: 2019-2023

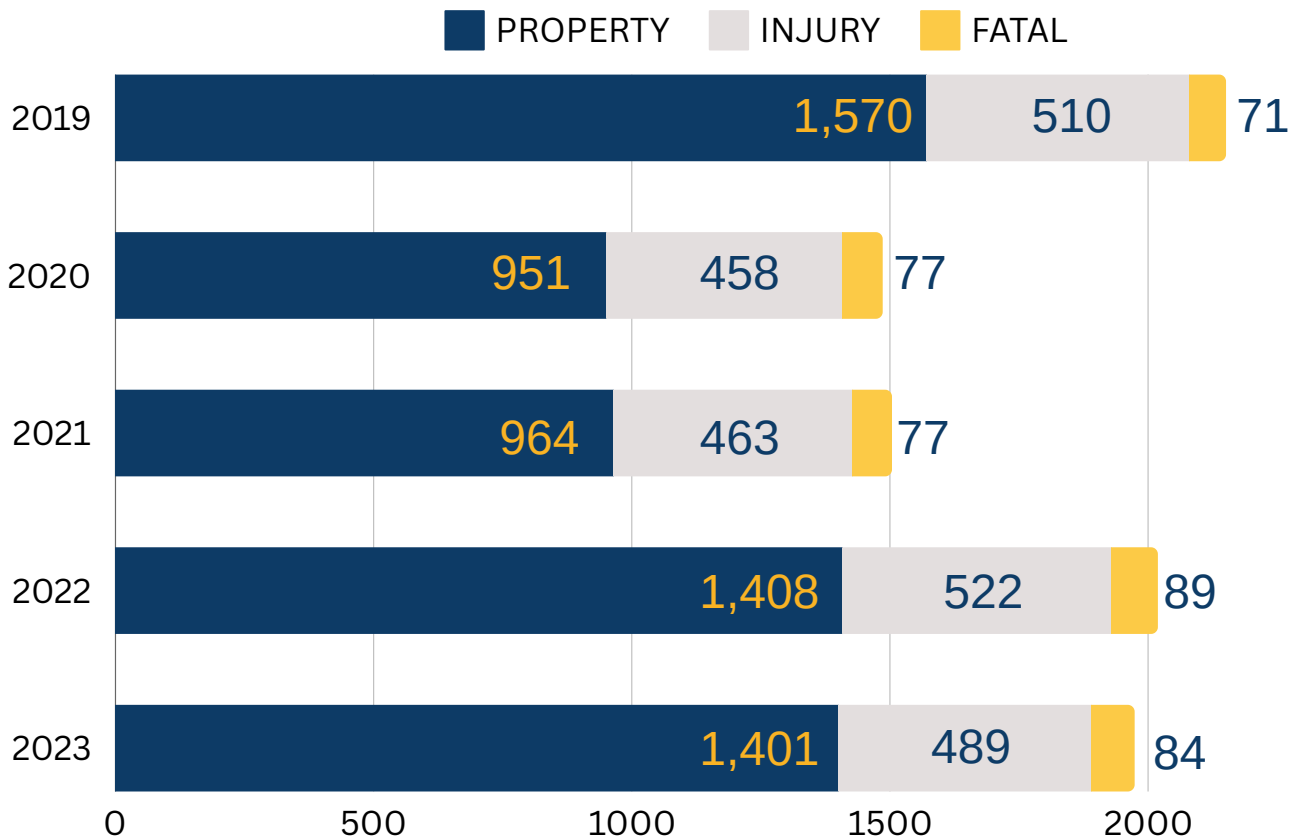


# NDHP CRASH STATISTICS

## TRAFFIC CRASHES BY TYPE CMV CRASHES BY TYPE



## CRASH INVESTIGATION TYPE: 2019-2023



# FIELD OPERATIONS

## NORTH DAKOTA CRASH STATISTICS: 2013-2023

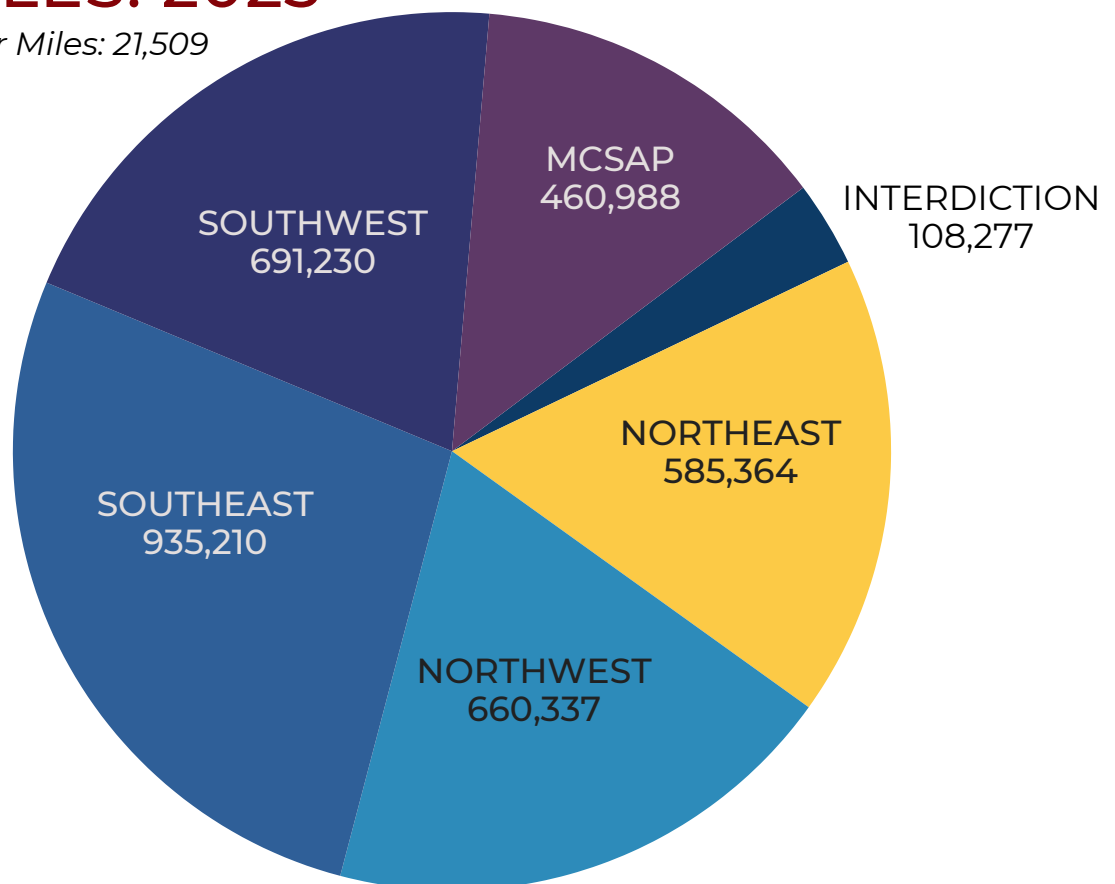
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CRASHES</u>	<u>FATALITIES</u>	<u>INJURIES</u>
2013	18,977	148	5,365
2014	16,134	135	5,278
2015	15,077	131	4,917
2016	15,017	113	4,614
2017	15,280	116	4,432
2018	15,242	105	4,230
2019	14,221	100	4,258
2020	8,820	100	3,426
2021	9,585	101	3,947
2022*	10,734	98	3,763
2023**	10,475	96	2,842

\*Data 2013-2022 North Dakota Crash Summary: [https://visionzero.nd.gov/uploads/105/NDDOT\\_2022\\_Crash\\_Summary\\_hiresUPDATES.pdf](https://visionzero.nd.gov/uploads/105/NDDOT_2022_Crash_Summary_hiresUPDATES.pdf)

\*\* 2023 Preliminary data from NDDOT

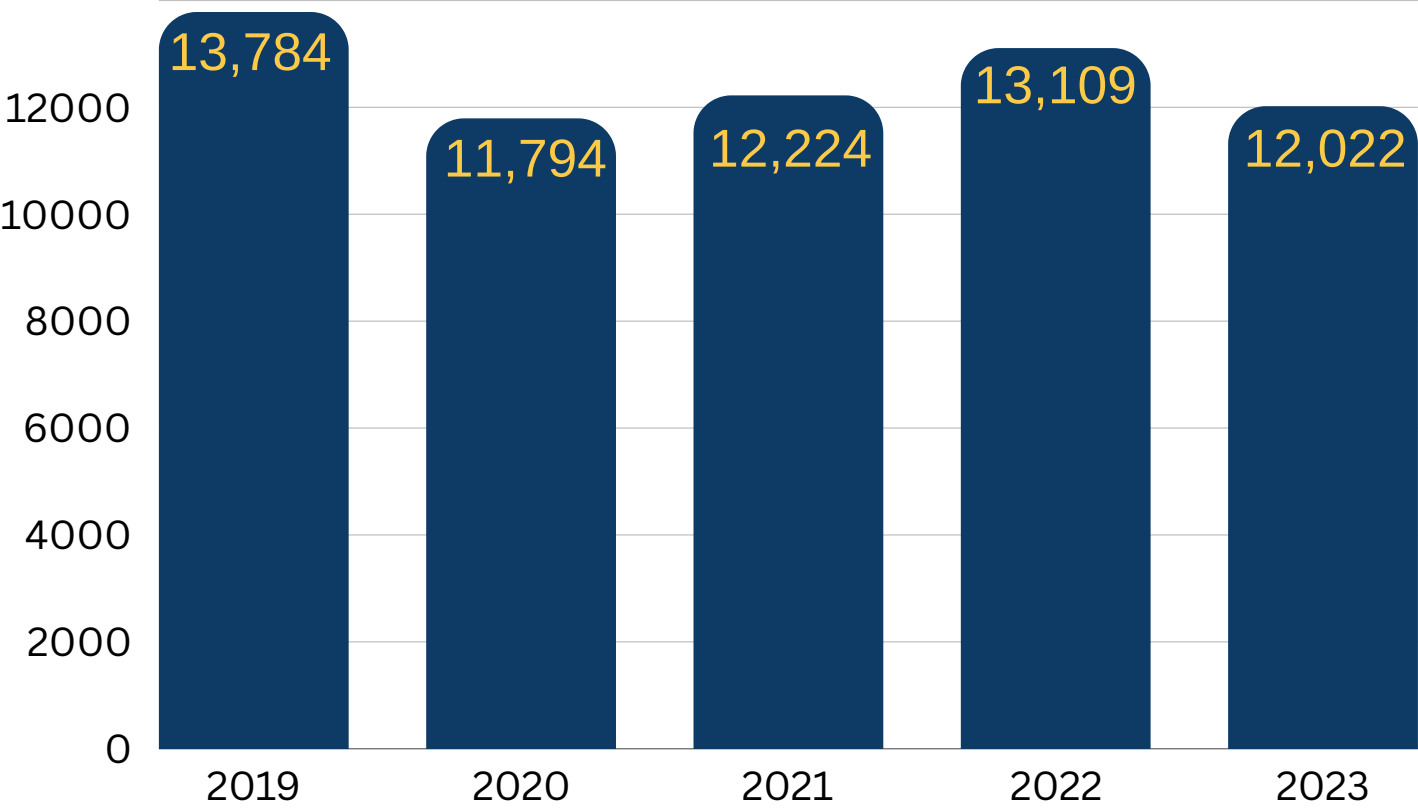
## PATROL MILES: 2023

Average Road Trooper Miles: 21,509

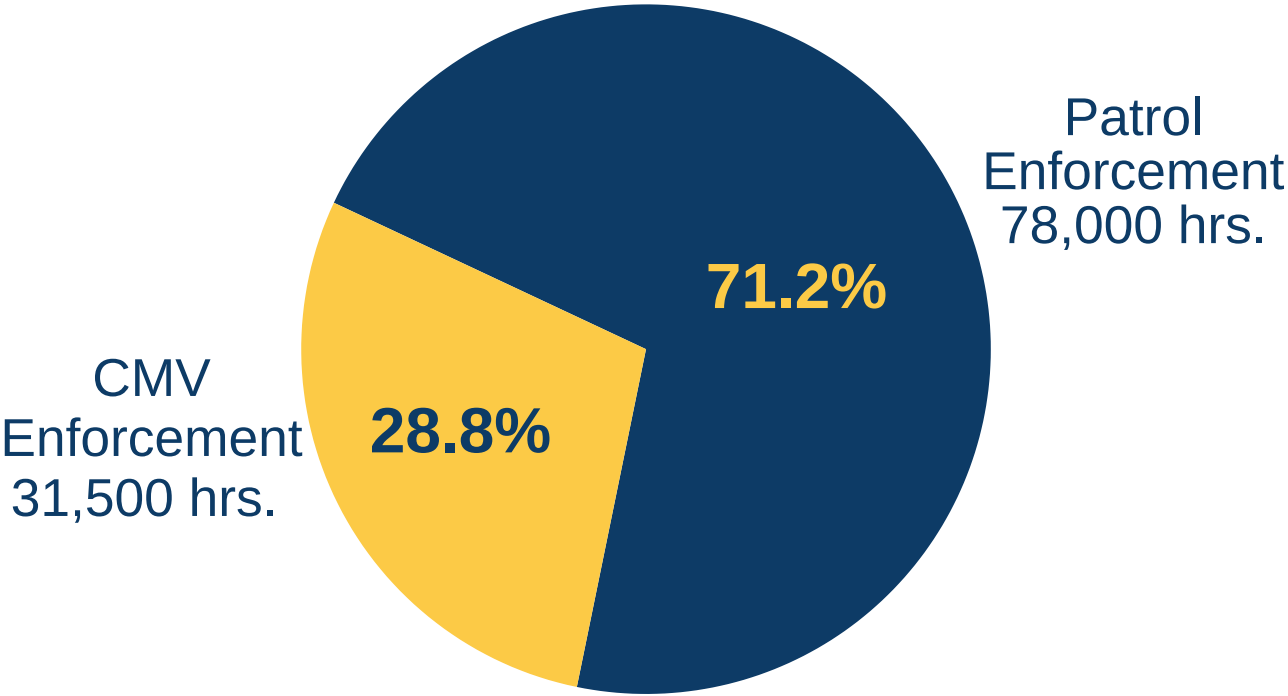


# FIELD OPERATIONS

## CALLS FOR SERVICE: 2023



## PATROL HOURS: 2023



# FIELD OPERATIONS

## CRASH OVERVIEW: 2023

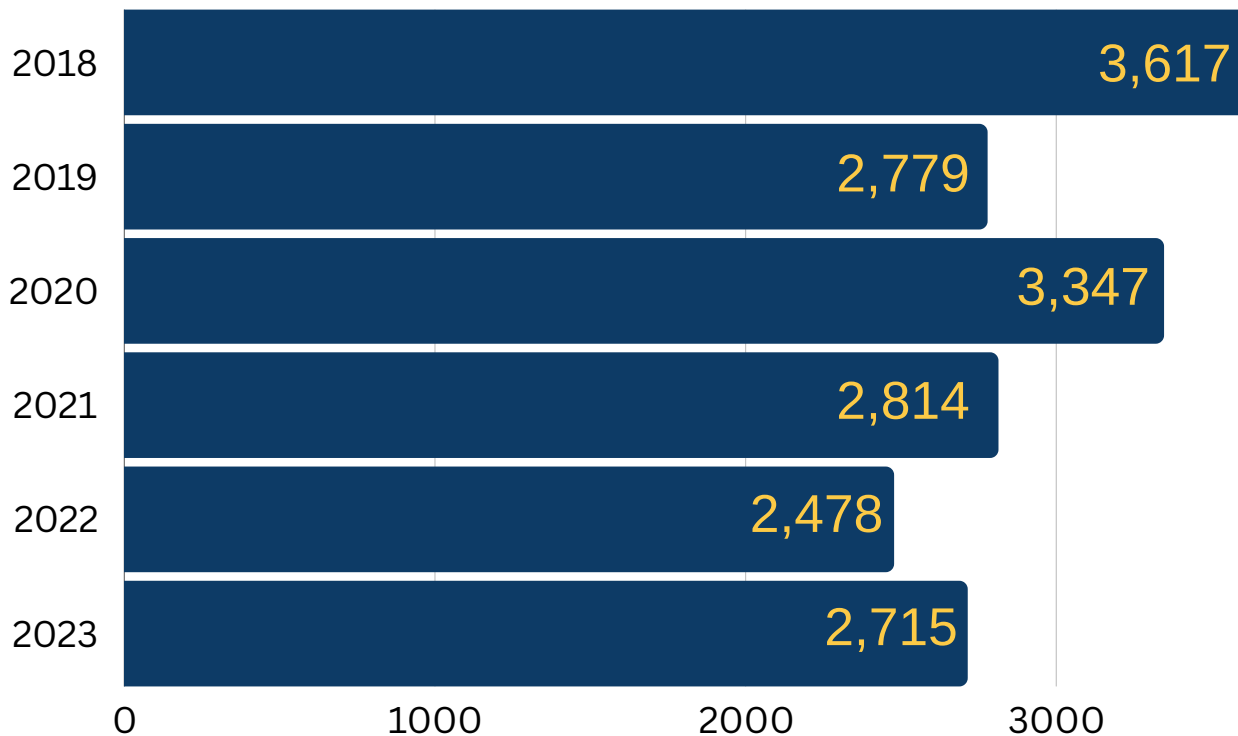
Property: 1433 Non-reportable: 294 Injury: 506 Fatal: 83

## CRASH MATRIX BY COUNTY: 2023

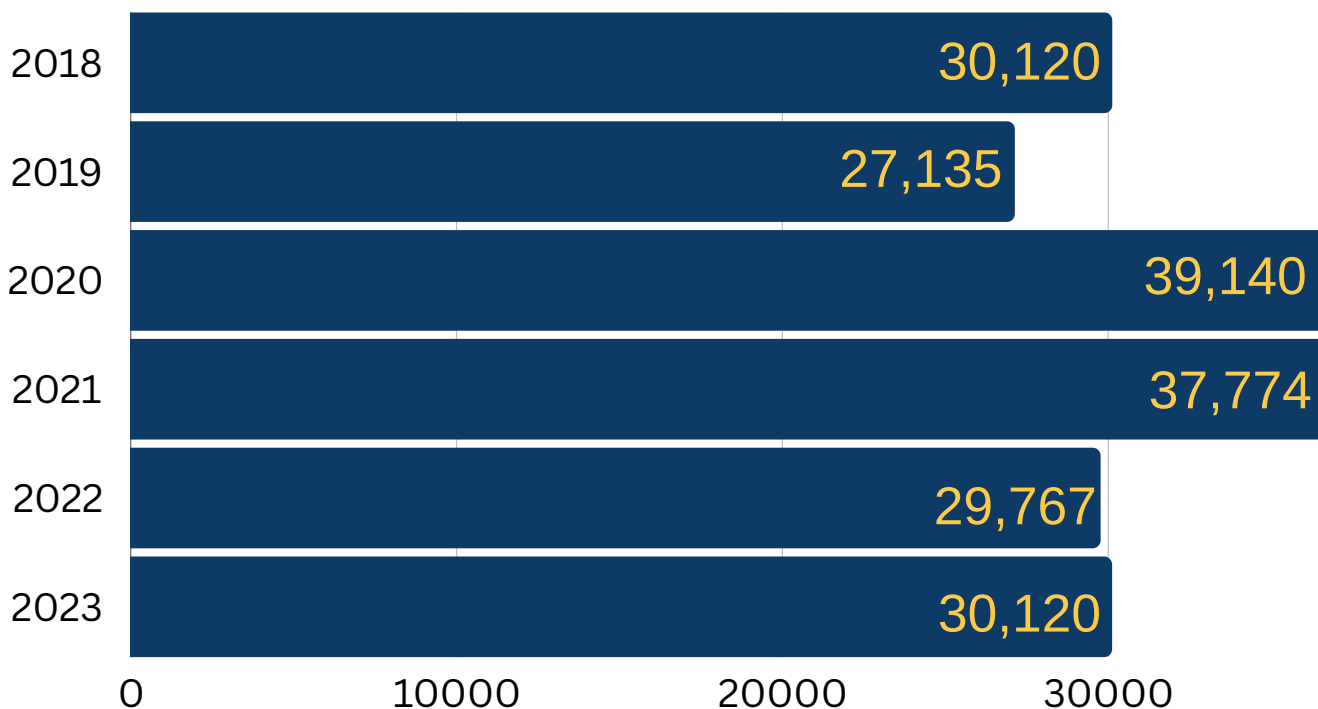
<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>PROPERTY</u>	<u>INJURY</u>	<u>FATAL</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>PROPERTY</u>	<u>INJURY</u>	<u>FATAL</u>
Adams	2	1	0	McLean	7	7	0
Barnes	68	38	0	Mercer	2	3	0
Benson	3	7	0	Morton	130	36	8
Billings	11	2	0	Mountrail	22	16	4
Bottineau	2	4	2	Nelson	5	9	3
Bowman	0	0	1	Oliver	1	0	0
Burke	3	1	0	Pembina	2	2	1
Burleigh	86	20	3	Pierce	2	4	0
Cass	550	97	11	Ramsey	10	15	1
Cavalier	0	0	0	Ransom	1	2	0
Dickey	4	2	0	Renville	1	1	0
Divide	3	2	0	Richland	20	12	2
Dunn	1	3	1	Rolette	0	4	2
Eddy	0	0	1	Sargent	4	2	0
Emmons	2	0	0	Sheridan	0	1	0
Foster	1	0	0	Sioux	0	0	0
Golden Valley	2	3	0	Slope	3	3	0
Grand Forks	111	29	4	Stark	68	16	3
Grant	0	0	0	Steele	0	0	1
Griggs	0	1	0	Stutsman	88	18	2
Hettinger	1	0	0	Towner	0	1	2
Kidder	35	11	0	Trail	41	19	3
LaMoure	4	6	2	Walsh	14	7	2
Logan	0	0	1	Ward	51	33	7
McHenry	9	11	3	Wells	5	3	2
McIntosh	1	1	0	Williams	<u>28</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>6</u>
McKenzie	29	26	5	<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>1433</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>83</b>

# FIELD OPERATIONS

## RIGHT OF WAY VIOLATIONS: 2018-2023

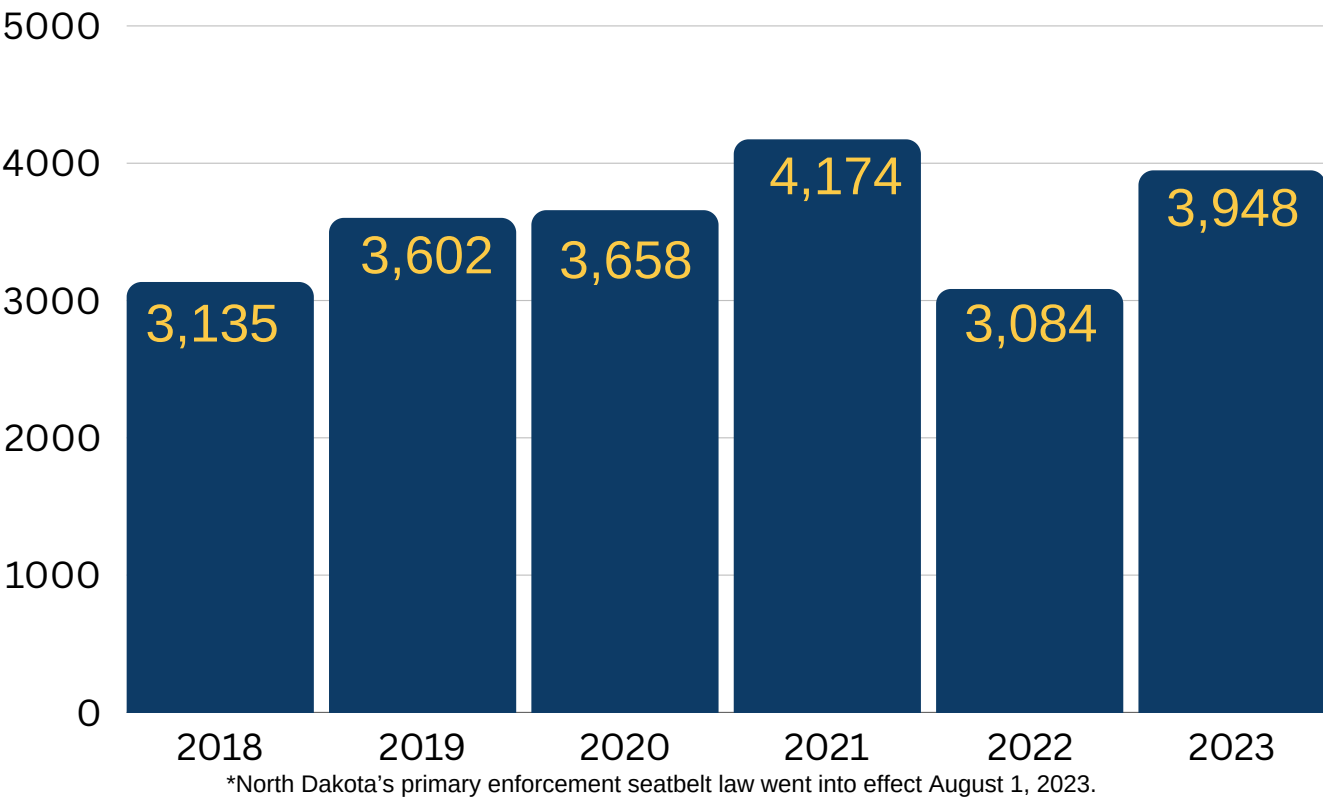


## SPEEDING CITATIONS: 2018-2023

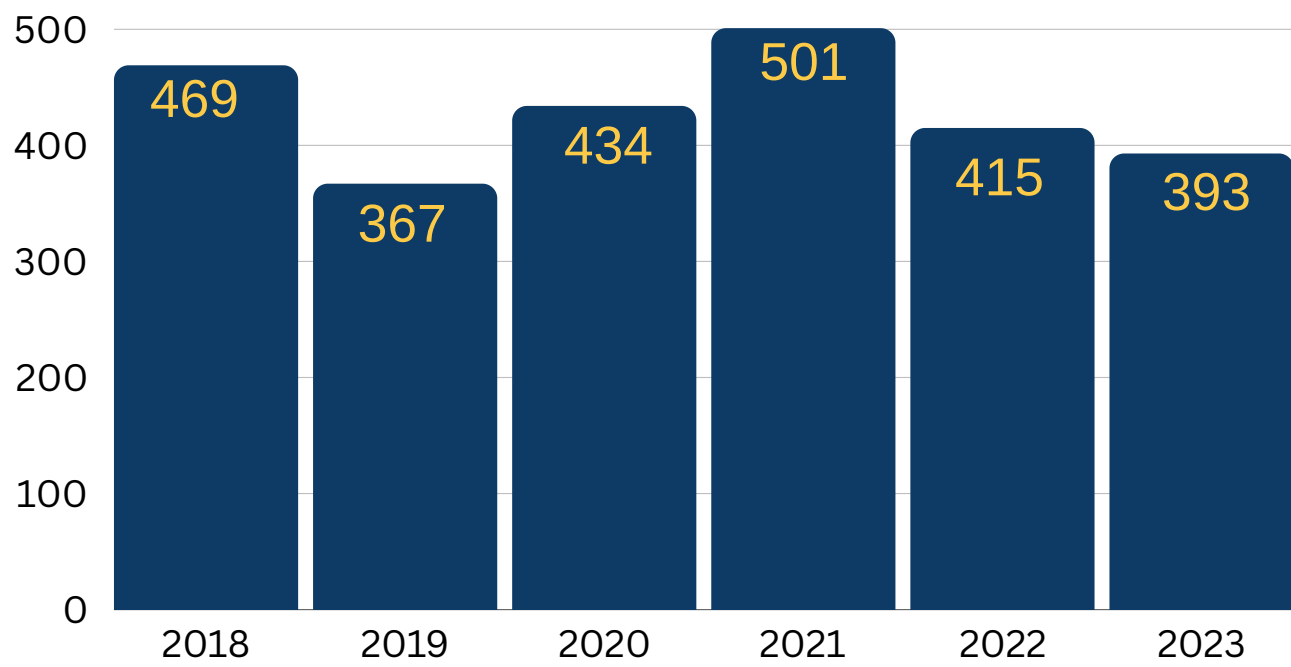


# FIELD OPERATIONS

## SEATBELT CITATIONS: 2018-2023

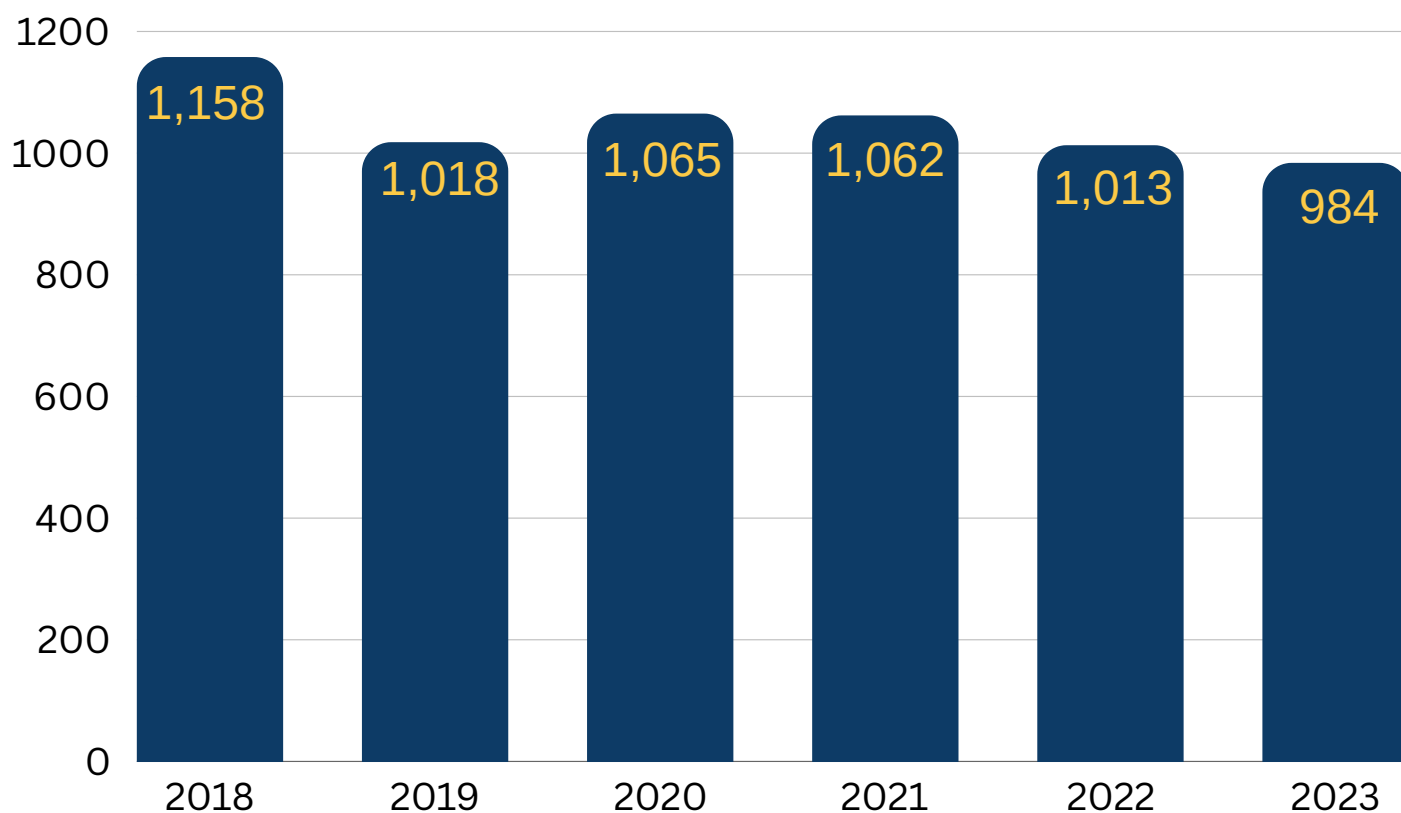


## CHILD RESTRAINT CITATIONS: 2018-2023

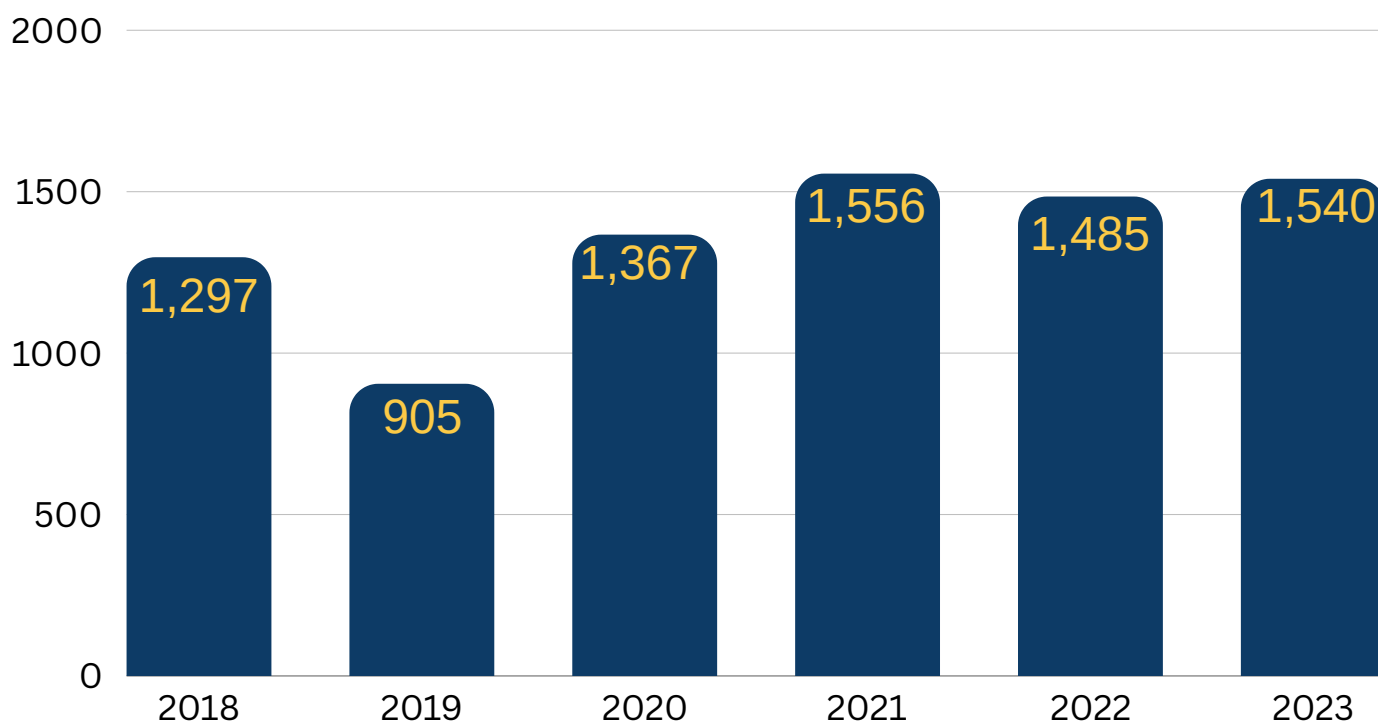


# FIELD OPERATIONS

## DUI ARRESTS: 2018-2023

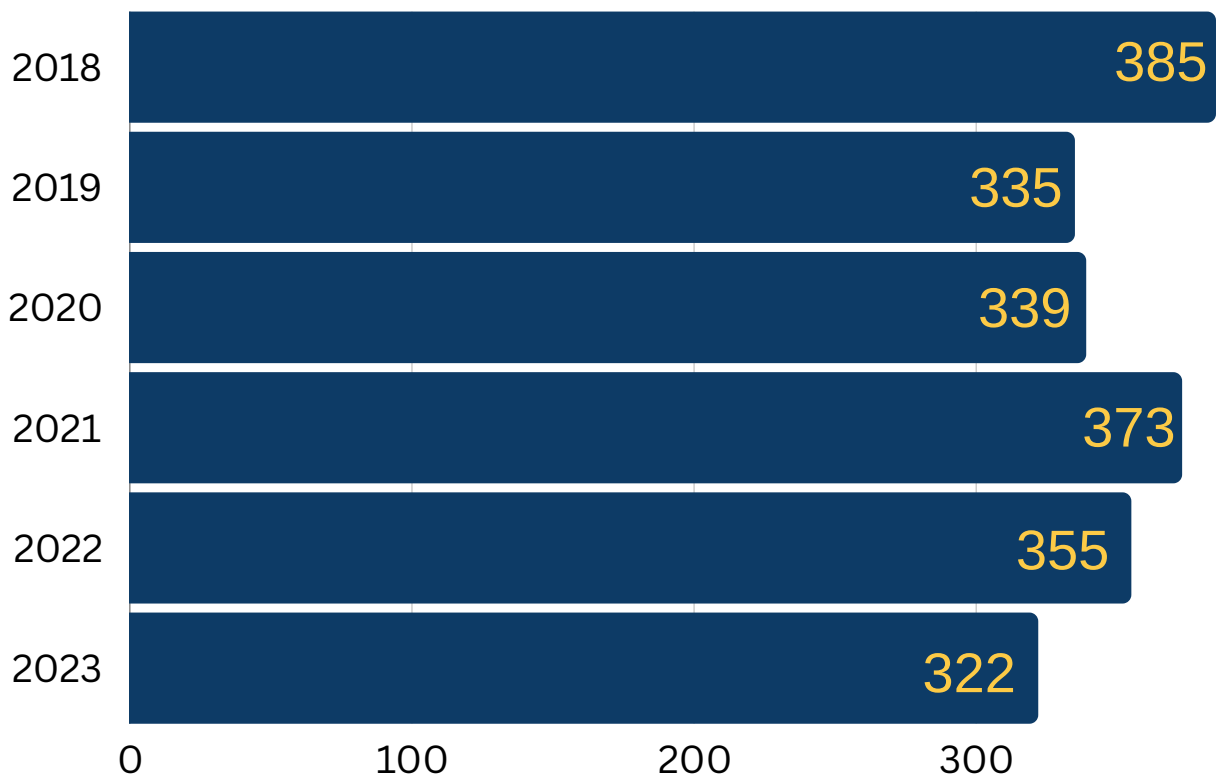


## CRIMINAL ARRESTS: 2018-2023

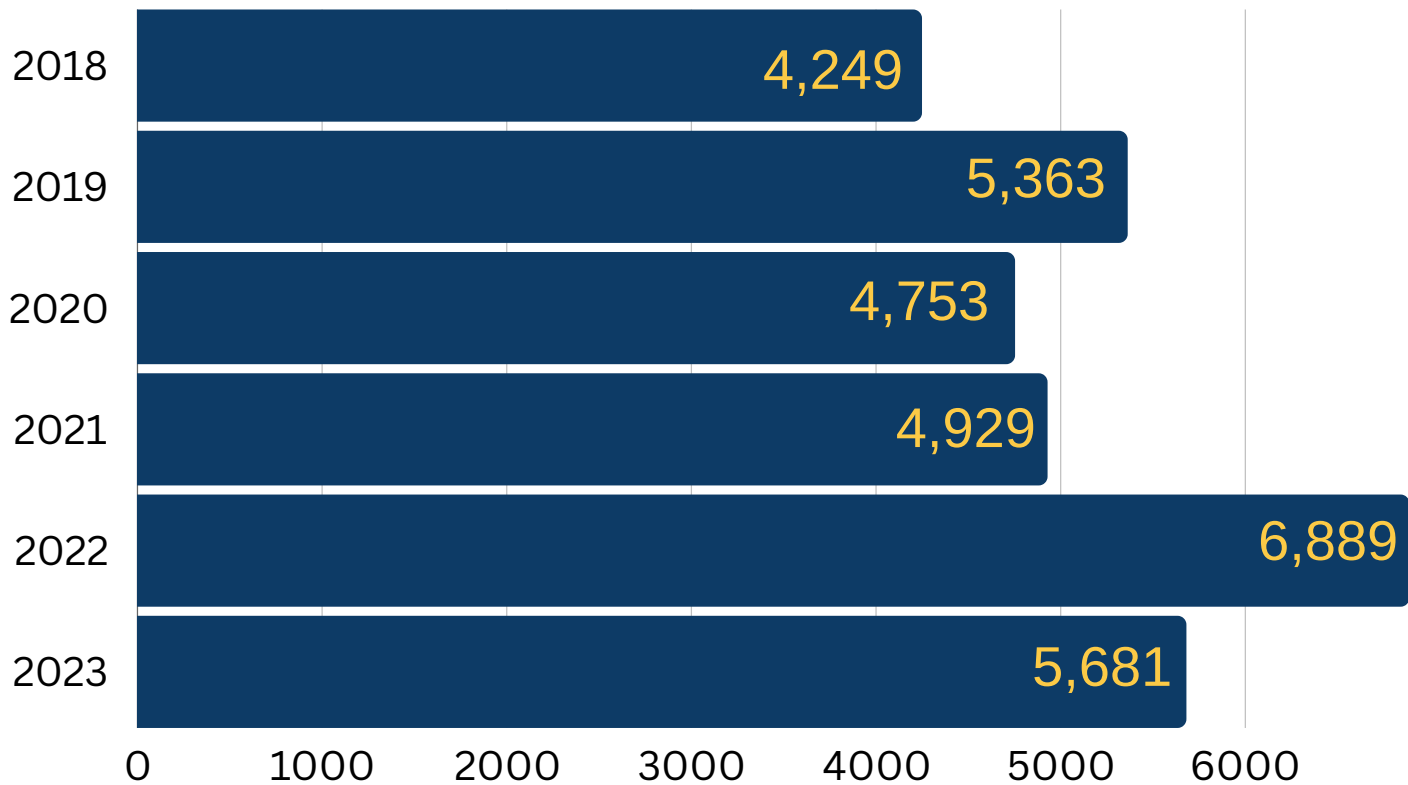


# FIELD OPERATIONS

## ARRESTS BASED ON WARRANT: 2018-2023

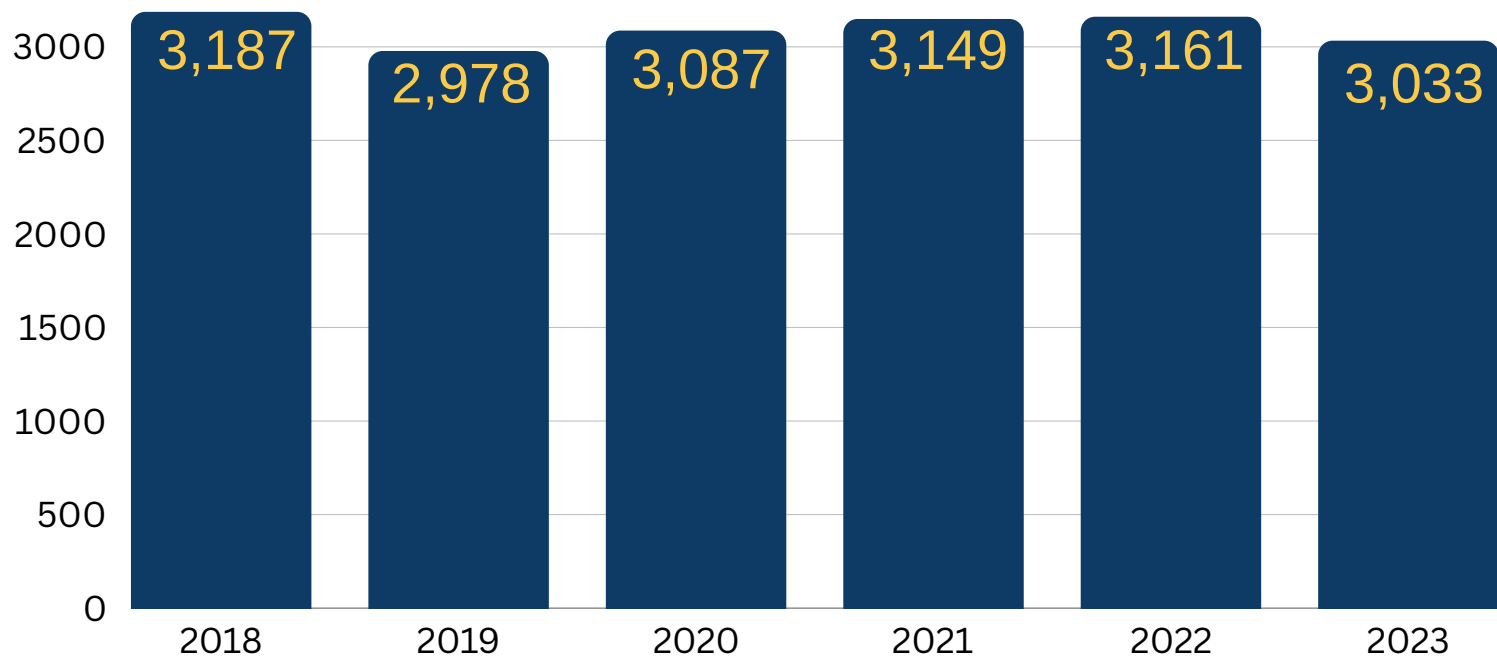


## HIGHWAY ASSISTS: 2018-2023

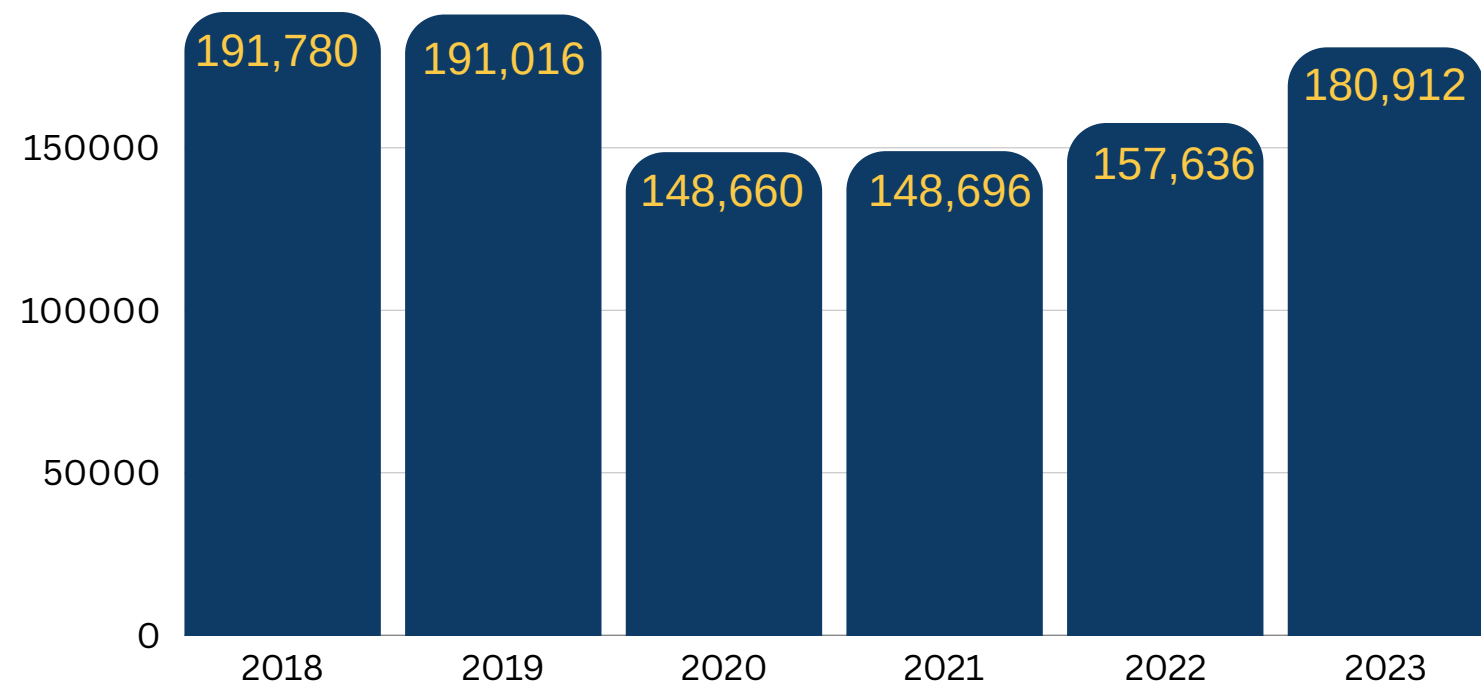


# FIELD OPERATIONS

## ASSISTING OTHER AGENCIES: 2018-2023



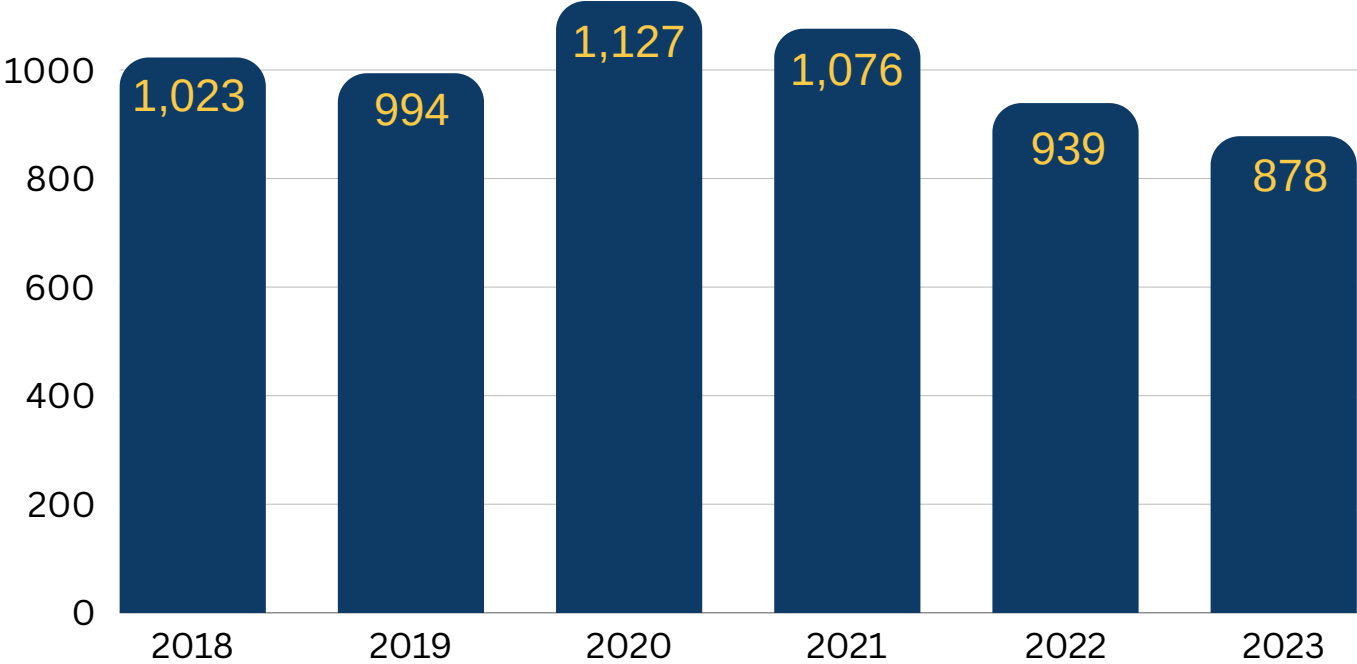
## PERMITS ISSUED: 2018-2023



# FIELD OPERATIONS

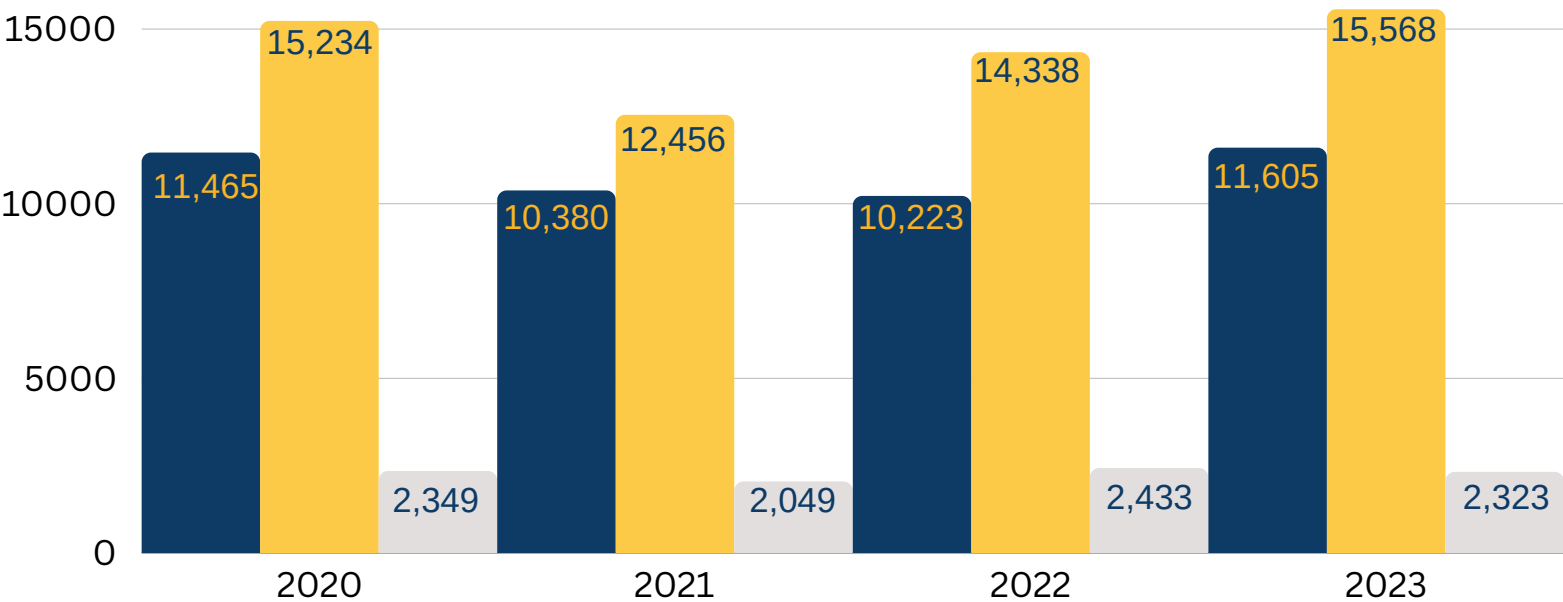
## CMV OVERLOAD ENFORCEMENT

### CONTACTS: 2018-23



## CMV: VIOLATIONS & INSPECTIONS: 2020-2023

■ INSPECTIONS ■ VIOLATIONS ■ OUT OF SERVICE VIOLATIONS



# REGIONAL REPORTS

## NORTHEAST REGION

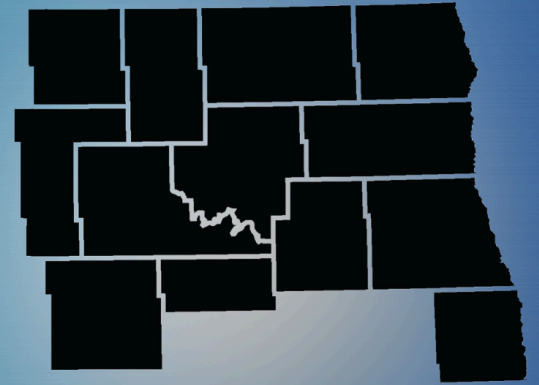
**Authorized Sworn Personnel:** 23

**Counties:** Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Rolette, Traill, Towner, Walsh, and Wells.

**Commander:** Lieutenant Ryan Panasuk

### NE REGIONAL SNAPSHOT 2023

Total Citations: 10,912  
Total Warnings: 7,152  
DUI Arrests: 124  
Drug Related Charges: 369  
Criminal Arrests: 843  
Occupant Protection Contacts: 1,149  
Right of Way Contacts: 1,286  
Speed Contacts: 6976  
Safety Talks/Presentations: 19  
Driver/Vehicle Examinations: 870  
Overloads: 27  
Crashes Investigated: Property: 179; Injury: 89; Fatality: 22  
Highway Assists: 847  
Calls for Service: 1,794  
Assist Other Governmental: 532



The Northeast Region contains North Dakota's third-largest city, Grand Forks, along with the nearby Grand Forks Air Force Base. Other notable locations include the city of Devils Lake and its namesake lake, which is a popular sport fishing destination throughout the year; the Pembina Port of Entry where Interstate 29 reaches Manitoba, Canada; and the Cavalier Space Force Station near Cavalier, ND. Other population centers include, Rugby, Rolla, Belcourt, Langdon, Walhalla, Cando, Cavalier, Grafton, Park River, Larimore, Northwood, Thompson, Petersburg, Michigan City, Lakota, Mayville, Hillsboro, and New Rockford. The NE Region also shares borders with two Native American nations, the Spirit Lake Nation near Devils Lake, and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa near Belcourt, ND.

Interstate 29 is the primary significant highway through the NE Region, carrying north and south traffic. International commercial traffic comprises a large part of vehicles traversing Interstate 29. US Highway 2 crosses the region east-west and is the next most significant highway.

# REGIONAL REPORTS

## NORTHEAST REGION

The NE Region is home to three of the NDHP's Canine Teams, two narcotic detectors and one tracking canine. The NDHP Canine Team coordinator and assistant coordinator are posted in the region, as is the NDHP's Crash Reconstruction Team coordinator and the Critical Incident Response/CISM Team Coordinator.

The end of the 2022-2023 winter into the spring of 2023 was challenging in the NE Region, as it was for the entirety of the State of North Dakota. Above average snowfalls with high winds continued late into the season, including an April storm that effectively paralyzed the region. In cooperation with personnel from other regions and ND DOT, all blocked state and federal highways were reopened within the first day following the storm.

In September, NE Region personnel responded to a mass casualty incident involving a school bus in Nelson County, in which approximately 25 students were involved. All responding personnel worked diligently and closely with numerous other responding entities to accomplish a highly effective response, follow-up, and investigation. The follow-up consisted of regular involvement of the NDHP's Crash Assistance Program and several meetings with family members of all person's involved, including a closed group "closure" meeting at the Northwood School with all involved students and their families and several NDHP personnel involved in the response and investigation. This was perhaps the first such format follow-up meeting held in the NE Region or even the state and proved to be a positive experience that helped to build trust between the NDHP and the community as well as display the NDHP's professionalism.

Larger events that occurred in the region included the 40th Annual Devils Lake Volunteer Fire Department Ice Fishing Tournament, the Devils Run Car Show in Devils Lake, the Greater Grand Forks Fair, weekly car races during the summer in Grand Forks, University of North Dakota Fighting Hawks Hockey, and various other events throughout the region, including at the Spirit Lake and Sky Dancer Casinos. UND Hockey routinely draws sold-out crowds of 11,000-12,000 to the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks, equating to nearly 20% of the city's population.

# REGIONAL REPORTS

## NORTHEAST REGION

Northeast Region team members participated in a number of community outreach and education events: NDSU Lake Region Roundup, Grand Forks High School law enforcement forum, Traffic Incident Management training with Cando and Thompson Fire Departments and area first responders and towing companies, the Northern Valley Law Enforcement Memorial Police Week Memorial, Alive @ 25 and Route 1000 classes in various locations, North Dakota Boys State, North Dakota Special Olympics Torch Run and Polar Plunge, Grand Cities Celebration, Michigan Days, Steele County Night Out, Shop with a Cop, First Responder Toy and Food Drive along with several other area first responder organizations, car seat checks, career fairs, and other safety presentations.

### **Staff Changes: Transfers**

- Four troopers graduated from the LETA and joined the Northeast Region
  - Trooper Camron McFarland (Rolla)
  - Trooper Andrew Klegstad (Hillsboro)
  - Trooper Trevor Elfman (Devils Lake)
  - Trooper Timothy Remington (Rugby)
- Sergeant Matthew Peschong (NW Region-Minot) voluntarily demoted and returned to the NE Region-Grafton as trooper
- Trooper Brandon Dalzell transferred to the NE Region-Devils Lake from the SE Region
- Lieutenant Ryan Panasuk transferred to the NE Region from the NW Region

### **Staff Changes: Promotions**

- Trooper Matthew Peschong was promoted to regional sergeant in the NW Region-Minot
- Trooper Michael Brown was promoted to regional sergeant in the NW Region-Minot

### **Staff Changes: Retirement**

- Lieutenant Troy Hischer retired from the NDHP as NE Region Commander

# REGIONAL REPORT

## NORTHWEST REGION

**Authorized Sworn Personnel:** 28

**Counties:** Bottineau, Burke, Divide, McKenzie, McHenry, McLean (north), Mountrail, Renville, Sheridan, Ward, and Williams.

**Commander:** Lieutenant Christopher Messer

### NW REGIONAL SNAPSHOT 2023

Total Citations: 12,135  
Total Warnings: 6,753  
DUI Arrests: 300  
Drug Related Charges: 247  
Criminal Arrests: 1,097  
Occupant Protection Contacts: 1,497  
Right of Way Contacts: 1,656  
Speed Contacts: 6,535  
Safety Talks/Presentations: 55  
Driver/Vehicle Examinations: 1,140  
Overloads: 44  
Crashes Investigated: Property: 131; Injury: 121; Fatality: 26  
Highway Assists: 1,028  
Calls for Service: 2,046  
Assist Other Governmental: 1,023



The Northwest Region contains population centers of Minot, Williston, Watford City, a large portion of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and the Minot Air Force Base. The Northwest Region is home to several oil and gas producing counties with consistent commercial motor vehicle traffic and varying population counts and traffic volume dependent on this industry. The Northwest Region is also home to several ports of entry with Canada. Major traffic routes in the Northwest Region consist of Highway 2 (east/west), Highway 85 and Highway 83 (north/south) and Highway 52 (southeast/northwest).

### Overview of larger events that occurred within the Northwest Region

Larger events that occurred in the region included the North Dakota State Fair which saw record-breaking attendance of 356,534 people over nine days. Other events included the McKenzie County Fair, the Upper Missouri Valley Fair, and multiple other events that occur at event venues across the region in Minot, Williston, Watford City, Four Bears Casino, and Lake Metigoshe.

# REGIONAL REPORT

## NORTHWEST REGION

### Overview of community engagement events

Community outreach and engagement is a critical piece to traffic safety in the NW Region. Northwest Regional Troopers participated in the following community outreach events:

- Numerous school visits and safety talks
- TIMS training for area Fire Department
- “Coffee with a Cop”
- Car Seat Checkups
- College career fairs
- Back to school drive – Williston Walmart
- National Night Out
- ND State Fair Booth
- Special Olympics Polar Plunge
- Alive @ 25 classes

### Staff Changes: Transfers

- Trooper Brady Aberle, graduated from the LETA and joined the region
- Trooper Justin Cote-Kanning, graduated from the LETA and joined the region
- Trooper Peter Miley, graduated from the LETA and joined the region
- Lieutenant Ryan Panasuk transferred to Grand Forks
- Trooper Mitchell Mehrer transferred to Bismarck
- Trooper Anthony Potter resigned
- Lieutenant Adrian Martinez transferred to the LETA
- Trooper Scott Guenthner retired from the NDHP
- Sergeant Matthew Peschong voluntarily demoted and transferred to Grand Forks
- Lieutenant Ryan Duletski transferred to Headquarters

### Staff Changes: Promotions

- Lieutenant Adrian Martinez promoted to Northwest Regional Commander
- Sergeant Matthew Peschong promoted to Northwest Regional Sergeant
- Sergeant Preston Langer promoted to Northwest Regional Sergeant
- Lieutenant Ryan Duletski promoted to Northwest Regional Commander
- Sergeant Michael Brown promoted to Northwest Regional Sergeant
- Lieutenant Christopher Messer promoted to Northwest Regional Commander

# REGIONAL REPORT

## SOUTHWEST REGION

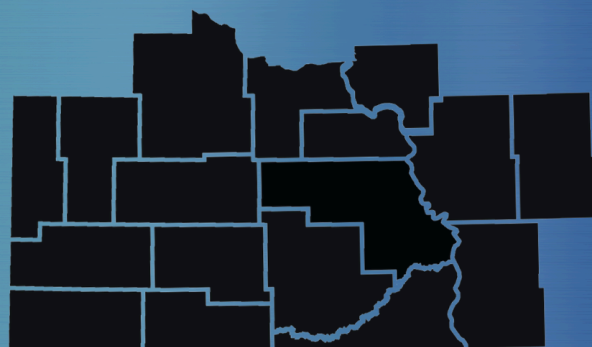
**Authorized Sworn Personnel:** 29

**Counties:** Adams, Billings, Bowman, Burleigh, Dunn, Emmons, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, McLean (south), Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sioux, Slope, and Stark.

**Commander:** Lieutenant Daniel Haugen

### SW REGIONAL SNAPSHOT 2023

Total Citations: 10,458  
Total Warnings: 8,148  
DUI Arrests: 246  
Drug Related Charges: 144  
Criminal Arrests: 515  
Occupant Protection Contacts: 1,755  
Right of Way Contacts: 1,683  
Speed Contacts: 8,757  
Safety Talks/Presentations: 67  
Driver/Vehicle Examinations: 926  
Overloads: 13  
Crashes Investigated: Property: 354; Injury: 109; Fatality: 14  
Highway Assists: 1,156  
Calls for Service: 3,795  
Assist Other Governmental: 878



The Southeast Region contains the capital city and the second largest population center in North Dakota, Bismarck-Mandan. High levels of traffic result from one interstate and one US highway that intersect in Bismarck along with one US highway (Can-Am Highway) that crosses the region in the west linking Texas with Canada. Regional troopers must remain vigilant to keep our roadways and communities safe.

Larger events that occurred in the region included the Medora musicals, Country Fest in New Salem, McQuade's softball tournament, the state track meet, events at Prairie Knight's casino, Roughrider Days in Dickinson, and Morton – Hettinger – Bowman County fairs. The region led multiple aircraft details for speeders and pursuits and is home to the plane's F.L.I.R. (forward looking infrared) operators. We also are the base to the state's premier man tracking canine that many agencies rely upon.

# REGIONAL REPORT

## SOUTHWEST REGION

Community outreach remains a high priority for Southwest Region members. The NDHP participated in car seat installation and checks, Route 1000 presentations, Alive at 25, three internships, health classes at the middle schools, bike rodeos, bus driver workshops, Touch a Truck in Dickinson, and National Night Out.

### **Staff Changes: Transfers**

- Lieutenant Daniel Haugen transferred in as Regional Commander
- Sergeant Erin Quinn transferred in as Regional Sergeant
- Trooper Damon Burkel transferred in from the LETA
- Trooper Joseph Peterson transferred in from the LETA
- Lieutenant Derek Arndt transferred out to Assistant Field Operations Commander
- Trooper Troy Roth transferred out to Capital Security
- Trooper Michael Wald transferred out to Safety and Education
- Trooper Joseph Petersen resigned from the NDHP

### **Staff Changes: Promotions**

- Sergeant Christopher Messer was promoted to Regional Commander and transferred to the Northwest Region

# REGIONAL REPORT

## SOUTHEAST REGION

**Authorized Sworn Personnel:** 34

**Counties:** Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Eddy, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele, and Stutsman.

**Commander:** Captain Bryan Niewind

### SE REGIONAL SNAPSHOT 2023

Total Citations: 22,002  
Total Warnings: 12,373  
DUI Arrests: 380  
Drug Related Charges: 792  
Criminal Arrests: 800  
Occupant Protection Contacts: 2,222  
Right of Way Contacts: 3,850  
Speed Contacts: 13,647  
Safety Talks/Presentations: 78  
Driver/Vehicle Examinations: 2,003  
Overloads: 88  
Crashes Investigated: Property: 648; Injury: 152; Fatality: 22  
Highway Assists: 2,538  
Calls for Service: 4,283  
Assist Other Governmental: 622



The crossroads of two federal interstate systems in Fargo, along with several other major federal and state highways within the region, creates an abundance of work for NDHP Southeast (SE) Region members each year. High traffic and call for service volumes, large events and major businesses require the regional footprint currently assigned to the SE Region.

In 2024, additional regional personnel are scheduled to be added to bolster an already robust cadre of dedicated and committed troopers. Several universities within the region bring additional population to the area during school years and create additional traffic. Fargo continues to be the busiest post in the agency, with Fargo being a hub of activity in the manufacturing, business, university, medical, hospitality and technology industries.

The first months of 2023 brought difficult winter conditions that caused eight separate road closure periods in the February-April time frame. This time period was the end of a one of the worst cumulative winters the southeast

# REGIONAL REPORT

## SOUTHEAST REGION

portion of North Dakota has faced in a quarter century or more. During our winter in the SE Region, five NDHP patrol vehicles were struck during winter events. Luckily, no troopers were injured during these incidents.

In July, the NDHP SE Region assisted our local partners after an officer involved shooting occurred in Fargo, during which two Fargo PD Officers were wounded and Officer Jake Wallin was tragically killed in the line of duty. Regional personnel responded to the incident scene, partnering with local agencies to assist Fargo PD on scene and over the following days with calls for service in the local community. In addition, SE Region personnel assisted with funeral and memorial service events in the area for Officer Wallin.

### Regional Events

Some of the larger attended events that occur in the region include NDSU Bison Football, the Red River Valley Fair, Ribfest (Fargo), the ND Winter Show (Valley City), Big Iron (West Fargo), and the Stutsman County Fair. Local communities have community celebrations year-round, but most occur during our summer months. The Fargo Dome, Scheels Arena, Red River Valley Fairgrounds, The Lights in West Fargo and several other event centers bring major concert events to the Fargo/West Fargo area throughout the year, drawing a regional crowd from North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and Canadian Provinces. Each summer in July, the US Junior Wrestling National Tournament is held at the Fargo Dome. One large construction project continues in the SE Region. The FM Diversion construction project is in full swing and has caused traffic disruptions throughout the Cass County area, including on I-94 and I-29.

### Community Engagement Events

Community outreach and education efforts are a high priority for SE Region members with 2,295 hours spent on community policing efforts during the year. The NDHP participated in National Night to Unite events in August in West Fargo, Jamestown, Finley and Buffalo. Other events included a Sanford Kid's Safety Safari at the Red River Zoo, Sanford Ambulance 1st Responder Appreciation Event in Fargo, Jamestown Park & Rec Kid's Safety Day at the Jamestown Civic Center and Cops N Kids Christmas shopping programs in Fargo, Jamestown, Valley City, Wahpeton, Lisbon and Carrington. SE Region members participated in the NDHP Toy Drive in Fargo outside Walmart with the Cass County Sheriff's Office,

# REGIONAL REPORT

## SOUTHEAST REGION

collecting hundreds of toys that were donated to a local school program to be donated to local children for Christmas. Additional safety talks occurred regionwide at driver's education programs, Route 1000 classes, Alive @ 25 classes and to a wide variety of school and civic groups. The SE Region provided numerous ride-a-long opportunities for interested high school and college students. Local news organizations (print, radio and TV) are strategic partners, and we maximize our time with them to spread educational messages.

### **Staff Changes: Transfers**

- Trooper Tanner Lembke graduated from the LETA, stationed in Fargo
- Trooper Benjamin Wenger graduated from the LETA, stationed in Fargo
- Trooper Abe Johannes graduated from the LETA, stationed in Fargo
- Trooper Damian Wright graduated from the LETA, stationed in Wahpeton
- Trooper Evan Johnson graduated from the LETA, stationed in Jamestown
- Trooper Shane Johnson graduated from the LETA, stationed in Jamestown
- Trooper Trenton (Tre) Stewart graduated from the LETA, stationed in Fargo
- Trooper Amanda Mohs graduated from the LETA, stationed in Fargo
- Sergeant Benjamin Kennelly transferred from Jamestown as regional sergeant to the LETA as a training sergeant.

### **Staff Changes: Promotions**

- Sergeant Nathaniel King promoted to regional sergeant in Jamestown from a traffic trooper position in Jamestown.

# REGIONAL REPORT

## MOTOR CARRIER OPERATIONS

**Authorized Sworn Personnel:** 19

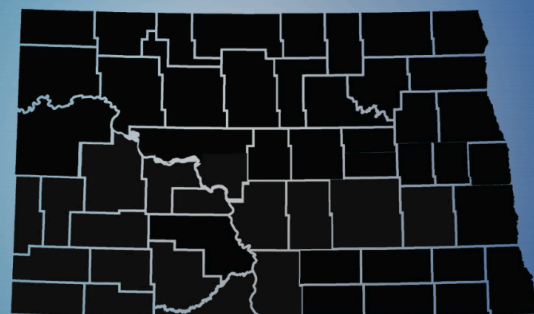
**Civilian Staff:** Three New Entrant Auditors, One Civilian Inspector, Three Permit Technicians, and One Administrative Assistant

**Counties:** Statewide Jurisdiction

**Commander:** Lieutenant Luke Hendrickson

### MCO REGIONAL SNAPSHOT 2023

Total Citations: 1,542  
Total Warnings: 819  
DUI Arrests: 0  
Drug Related Charges: 10  
Criminal Arrests: 33  
Occupant Protection Contacts: 81  
CMV Occupant Protection Violations: 126  
Right of Way Contacts: 180  
Speed Contacts: 637  
Safety Talks/Presentations: 59  
Driver/Vehicle Examinations: Level I: 2,994; Level II: 2,628;  
Level III: 958; Level VI Radioactive: 4  
Overloads: 745  
Crashes Investigated: Property: 58; Injury: 17; Fatality: 0  
Highway Assists: 422  
Calls for Service: 769  
Assist Other Governmental: 103



Motor Carrier Operations continued to support the overall mission of the North Dakota Highway Patrol and the MCSAP Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan to reduce the injury and fatal crash rate with commercial motor vehicles in North Dakota. Motor Carrier Operations was busy with mobile enforcement of traffic laws, size and weight laws, education and outreach, roadside and fixed site inspections, new entrant audits, safety investigations and permitting needs of the active commercial motor carrier industry in North Dakota. Every quarter Motor Carrier Operations scheduled an oil field blitz, a border enforcement day, seatbelt week, and a mobile traffic enforcement day.

Larger events that occurred in the region included Touch a Truck in Mandan, Special Olympics Truck Convoy in Fargo, North Dakota Motor Carrier Association Conference, North Dakota Motor Carrier Association Truck Driving Championship, Driving Skills for Life in Bismarck, Truck Driver Appreciation Week, CVSA International Road Check, CVSA Human Trafficking Prevention, Operation Airbrake, Operation Safe Driver, and our annual weeklong Oil Field / Hazmat Blitz in the Bakken.

# REGIONAL REPORT

## MOTOR CARRIER OPERATIONS

Community outreach remains a high priority for Motor Carrier Operations. Community engagement events we participated in include No Shave November, Trunk or Treat, No Zone Presentations, ND Motor Carrier Association events throughout the year, ND Highway Patrol Youth Academy, and the North Dakota State Fair. We completed 59 Safety Talks to various organizations, some of these organizations include ND Association of Rural Electrical Cooperatives, Jones Contractors, Candeska Cikana Community College, Border States Paving, United Quality Cooperative, Train ND, FM Home Builders Association, Fargo DOT, 360 Transportation, FM Transportation, WSI Badlands Area Safety Association, United Tribes Technical College and Northern Improvement.

### Staff Changes: Transfers

- Trooper John Sova resigned from the NDHP
- Trooper Cameron McCann transferred from SE Region Fargo
- Trooper Stephen Horn resigned from the NDHP
- Trooper Joshua Wold resigned from the NDHP
- Trooper Scott Guenther retired from the NDHP
- Lt. David Wolf retired from the NDHP
- Lt. Luke Hendrickson transferred from Headquarters
- Permit Tech Susan Wood retired from the NDHP
- Permit Tech Darcy Peterson rejoined the NDHP
- Trooper Stephen Horn rejoined the NDHP

### Permits

In 2023, 181,019 permits were issued for vehicle and load movements traveling through and into North Dakota.

Permits were issued through the permit system and by personnel at the permit office, regions and in the field. We continue to offer guidance and training to the citizens and motor carrier industry on the automated system to support its continued use as the method for obtaining oversize and overweight permits in ND.

The NDHP issued 147,280 single-trip permits for oversize and overweight movements which was an increase of 20,332 from 2022. Oversize permits grew the most with an increase of 14,299 compared to 2022.

# REGIONAL REPORT

## MOTOR CARRIER OPERATIONS

A total of 16,287 multiple-trip permits were issued which was an increase of 737 from 2022. The 10% durational, custom combine and seasonal permits all saw an increase.

The total number of permits increased by 23,383 compared to 157,636 in 2022. Other miscellaneous permits such as trip, fuel and temporary registration increased by 2,314 permits.

\$14,551,045 in total revenues were collected for oversize/overweight permits which was an increase of \$2,056,537 from 2022. Extraordinary road use fees were \$874,455 which was a decrease of \$111,155 from 2022. The number of overloads was 881 which was a decrease of 62 from 2022. A service fee, which is only assessed on routable single-trip permits, generated \$1,341,296 which was an increase of \$75,786 from 2022.

### PERMITS ISSUED

#### Single Trip Permits

- Oversize and Overweight: 91,889
- Mobile Home: 1,971
- Over Dimensional Only: 24,140
- Interstate: 659
- 129,000 Primary Network: 162
- Bridge Length Permit: 1
- Building/Trunnion: 601
- Special Mobile Equipment: 17,841
- Work Over Rig: 9,988
- Work Over Rig with Weight Increase: 0
- LCV: 18

**Subtotal: 147,280**

#### Multi-Trip Permits

- Ten Percent Harvest/Winter Permits  
30-Day: 3,303  
7-month (July 15 - March 7): 1,442
- Longer Combination Vehicle  
30-day: 149
- Annual Overwidth: 3,205
- Overwidth-30 day (began 8/1/2023): 8
- Annual Fish House: 2
- Annual Overlength: 587
- 30-day Overlength (began 8/1/2023): 1
- 30-day 129,000 Primary Network: 311
- Annual 129,000 Primary Network: 310
- Bridge Length: 91
- Custom Combine Permit: 235
- Seasonal Permits: 715
- Equipment Approval Certificates: 346

**Subtotal: 16,287**

#### Miscellaneous

- Trip: 11,849
- Fuel: 5,603
- Temporary Registration: 0

**Subtotal: 17,452**

# LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

**Training Director:** Lt. Adrian Martinez

**Training Sergeants:** Sgt. Ben Kennelly and Sgt. Wade Kadrmas

**Operations Coordinator:** Mark Oster

**Administrative Assistant:** Peggy Dietz

**Cook:** Lisa Seefeld

The Law Enforcement Training Academy completed another year of successful and diverse training and activities. The LETA was under construction nearly the entire year of 2023. However, the Academy continued to operate with 19 sessions featuring law enforcement topics such as the following:

- Gracie Instructor Course
- North Dakota Parks & Rec Honor Guard
- Methods of Instruction (2)
- NAS Part A
- North Dakota Highway Patrol Academy
- NDHP In-Service EVOC, Pursuit Policy, Spike, Simulator
- North Dakota Basic (3)
- SFST & ARIDE
- Crash Investigation
- CVSA Post Crash Investigation
- EVOC & PIT Training
- NDHP Short Courses (4)

Various agencies attended training at the Law Enforcement Training Academy including the North Dakota Highway Patrol, 19 police departments, 28 sheriff offices, and 6 others. These agencies are:

## **Sheriff Offices:**

- Adams County
- Benson County
- Billings County
- Bottineau County
- Burleigh County
- Cass County
- Eddy County
- Emmons County
- Golden Valley County
- Grant County
- Griggs County
- McHenry County
- McKenzie County
- McLean County
- Mercer County
- Morton County
- Mountrail County
- Nelson County
- Pembina County
- Pierce County
- Ramsey County
- Renville County
- Richland County
- Rolette County
- Stutsman County
- Walsh County
- Ward County
- Williams County

## **Police Agencies:**

- Bismarck PD
- Bowman PD
- Burlington PD
- Dickinson PD
- Dunseith PD
- Grafton PD
- Grand Forks PD
- Harvey PD
- Jamestown PD
- Killdeer PD
- Mandan PD
- Minot PD
- Rugby PD
- Stanley PD
- Valley City PD
- Watford City PD
- West Fargo PD
- Williston PD
- Wishek PD

## **Other:**

- ND BCI
- NDDOCR
- ND Game and Fish
- ND Highway Patrol
- ND Parks & Recreation
- Three Affiliated Tribes

# LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

The Law Enforcement Training Academy held various miscellaneous activities during 2023. These activities include but are not limited to meetings, testings, trainings, etc. The following list includes the activity or person in-charge of the miscellaneous activity that took place at the LETA:

- LETA Interviews
- ICON Meetings
- Balco & Streichers
- ND Highway Patrol Equipment Meeting
- POST Test – Cass County

The multi-purpose room at the LETA got used by many agencies for various activities. The activities in 2023 include the following:

- ND Basic PT (5 weeks X 3 classes)
- ND Basic CTA Testing/DT/Traffic Stops/Practical's/OC/Taser/Ground Fight/SFST/Handcuffs, etc. (3 classes)
- ND Highway Patrol Academy PT/DT/Practical's/etc. (7 weeks)
- Bismarck PD CTA/DT (3)
- Morton County CTA
- NDHP CTA (6)
- Parole & Probation CTA (8)
- Griggs County CTA
- LETA Community Wings Project (5)
- Gracie Instructor (5 Days)
- ND Parks & Recreation Honor Guard (3 Days)
- NDHP In-Service CTA/DT/Practical's (5 Weeks)
- NDHP Short Courses (4)
- NDHP CTA Testing (3)

Three North Dakota Basic Training classes graduated this past year in addition to a North Dakota Highway Patrol Recruit Class. 164 peace officers completed their North Dakota Peace Officer Standard and Training Board licensure certification through attendance at the Academy. A total of 435 law enforcement personnel received training in 2023.

The Law Enforcement Training Academy continues to offer annual Methods of Instruction, use of force, and emergency driving training. Online class options were offered during 2023. The majority of three North Dakota Basic classes were completed online due to the construction remodel of the building.

# SUPPORT SERVICES

On March 27, 2023, Lieutenant Adam Dvorak was promoted to captain and became the support services division commander. On April 16th, 2023, Captain Eric Pederson officially retired from the NDHP after serving over 26 years.

In addition to the support services commander, ten full-time employees and one part-time employee are assigned to the Support Services Division. The division is responsible for property, procurement, planning, project management, research, grant coordination, fleet management, record management, policy development and accreditation. To support this division, the NDHP is assigned two full-time NDITD employees to assist with information technology needs.

Support Services personnel work a combination of in-person and telework. We have one support staff administrative assistant in Grand Forks and the other in Devils Lake. The rest of the staff either works at NDHP headquarters or at the Lee Avenue warehouse.

## **Procurement and Property**

NDHP procurement officer DeAnn Steckler retired in December of 2023. DeAnn Steckler was replaced by Mr. Jamie Bostyan, who had previous work experience with both the ND State Procurement Office and as a procurement officer with NDDOT.

Major accomplishments made by procurement and property in 2023 are as follows:

- Replaced majority of NDHP fleet of Ford F250 Super Duty pickups for Motor Carrier Operations.
- Issued Tri-Band Motorola APX 8000s portable radios to all field personnel.
- Began upgrading fleet from old VHF/UHF mobile radios to Motorola APX 8500 mobile radios.
- On July 1, 2023, with legislative authority, Support Services expanded their Lee Ave warehouse location. This extra space provides us with an inside area to store vehicles, ERT equipment, and additional long term evidence storage.
- Purchase and issuance of “Guardian Angel” body lights to all sworn personnel to enhance officer safety while roadside.
- Purchase of laptop “privacy screens” for Panasonic Toughbooks for all sworn to enhance security.

## **Information Technology**

Major accomplishments made by information technology in 2023 are as follows:

- Numerous CAD updates throughout 2023 (2205.09, 2205.10, 2303.5, etc.) seem to have stabilized the CAD system and has greatly reduced location (GPS) issues experienced by troopers.

# SUPPORT SERVICES

- Additional space purchased for the storage of digital evidence such as dash camera videos, body worn camera videos, and digital photos.

## **Policy Development and Accreditation**

Major accomplishments made by policy and accreditation in 2023 are as follows:

- Completed a remote CALEA assessment in July 28-August 5, 2023.
- Division Commander and Accreditation Manager attended the Rocky Mountain Accreditation Network in Glenwood, CO, from September 18-22, 2023.
- Completed a CTA Disparate Analysis in October 2023.
- Completed the following annual assessments: 2023 Use of Force & Pursuit Analysis, 2023 Traffic Enforcement & Crash Analysis, and the 2023-2027 Multi-Year Plan.
- Division Commander attended CALEA conference in Bellevue, WA Nov 8-11, 2023.
- Revised fifty NDHP policies.

## **Grants**

Major accomplishments made with grants in 2023 are as follows:

- Secured U.S. Department of Justice Grant to enhance body worn cameras and related equipment and training.
- Purchased additional radars and lidars with NDDOT highways grant.

# SAFETY & EDUCATION

The North Dakota Highway Patrol focuses on public outreach in several different ways. The first way is to educate the public about traffic safety issues through numerous outreach events held across the state throughout the year involving public and private organizations. The agency also actively supports the North Dakota Vision Zero Coordinators who focus on events and programs that are meant to increase public education about traffic safety.

The agency's participation in outreach events is meant to educate the public about the work of the patrol, law enforcement, and provide the opportunity for the public to get to know the men and women behind the uniform. The agency also participates in highly publicized enforcement events that are meant to highlight various crash-related traffic safety issues. During 2023, troopers were involved in over 280 outreach events including these events:

- North Dakota State Fair
- Rollover Simulator presentations
- Alive at 25
- Route 100
- Driver education
- Vision Zero Schools
- No Zone presentations
- Child Passenger Safety Checks
- Impact Teen Drivers
- Simulated Impaired Driving Experience (SIDNE) presentations
- Driving Skills for Success
- Click-It for Coffee
- Saved by the Belt award
- Saved by the Helmet award

Troopers also participated in several enforcement events during the year. These events are planned and held in conjunction with media campaigns that explain the purpose and importance of the enforcement:

- Click it or Ticket
- Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine (Speeding)
- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over
- U Drive. U Text. U Pay (Distracted Driving)
- Underage drinking
- Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic (H.E.A.T.)
- International Road Check
- Operation Safe Driver
- Operation Airbrake

# SAFETY & EDUCATION

The agency educates the public about law enforcement and the work of the NDHP through events and activities such as:

- North Dakota State Fair
- National Night Out events
- Public and private school events
- Career Fair events
- North Dakota Boys State
- Job shadowing (Ride Along Program)
- First Responder Trunk or Treat
- First Responder Toy Drive

Trooper Grant Lonski was named as Vision Zero's 2023 Traffic Safety Officer of the Year. This award is given to one law enforcement officer each year who has displayed a well-rounded effort for traffic safety through enforcement, community education, and training.

Safety and Education coordinates the agency's school bus inspection program. The program is a service provided to schools, upon request, if they are unable to have their buses inspected annually by a qualified individual. During the 2022-2023 school year, the patrol received over 60 requests for school bus inspections and inspected nearly 500 buses.

The Safety and Education Officer serves as North Dakota's AMBER alert coordinator and oversees the AMBER alert request process in the state. These duties include working with North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation (NDBCI) and Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) to approve alert requests and push them out to the public. During 2023, there were four AMBER alert requests and twenty Silver Alert requests.

The Loss Control Committee is chaired by the Safety and Education Officer. This committee reviews department crashes and incidents and looks for ways the agency can reduce liability. If a crash is determined to be preventable, the involved trooper's safe driving record resets to zero. The Safe Driving Award is given to troopers who have 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years of consecutive safe driving (see listing in Award section).

Traffic Incident Management (TIMS) focuses on a common approach for all first responders to use when dealing with incidents that affect roadway traffic. This common approach is meant to reduce secondary crashes and increase safety for the motoring public and first responders. The Safety and Education Officer coordinates training across the state by working with local officials to provide TIMS training to their local area. In 2023, TIMS was taught in several locations to include at the law enforcement training academy and at the North Dakota State Fire School in February.

Safety and Education continues to be active on social media to expand the agencies reach and educate the public about the agency and traffic safety related topics.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT)

The NDHP Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a specially trained team of officers utilized in select emergency situations. The team's two areas of specialization include crowd and riot control and tactical tracking and search. The team also assists with dignitary protection, search and rescue and other assignments as needed.

To further enhance the team's effectiveness, the team utilizes specialized equipment such as bloodhound tracking teams (3), sUAS "drones" and a Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) with tracks.

In 2023 the ERT responded to search for a possible suicide victim, monitored potential protest activities, supplemented the NDHP Dignitary Protection team, and attended training.

### 2023 ERT Roster

- ERT commander: Lieutenant Ryan Duletski, Bismarck

#### Northeast Squad:

- Trooper Paul Bakke, Grand Forks
- Trooper Grant Wosick, Grand Forks
- Trooper Ryan Mugan, Grand Forks
- Trooper Tanner Smith, Grand Forks
- Trooper Nevon Heisler, Grand Forks

#### Southeast Squad:

- Sergeant Andrew Cashin, Fargo
- Sergeant Adam Malafa, Fargo
- Trooper Darin Malafa, Fargo
- Trooper Alex Breitbach, Jamestown
- Trooper Abe Johannes, Fargo

#### Northwest Squad:

- Trooper Anthony Hoaby, Stanley
- Sergeant Joshua Gudvangen, Stanley
- Trooper Ethan Rostvedt, Minot
- Trooper Darby Kessner, Williston
- Trooper Tucker McDonald, Watford City

#### Southwest Squad:

- Trooper Troy Roth, Bismarck
- Trooper Joshua Page, Bismarck
- Trooper Steven Mayer, Bismarck
- Trooper Shawn Fulwider, Bismarck
- Trooper Jed Reile, Dickinson

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## K-9 PROGRAM

North Dakota Highway Patrol K-9 teams enhance or assist criminal interdiction efforts and track missing or wanted subjects. NDHP K-9 teams are either narcotic detector teams or man-trailing (bloodhound) teams. NDHP K-9 teams train throughout the year and complete yearly certification in their respective disciplines.

### NDHP K-9 Teams 2023

#### Man-Trailing Teams

- Trooper Tucker McDonald and K-9 Lorace, Watford City
- Trooper Nevon Heisler and K-9 Judge, Thompson
- Trooper Steven Mayer and K-9 Bleu, Bismarck
- Trooper Cody Harstad and K-9 Tank, Hillsboro

#### Narcotic Detector Teams

- Trooper Brett Mlynar and K9 Huck, Devils Lake
- Trooper Gabe Irvis and K9 Lasta, Fargo
- Trooper Steven Clark and K9 Kota, New Salem
- Trooper Chelsey Schatz and K9 Tara, Watford City
- Trooper Nathan Boll and K9 Casey, Fargo
- Trooper Joshua Page and K9 Rico, Bismarck
- Trooper Kyle Stern and K9 Draco, Hillsboro
- Trooper Troy Roth and K9 Bodo, Bismarck (retired April 2023)

### NDHP K-9 Team Activities 2023

#### Narcotic Detector Team Activities   Man-Trailing Team Activities

- |                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Deployments: 178             | • Training Trails: 371  |
| • Calls for Service: 111       | • Calls for Service: 56 |
| • Assisting other agencies: 65 | • Case Deployments: 9   |
| • School searches: 18          | • Persons located: 6    |
| • Infractions: 108             |                         |
| • Misdemeanors: 75             |                         |
| • Felonies: 56                 |                         |
| • Currency seizures: \$103,442 |                         |
| • Marijuana: 129.73 lbs.       |                         |
| • Methamphetamine: 1.66 lbs.   |                         |
| • Heroin: 2.0 grams            |                         |
| • Cocaine: 1.72 lbs.           |                         |
| • THC/Oil/Wax/etc.: 1.98 lbs.  |                         |
| • Fentanyl: 94.83 grams        |                         |

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## CRASH RECONSTRUCTION TEAM (CRT)

Every year multiple lives are lost in fatal traffic crashes across the state of North Dakota. Each of these cases must initially be treated as a homicide investigation. The North Dakota Highway Patrol Crash Reconstruction Team is made up of officers specifically trained and certified to gather and analyze critical evidence at a crash scene. The services of this team include crash scene response, the recognition and gathering of critical evidence, scientific analysis, professional report writing, and expert court testimony. These services are necessary to secure criminal conviction in cases where such charges are appropriate. The statistical information included in this report support the need for, and effective activities of, this team.

### 2023 Statistics

Below is a summary of the crash reconstruction activities conducted by the NDHP Crash Reconstruction Team for the year 2023 with a comparison to the CRT stats from 2022.

<b>CRT Statistic Summary</b>	<b>NW</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>SW</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>2023 TOTAL</b>	<b>2022 TOTAL</b>
<b>Mapping Only</b>	31	14	12	11	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Analysis Required</b>	11	15	8	11	<b>45</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Total CRT Cases</b>	42	29	20	22	<b>113</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>Passenger Vehicle Downloads</b>	15	23	19	19	<b>76</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Heavy Vehicle Downloads</b>	0	3	1	1	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Assisting Other Government</b>	7	10	5	5	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Misdemeanor Charges</b>	8	6	10	9	<b>33</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Felony Charges</b>	15	9	7	16	<b>47</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Total Criminal Charges</b>	23	15	17	25	<b>80</b>	<b>113</b>

### NDHP Crash Reconstruction Team 2023

- Trooper Darby Kessner, NW, Technician
- Trooper Coby Hubble, NW, Technician
- Trooper Austin Hilzendeger, NW, Technician
- Trooper Christa Kovarik, NW, Technician; Part-Time Analyst
- Trooper Eric Rumble, NE, Technician; Part-Time Analyst
- Trooper Jeremy Buehre, NE, Technician
- Trooper Travis Nelson, NE, Coordinator, Primary Analyst
- Trooper Andrew Birkholz, NE, Technician; Part-Time Analyst
- Trooper Jacob Jones, SW, Technician, Primary Analyst
- Trooper Bennett Bitz, SW, Technician
- Trooper Josh Rode, SW, Technician
- Trooper Adam Gebhardt, SW, Technician
- Trooper Chris Allen, SE, Technician
- Trooper Dan Andersen, SE, Technician
- Trooper Thomas Steenstrup, SE, Technician
- Trooper Andrew Skogen, SE, Technician

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## CRASH RECONSTRUCTION TEAM (CRT)

### NDHP Crash Reconstruction Equipment

- Alienware computer tower with Pix 4D
- DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise drone
- DJI Mavic 2 Pro drone
- Leica TS02 Total Station
- Trimble Nomad data collector with EVR 11 software
- Leica TS12/TS13 Robotics Total Station
- Leica CS15/CS20 data collector with EVR 11 software
- Canon Rebel T5i SLR digital camera
- Vericom 3000 accelerometer
- Vericom 4000 accelerometer
- Map360 4.1 mapping software
- ARPro 12 Recon calculation software
- Auto Stats Vehicle Information software
- Bosch CDR + 900 upgrade vehicle equipment and software
- Bosch Cable Kit
- Hyundai/KIA vehicle imaging kit
- Synercon Heavy Vehicle EDR equipment and software

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## CRIMINAL INTERDICTION TEAM

Targeting of drug trafficking, specifically criminal highway interdiction efforts, is a main component of successful crime reduction in the United States. Mexican transnational criminal organizations and criminal street gangs are responsible for a vast majority of fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin trafficked in the United States and into North Dakota. These deadly drugs poison our state's citizens and plague our communities.

From extended research, and closely communicating with our surrounding state's highway patrols (MN, SD, MT, WY), the most effective method to interdict traffickers is with officers specifically dedicated and trained for this mission. In response, the North Dakota Highway Patrol formed a dedicated five-officer criminal interdiction team in August of 2021.

### 2023 Criminal Interdiction Team

- Sergeant Matt Denault stationed in Fargo, Team Supervisor
- Trooper Gabriel Irvis stationed in Fargo, K-9 Handler
- Trooper Nathan Boll stationed in Fargo, K-9 Handler
- Trooper Joshua Page stationed in Bismarck, K-9 Handler
- Trooper Troy Roth, stationed in Bismarck, K-9 Handler, was reassigned to Capitol Security

The following Troopers were selected as additions to the team with transfers effective in 2024:

- Trooper James Myers stationed in Grand Forks
- Trooper Brett Mlynar stationed in Devils Lake, K-9 Handler
- Trooper Daniel Hanson stationed in Williston
- Trooper Damon Burkel stationed in Bismarck

The Criminal Interdiction Team uses two main methods to interdict criminal activity in the state:

- 1) Traffic stops based on intelligence gained by BCI, drug task forces, DEA, FBI, tribal law enforcement, and out of state law enforcement agencies.
- 2) High volume, purposeful traffic stops where our officers make routine stops and casually interview drivers and occupants during the traffic stop, watching for things or statements that are out of the ordinary for the normal motoring public.

Throughout 2023, members of the Criminal Interdiction Team participated in several interdiction details across the state. The team also attended different training courses to enhance their knowledge and skills in criminal interdiction. Members of the team also attended the National Interdiction Conference.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## CRIMINAL INTERDICTION TEAM

### 2023 Summary of Seizures and Arrests

- 11.3 lbs. Fentanyl
- 133 lbs. Marijuana
- 3.7 lbs. THC
- 1.4 lbs. Methamphetamine
- 1.7 lbs. Cocaine
- 1.1 lbs. Psilocybin
- 22 grams Heroin
- 6 handguns
- 2 vehicles
- \$129,680 currency
- One suspect arrested under a warrant for murder.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM (CIRT)

The origins of the NDHP Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) began as a response to staff needing support for the issues encountered as members of the law enforcement community. An ad-hoc committee was initially formed which brought together representatives of various disciplines affected by the high-stress work environment. This ad-hoc committee was formalized into the Wellness Committee.

In 2023, the team was reformulated following interdepartmental meetings and meetings with Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC) where best practices, clinical oversight, and policies were discussed and created. The reformulated team was renamed the Critical Incident Response Team or CIRT. Sgt. Matt Johnson serves as the Coordinator and Trooper Chris Pulver serves as the Assistant Coordinator of the CIRT.

There are currently twenty-one CIRT team members. Members have been trained in peer-to-peer, defusals, and debriefs. CIRT members respond to NDHP critical incidents as defined in NDHP Policy 6-19. In addition, team members can respond to external law enforcement agency incidents upon request. The NDHP CIRT may supplement the ND State CISM Team, however callouts to ND State CISM Team incidents need to be verified by either the CIRT Coordinator or the Assistant CIRT Coordinator.

Twelve of the twenty-one members submitted report data in 2023. Most of the incidents where team members provided service occurred in the southeast region. Team members assisted in six external debriefings.

When submitting data, team members could select one of three options: General Discussions with a Trooper; Debriefs; or Defusals. Following selection, the team member could log hour usage, a general description of the callout, and where it was located.

From the data collected the following was found:

- Most callouts were logged in the general discussions with trooper with 40 people reaching out to a team member for this reason. Team members spent approximately 44.75 hours speaking to troopers about various topics. Most discussions were general or revolved around fatal crashes or a LE suicide that occurred in Minot. Both fatal crashes and LE suicides can elicit a major stress response and are very appropriate topics for team members to discuss with officers.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM (CIRT)

- There were nine debriefs that incurred 106 hours of team members' time. These hours include travel time. In 2023, NDHP CIRT members provided assistance to:
  - ND State CISM Team
  - Minot Police Department
  - Mercer County Sheriff's Office
  - Fargo Area First Responders
  - Arnegard First Responders
  - New Rockford First Responders
  - Ward County Sheriff's Office
  - Rolette County Sheriff's Office
  - Williston Police Department

It is gratifying that the NDHP CIRT can assist in debriefs with various other agencies across the state. Fostering relationships is important to the growth and use of the team to become the preeminent responder for critical incidents. The NDHP's CIRT has the experience and expertise to fill this need for other law enforcement and first responder agencies.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## CRASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The NDHP Crash Assistance Program (CAP) was developed in 2021 and created to provide services after a traumatic event involving serious bodily injury or death, bridging the gap between the NDHP and crash/crime victims, a victim's family and other agencies and court personnel. The program is partially funded through the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) grant.

The NDHP Crash Assistance Program consists of two specialists:

- Robert Kennedy, Bismarck
- Brenda Olson-Wray, Fargo

Services offered by the team include:

- Information and referral
- Personal advocacy/accompaniment
- Emotional support
- Safety services
- Shelter/housing services
- Criminal/civil justice system assistance

Total number of individuals who received services during 2023: 387

Of the total number of individuals who received services, 285 were new individuals that received services during the reporting period.

Types of victimizations reported during 2023:

- DUI/DWI Incidents
- Other Vehicular Victimization

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## DRE/SFST PROGRAM

Trooper Tarek Chase is the North Dakota Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) State Coordinator. As the DRE/SFST State Coordinator, Trooper Chase serves as a reference and guide for all DREs, DRE Instructors, and SFST Instructors from each agency in the state. He provides reference material, training, and overall guidance to the DRE and SFST Program. He also serves as a liaison between local law enforcement agencies and the North Dakota Department of Transportation as well as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the International Association of Chiefs of Police for funding and training materials.

The NDHP maintains DREs and SFST Instructors to enhance impaired driving enforcement efforts and keep North Dakota roadways safe.

### 2023 NDHP Drug Recognition Experts

- Sergeant Michelle Romans, Williston
- Trooper Tarek Chase, Bismarck
- Trooper Timothy Frank, Underwood
- Trooper Brian Larson, Fargo
- Trooper Johnathan Stanley, Dickinson
- Trooper Chelsey Schatz, Watford City
- Trooper Coby Hubble, Crosby *\*decertified 1/13/23*
- Trooper Dustin Pattengale, Valley City
- Trooper Brandon Dalzell, Carrington
- Trooper Austin Yancy, Fargo
- Trooper Austin Hilzendeger, Minot

### 2023 NDHP SFST Instructors

- Lieutenant Ryan Panasuk, Grand Forks
- Sergeant Jed Dahnke, Fargo
- Sergeant Michelle Romans, Williston
- Trooper Wes Maley, Oakes
- Trooper Tarek Chase, Bismarck
- Trooper Gabriel Irvis, Fargo
- Trooper Brian Larson, Fargo
- Trooper Michael Wald, Bismarck
- Trooper Austin Hilzendeger, Minot
- Trooper Timothy Frank, Underwood
- Trooper Chelsey Schatz, Watford City
- Trooper James Myers, Grand Forks

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## DRE/SFST PROGRAM

NDHP DRE and SFST Instructors are provided training throughout the year. The NDHP and ND Department of Transportation together host an annual DRE/SFST Instructor In-Service.

### **2023 NDHP DRE Activities**

The North Dakota Highway Patrol DRE's conducted 37 full evaluations (33 enforcement and 4 training evaluations) during 2023. We had 15 DUID arrests where the subject refused to submit to DRE evaluations. The DRE's received approximately 65 calls from NDHP Troopers regarding signs related to drug impairment. DRE's fielded approximately 71 calls from other law enforcement agencies.

Five NDHP DREs completed their DRE recertification in 2023.

### **2023 NDHP DRE/SFST Courses**

- NDHP DRE/SFST Instructors taught three SFST Basic Courses at the LETA/LETA Range.
- Four SFST Refresher courses were conducted at the LETA.
- Five SFST Refresher courses were conducted across the state.
- Ten Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Evaluation (ARIDE) courses were taught in ten (10) different cities in ND.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

The North Dakota Highway Patrol flight section assists the agency in providing effective and efficient services to the citizens of North Dakota. This is accomplished by providing emergency response and aircraft support for all North Dakota law enforcement agencies.

In 2023, the majority of emergency requests were to assist other agencies to include providing aerial support to free up resources on the ground or providing information for officer and public safety. The aircraft is also beneficial in providing information to potentially rule out larger areas of land in order to concentrate efforts in a more precise location.

The NDHP aircraft flew 37 missions during 2023. The missions involved pursuits; searches for suicidal individuals; searches for missing children and adults; searches for wanted suspects; criminal interdiction assistance; and traffic details.

### **2023 Aviation Personnel**

- Trooper Dennis Gallagher, Chief Pilot
- Trooper Steven Iden, Assistant Pilot
- Kai Engstroem, Part-Time Pilot
- Shannon Henke, Part-Time Pilot
- Amy Winkelman, Part-Time Pilot
- Trooper William Brown, FLIR Operator/Tactical Flight Officer
- Trooper Bennett Bitz, FLIR Operator/Tactical Flight Officer
- Trooper Michael Hayen, FLIR Operator/Tactical Flight Officer
- Trooper Charles Kelly, FLIR Operator/Tactical Flight Officer

Trooper Tarek Chase and Trooper Michael Wald were reassigned and are no longer active with the aviation section.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## sUAS PROGRAM

During the 66th North Dakota Legislative Assembly (2019), the North Dakota Highway Patrol received funding to purchase and begin utilizing small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS), i.e. drones, for crash reconstruction, search and rescue, and civil unrest. Since that time, the North Dakota Highway Patrol has continued to develop and expand upon this program.

### Current sUAS equipment

- One DJI Matrice 300 equipped with thermal/FLIR camera (this is a large 32" x 19lb quadcopter that is primarily utilized by the NDHP Emergency Response Team for searches).
- One DJI Mavic 2 Enterprise Zoom (this is a medium sized, 13" x 3lb quadcopter drone used primarily for searches).
- Five DJI Mavic 2 Pros (these are medium sized, 13" x 2lb quadcopter used by NDHP Crash Reconstruction Team to analyze crash scenes).
  - These drones were the primary CRT drones until they were replaced by the Mavic 3 drones. Once the Mavic 3 drones were implemented, the Mavic 2 Pros were maintained as backup drones.
- Eight DJI Mavic 3 Enterprise (these are medium sized, 13" x 2lb quadcopter used primarily by the NDHP Crash Reconstruction Team to analyze crash scenes). These drones also have zoom capable cameras and can be utilized for searching and other observation functions.
- One Honda generator used for charging sUAS batteries in the field.
- One "ParaZero" parachute system specifically for the DJI Mavic 2 Enterprise Zoom

### sUAS capabilities

- "Airdata UAV" which allows us to livestream video. Drone operators with a data connection can share a link to outside users who can then stream live video from the sUAS for situational awareness.
- Completely photograph and document crash scenes using a program called PIX4D.
  - The Mavic 3 Enterprise drones are capable of autonomous flight when flying a crash scene. This allows for faster and more efficient scene mapping.
- The large DJI Matrice 300 is used for search and rescue operations as well as various other missions where longer duration flights are required. This sUAS is equipped with a thermal (FLIR) camera.
- sUAS flights are documented in a web-based sUAS flight log and fleet maintenance system called "DroneLogbook." In 2023, 131 total flights were logged, this includes any time the sUAS takes off and lands again and isn't exclusive to individual "missions".

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## sUAS PROGRAM

**2023 NDHP sUAS operators** (drone pilots) as designated under 24 Part 107

- Trooper Braby Aberle, Bismarck
- Trooper Chris Allen, Jamestown
- Trooper Daniel Andersen, Valley City
- Trooper Andrew Birkholz, Devils Lake
- Trooper Bennett Bitz, Bismarck
- Trooper Bill Brown, Bismarck
- Trooper Jeremy Buehre, Grand Forks
- Trooper Reece Burckhard, Bismarck
- Sgt. Jenna Clawson Huibregtse, Bismarck
- Trooper Adam Gebhardt, Dickinson
- Trooper Michael Hayen, Napoleon
- Trooper Nevon Heisler, Grand Forks
- Trooper Austin Hilzendeger, Minot
- Trooper Coby Hubble, Crosby
- Trooper Jacob Jones, Bismarck
- Trooper Charles Kelly, Bismarck
- Trooper Darby Kessner, Williston
- Trooper Christa Kovarik, Garrison
- Trooper Travis Nelson, Grand Forks
- Trooper Josh Rode, Steele
- Trooper Troy Roth, Bismarck
- Trooper Eric Rumble, Grand Forks
- Trooper Tom Steenstrup, Fargo
- Trooper Michael Wald, Bismarck

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## HOMELAND SECURITY

Sergeant Timothy Coughlin serves as the NDHP's Homeland Security Coordinator. The homeland security coordinator's primary duty is the active participation in the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). NDSLIC is a multidisciplinary, multiagency organization dedicated to gathering, processing, analyzing, and sharing critical information with federal, state, local, and private sector partners. The homeland security coordinator also serves as the Intelligence Liaison Officer.

The homeland security coordinator is tasked with tracking active NDHP asset forfeitures. Three asset forfeitures were added in 2023, for a total of 37 open asset forfeiture cases.

### **Homeland Security 2023 Activities**

- Twenty-nine NICS background checks and sixteen eTrace background checks for weapon returns from NDHP weapon violation cases.
- AMBER Alert
  - Four AMBER Alerts requested; one (1) AMBER Alert issued resulted in a successful recovery.
- Silver Alert
  - Twenty Silver Alerts requested.
    - Seven activated, all were successful recoveries.
    - Six requests did not meet criteria.
    - Seven requests were not issued due to the subjects being located prior to the alert being activated.
- 76 Daily Hot Sheets submitted.
- 130 Intel Briefing Summaries
- 26 Bulk Cash Smuggling Reports
- 41 DHE/HSIN Intel Alerts
- 11 Missing Children/People BOLO

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## CAPITOL SECURITY/DIGNITARY PROTECTION

Sergeant Darcy Aberle serves as the NDHP director of security and is responsible for security at the Capitol complex. NDHP Capitol Security is comprised of one sworn sergeant, one sworn trooper, and 10 security officers. Security is also provided for the North Dakota Supreme Court as well as members of the legislative assembly. Security training is held throughout the year for state employees who work at the State Capitol complex.

The annual review of Supreme Court security did not reflect any operational or equipment deficiencies. The review process included monthly testing of the duress alarm system; an audit and inventory of the security equipment in the court room and screening area; and a review with court staff.

Civilian security officers are trained in court security procedures as part of their FTO process. Officers receive training on the procedures outlined in Section 4 of the Capitol Grounds Emergency Response Plan. There were no threats against the Court that were made known to or investigated by the NDHP in 2023.

During the annual review, ND Supreme Court Chief Clerk Petra Mandigo Hulm reviewed current and future security needs and was confident the level of security provided by the NDHP was adequate both at the capitol as well as when the court held hearings around the state.

### **2023 Capitol Security Staff Changes**

- Trooper Troy Roth (transfer in)
- Gavin Miller (from part-time to full-time)
- Jorge Martinez (hired)
- Aria Forster (hired)
- Maria Rosa Nieves (hired)
- Retired Sgt. Chad Hermanson (hired)
- Riley Cronin (resigned)
- Gavin Miller (resigned)
- Hannah Black Cloud (resigned)

Sergeant Ryan Duletski served as the NDHP director of dignitary protection until being transferred to NW Regional Commander, and Sgt. Ben Hixson was named Dignitary Protection Sergeant May 1. Dignitary Protection is responsible for providing security and protection for the governor, the governor's immediate family, and other officers next in order of succession to the office of governor. The Dignitary Protection Team is comprised of one sergeant and two troopers.

### **2023 Dignitary Protection Staff Changes**

- Trooper John Bartlette (transfer in)

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## CULTURAL LIAISON OFFICER

The Cultural Liaison Officer program provides support to indigenous and ethnic groups in North Dakota, the NDHP as a department, individual law enforcement officers, and the governmental staff of North Dakota. Having an individual contact point within the agency has helped simplify, expand, and diversify relationships that benefit all aforementioned groups.

The CLO program provides a basis for the cultivation of relationships and discourse between cultural groups and NDHP. This has created new working relationships between indigenous and ethnic groups and NDHP and strengthened existing relationships built by the CLO program. The feedback from minority groups has been tremendous and positive. As the program continues to build, it is anticipated this positive feedback will continue.

First, the CLO program continues to work with tribal nations on jurisdictional agreements that effect the daily duties of NDHP sworn employees. Currently, we have two active agreements with the Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara (MHA) and Spirit Lake tribes. We have one draft pending approval and legal review with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians tribe. Most recently, we attended a meeting with the Standing Rock Sioux tribe to establish an agreement to assist the Sioux County Sheriff with motor carrier enforcement within the Standing Rock tribal boundaries. These agreements will simplify and define duties between law enforcement agencies operating in and around Indian land. After agreements are signed, the CLO program will maintain these tribal partnerships to ensure agreements remain in working order for all affected parties.

Second, much of the CLO program's time is dedicated toward tribal partnerships due to the immediate need for jurisdictional agreements and partnerships. The CLO program would benefit from a designated sworn employee in each region who is dedicated to cultural partnerships. A designated face exponentially increases relationship and trust building. Due to the lack of significant tribal lands in the southeast region, this designee would assist in supplementing relationships with New American and refugee populations.

### **CLO 2023 Activities**

- The Cultural Liaison Officer position was converted into a Recruiter and Cultural Liaison Officer position, and Trooper Michael Wald was selected to fill this position in October.
- Daily or weekly communication inter-agency, with tribal nations, and Indian Affairs Commission
- Coordinated with ND Army National Guard to coordinate collaboration for recruitment.
- Attended multiple career fairs at multiple college & high school locations across the state.
- Created recruiting & CLO program presentation and conducted multiple presentations.
- Instructed Cultural Awareness class at LETA.
- Attended annual MHA/NDHP agreement meeting with Col. Solberg & Sgt. Clawson Huibregtse.
- Researched & compiled crash investigation information for Turtle Mountain Tribal BIA Chief Earl Charbonneau.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## CULTURAL LIAISON OFFICER

### **CLO 2023 Activities** *(cont.)*

- Arranged recruiting events with ND National Guard.
- Attended Vision Zero event at UTTC, provided mock SFST instruction/demonstration.
- Attended multiple ND Indian Affairs Commission meetings.
- Presented Cultural Awareness class at University of Mary diversity class.
- Attended tabletop exercise at Spirit Lake tribal office.
- Attended Halloween Kids Carnival & Haunted House at New Town Civic Center.
- Presented to the Vision Zero Coordinator group on the CLO Program.
- Contacted other CLOs from other agencies for future coordination & collaboration.
- Coordinated with Standing Rock elementary school for toy/food delivery from December drive event.
- Assisted MHA Nation with planning a law enforcement conference.
- Participated in Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) events with tribal members and promoted NDHP alerts system.
- Conducted training sessions with tribal and security officers at MHA Nation.
- Assisted Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribes with multiple missing persons cases.
- Attended powwows in four tribal nations and the United Tribes Technical College Powwow.
- Instructed 180 New American and Refugee students at the Adult Learning Center in Fargo about safe winter driving, utilizing 12 translators.
- Provided multiple safety talks for schools at tribal nations.

The CLO program assists in increasing quality service to more North Dakota citizens as evidenced by the increasing number of requests for assistance and utilization.

# SPECIAL PROGRAMS

## HONOR GUARD

The purpose of the NDHP Honor Guard is to provide a specially trained group of officers to represent the NDHP at events such as law enforcement funerals, memorial ceremonies and other authorized functions.

In 2023 the NDHP Honor Guard participated in 12 details to include ND Highway Patrol Academy graduation; presenting colors (flags) at conferences; funerals for officers killed in the line of duty; funerals for retired Troopers; and training.

### **2023 Honor Guard Team**

- Lieutenant Chris Messer (Honor Guard Commander)
- Lieutenant Ryan Panasuk
- Lieutenant Ryan Duletski
- Sergeant Jeremiah Bohn
- Sergeant Benjamin Hixson
- Sergeant Adam Malafa
- Sergeant Wade Kadrmas
- Trooper William Brown
- Trooper Reece Burckhard
- Trooper Isaiah Jackson
- Trooper Tanner Lembke
- Trooper Grant Lonski
- Trooper Ryan Mugan
- Trooper Thomas Steenstrup
- Capitol Security Officer Jodene Suko

# CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

## NDHP CHAPLAINS-2023



**Head Chaplain**  
**Pastor Lester Wolfgram**  
Southwest-Bismarck  
pastor.wolfgram@gmail.com



**Pastor Jonathan Pust**  
Northwest-Williston  
pastorpusteicloud.com



**Pastor Christopher Waldvogel**  
Southeast-Fargo  
pastorchrisbslc@gmail.com



**Pastor Dennis Huenefeld**  
Southwest-Lincoln  
outdoorparson@hotmail.com



**Father Roger Synek**  
Northwest-New Town  
fr.roger.a.synek.15@gmail.com



**Father Chad Wilhelm**  
Southeast-Jamestown  
chad.wilhelmefargodiocese.org



**Father Kenneth Phillips**  
Northwest-Minot  
priest4ever@yahoo.com



**Pastor Michael Temple**  
Northeast-Grand Forks  
pastormiketemple@gmail.com



**Pastor Michael Wolters**  
Southwest-Dickinson  
rlcrevendsupernet.com

- Father Roger Synek tendered his resignation from the program.
- Monthly training opportunities are offered to our chaplains via Zoom with the Crisis Care Chaplaincy in Bismarck. These are typically led by Chaplain Greg Carr.
- NDHP Chaplains participated in six ride-alongs with troopers in 2023.
- NDHP Chaplains participated in three death notifications with troopers in 2023.
- NDHP Chaplains submitted articles for each of the monthly Bear Facts newsletters.
- NDHP Chaplains led training at the Law Enforcement Training Academy dealing with “Stress in Law Enforcement” and “Marriage”; met with recruits; and led prayer at graduation ceremonies.
- NDHP Chaplains attended three NDHP personnel promotion ceremonies and offered a prayer at each ceremony.
- NDHP Chaplains participated in three debriefing sessions following critical incidents.
- Chaplain Wolfgram and Chaplain Huenefeld participated in the annual Peace Officer Memorial service at the ND State Capitol.
- Chaplain Wolfgram attended the funeral service for Officer Jake Wallin in Fargo and Deputy Paul Martin in Beulah.
- Chaplains Temple, Wolters, and Wolfgram made a total eight station visits to regional NDHP headquarters.
- Chaplains Wolters and Wolfgram had conversations over coffee or lunch with NDHP personnel on five occasions.
- Chaplain Wolfgram offered opening prayer at the annual World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

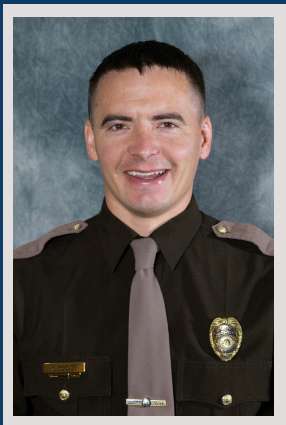
# AWARDS

## 2022 TROOPER OF THE YEAR

### TROOPER JONATHAN SKALICKY



### 2022 NOMINEES



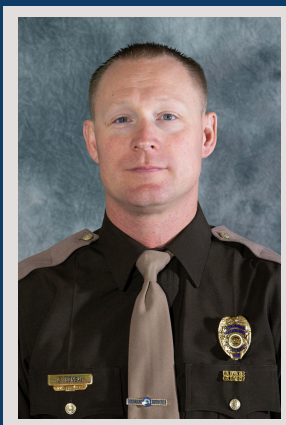
**TROOPER  
NEVON HEISLER**



**TROOPER  
BEN HIXSON**



**TROOPER  
ANTHONY HOABY**



**TROOPER  
GRANT LONSKI**



**TROOPER  
STEVEN MAYER**



**TROOPER  
MILES RHONEMUS**

# AWARDS

## TROOPER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

- 1989 - Trooper Wayne French, Grafton, Grand Forks District
- 1990 - Trooper Kyle Kirchmeier, Watford City, Williston District
- 1991 – Trooper Richard Geiss, Lisbon, Fargo District
- 1992 – Trooper Alan Billehus, Williston, Williston District
- 1993 – Trooper Joel Liebl, Fargo, Fargo District
- 1994 – Trooper Darryl Bulzomi, Carrington, Bismarck District
- 1995 – Trooper Norman Ruud, Watford City, Dickinson District
- 1996 – Trooper Richard Kuppich, Fargo, Fargo District
- 1997 – Trooper Robert Kennedy, Cando, Minot District
- 1998 – Trooper Keith Ogden, Cavalier, Grand Forks District
- 1999 – Trooper Richard Weigelt, Linton, Bismarck District
- 2000 – Trooper Wesley Meidinger, Wishek, Jamestown District
- 2001 – Trooper Rick Richard, Washburn, Bismarck District
- 2002 – Trooper Roger Clemens, Dickinson, Dickinson District
- 2003 – Trooper Joseph Bryan Knight, Minot, Minot District
- 2004 – Trooper Robert Arman, Bismarck, Bismarck District
- 2005 – Trooper William Vance, Dickinson, Dickinson District
- 2006 – Trooper Raynard Trochmann, Grand Forks, Grand Forks District
- 2007 – Trooper Rick Michels, Elgin, SW Region
- 2008 – Trooper Steven Fischer, Rolla, NE Region
- 2009 – Trooper John Sova, Jamestown, Motor Carrier Division
- 2010 – Trooper Kyle Stern, Hillsboro, SE Region
- 2011 – Trooper Ryan Panasuk, Grand Forks, NE Region
- 2012 – Trooper Shannon Henke, Bismarck, SW Region
- 2013 – Trooper Wesley Maley, Oakes, SE Region
- 2014 – Trooper Jamey Jahner, Fargo, SE Region
- 2015 - Trooper Rodney Torgeson, Minot, NW Region
- 2016 – Trooper Christopher Pulver, Stanley, NW Region
- 2017 – Trooper David Kamp, Garrison, NW Region
- 2018 – Trooper Brian Mehlhoff, Bismarck, SW Region
- 2019 – Trooper Brett Mlynar, Devils Lake, NE Region
- 2020 – Trooper Andrew Cashin, Grand Forks, NE Region
- 2021 – Trooper Kristjan Helgoe, Fargo, SE Region
- 2022 – Trooper Jonathan Skalicky, Jamestown, SE Region

# AWARDS

## CRITICAL TASK ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION

### Regional Results (average time)

Southeast Region: 4:51

Headquarters: 5:04

Northeast Region: 4:53

Northwest Region: 5:25

Southwest Region: 5:02

Motor Carrier Operations: 5:50

### NDHP Officers meeting the time limit within their age grouping and receiving the CTA individual award:

- Trooper Brady Aberle
- Lt. Derek Arndt
- Trooper Paul Bakke
- Trooper John Bartlette
- Trooper Nathan Boll
- Trooper Alex Breitbach
- Trooper Jeremy Buehre
- Trooper Andrew Cashin
- Trooper Steven Clark
- Sgt. Tim Coughlin
- Sgt. Matt Denault
- Sgt. Ryan Duletski
- Trooper Josh Dura
- Trooper Tim Frank
- Trooper Shawn Fulwider
- Trooper Dennis Gallagher
- Trooper Nevon Heisler
- Trooper Kristjan Helgoe
- Trooper Mike Hinrichs
- Trooper Ben Hixson
- Trooper Anthony Hoaby
- Major Tom Iverson
- Trooper Jamey Jahner
- Trooper Jacob Jones
- Sgt. Ben Kennelly
- Trooper Nathaniel King
- Trooper Grant Lonski
- Sgt. Adam Malafa
- Trooper Darin Malafa
- Trooper Ves Marinov
- Trooper Tucker McDonald
- Sgt. Brian Mehlhoff
- Trooper Brett Mlynar
- Trooper Ryan Mugan
- Trooper Travis Nelson
- Capt. Bryan Niewind
- Trooper Cody Nuenthel
- Trooper Christopher Olson
- Trooper Joshua Page
- Lt. Ryan Panasuk
- Trooper Matt Peschong
- Trooper Jed Reile
- Trooper Miles Rhonemus
- Trooper Josh Rode
- Sgt. Jeremy Rost
- Trooper Ethan Rostvedt
- Trooper Troy Roth
- Trooper Christopher Schaefer
- Sgt. Shawn Skogen
- Trooper Tanner Smith
- Colonel Brandon Solberg
- Trooper Kyle Stern
- Trooper Sean Trentman
- Trooper Craig Tuhy
- Trooper Michael Wald

# AWARDS

## IN-SERVICE AWARDS

### CRIMINAL ARRESTS

Trooper Austin Yancy

Trooper Josh Dura

Trooper James Myers III

Sgt. Kristjan Helgoe

Trooper Jed Reile

Trooper Miles Rhonemus

Trooper Coby Hubble

Trooper Nevon Heisler

Trooper Andrew Skogen

Trooper Brett Mlynar

Trooper Dan Hanson

### DRIVER/VEHICLE EXAMINATIONS

Inspector Trent Scott

Trooper Anthony Hoaby

Trooper Jackson Loeffel

Trooper Mike Hinrichs

Trooper Cody Nuenthel

Trooper Ryan Hoffner

Trooper Brandon Wade

Trooper Paul Bakke

Trooper Donald Neumann

Trooper Rodney Torgeson

### DRUG ENFORCEMENT

Trooper Austin Yancy

Trooper Josh Dura

Sgt. Kristjan Helgoe

Trooper James Myers III

Trooper Nathan Boll

Trooper Nevon Heisler

Trooper Coby Hubble

Trooper Gabe Irvis

Trooper Brett Mlynar

Trooper Tanner Smith

### DUI ENFORCEMENT

Trooper Austin Yancy

Trooper Dan Hanson

Trooper Jed Reile

Trooper Andrew Skogen

Trooper Josh Dura

Trooper Coby Hubble

Sgt. Kristjan Helgoe

Trooper Bill Brown

Sgt. Brian Mehlhoff

Trooper Mitchell Mehrer

# AWARDS

## IN-SERVICE AWARDS

### OCCUPANT PROTECTION ENFORCEMENT

Trooper Denver Oase  
Trooper Jamey Jahner  
Trooper Christopher Pulver  
Sgt. Kristjan Helgoe  
Trooper Austin Yancy

Trooper Brett Mlynar  
Trooper Grant Lonski  
Trooper Ryan Mugan  
Trooper Christopher Olson  
Trooper Jed Reile

### OVERLOAD ENFORCEMENT

Trooper Myles Sundby  
Trooper Dan Moore

Trooper Timothy Peterson  
Trooper Scott Guenthner

Trooper Robert Moyle

### RIGHT OF WAY ENFORCEMENT

Trooper Austin Yancy  
Trooper Andrew Skogen  
Trooper Sean Trentman  
Trooper Bennett Strege  
Trooper Christopher Pulver

Trooper Josh Dura  
Trooper Benjamin Wenger  
Trooper Miles Rhonemus  
Trooper Mathew Lee  
Trooper Grant Lonski

### SPEED ENFORCEMENT

Trooper Jamey Jahner  
Trooper Austin Yancy  
Trooper Grant Lonski  
Trooper Isaiah Jackson  
Trooper Christopher Vigness

Trooper Andrew Skogen  
Trooper Reece Burckhard  
Trooper Jonathan Skalicky  
Trooper Josh Dura  
Trooper Christopher Olson

### SAFETY TALKS/PRESENTATIONS

Trooper Myles Sundby  
Trooper Dan Moore

Trooper Timothy Peterson  
Trooper Scott Guenthner

Trooper Robert Moyle

# AWARDS

## 2023 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

### 40 YEARS

Doug Hoopman

### 30 YEARS

Robert Kennedy

Judy Rosendahl

### 25 YEARS

Michele Zeller

### 20 YEARS

Sgt. Matthew Denault

Lt. Luke Hendrickson

Trooper Christa Kovarik

Trooper Jamey Jahner

Trooper Christopher Laite

### 15 YEARS

Trooper Tarek Chase

Sgt. Jed Dahnke

Trooper Dennis Gallagher

Trooper Adam Gebhardt

Trooper Cody Harstad

Trooper Grant Lonski

### 10 YEARS

Trooper Christopher Allen

Trooper Paul Bakke

Trooper Andrew Birkholz

Lt. Adrian Martinez

Sgt. Erin Quinn

Trooper Chelsey Schatz

Lisa Seefeld

### 5 YEARS

Trooper Nathan Boll

Sgt. Michael Brown

Trooper Brandon Dalzell

Trooper Major Hopp

Trooper Darby Kessner

Trooper Tucker McDonald

Trooper Thomas Steenstrup

Trooper Tyler Steffen

Capitol Security Officer Joseph Weigum

### 3 YEARS

Trooper Dan Andersen

Trooper Alex Breitbach

Trooper Coby Hubble

Trooper Isaiah Jackson

Trooper Dan Johnson

Trooper Tyler Loven

Trooper Kristina Luhman

Trooper Mitch Mehrer

Trooper James Myers III

Trooper Christopher Olson

Trooper Dustin Pattengale

Trooper Jed Reile

Trooper Miles Rhonemus

Trooper Andrew Skogen

Trooper Tanner Smith

Trooper Bennett Strege

# AWARDS

## SAFE DRIVING RECOGNITION

The Loss Control Committee meets quarterly to review crashes, incidents, and injuries. When Officers reach a 5-year increment in which they have not had a preventable crash, the officer is recognized with a Safe Driving Award.

### **20-Year Award Recognition**

Sgt. Christopher Messer (September)

### **15-Year Award Recognition**

Trooper Jamey Jahner (March)

Sgt. Jed Dahnke (September)

Trooper Adam Gebhardt (September)

Trooper Craig Tuhy (September)

### **10-Year Award Recognition**

Trooper Timothy Frank (March)

Trooper Troy Roth (June)

### **5-Year Award Recognition**

Trooper Brandon Dalzell (March)

Trooper Darby Kessner (March)

Trooper Tucker McDonald (March)

Trooper Ves Marinov (September)

Sgt. Michelle Romans (September)

Sgt. Preston Langer (December)

Sgt. Matt Johnson (December)

# AWARDS

## NDHP DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

The NDHP Distinguished Service Medal is awarded to an NDHP Officer who, in the discharge of official duties, distinguishes themselves by extraordinary heroism or devotion to duty during a specific incident or event.

### TROOPER MILES RHONEMUS

On July 19, 2022, at 4:50 pm, a suspect was traveling at approximately 100 mph southbound and passing traffic on the inside shoulder of the six-lane roadway on I-29 in Fargo. The driver swerved from the inside shoulder to the inside lane and ran into a motorcycle, throwing the motorcyclist onto the roadway. Trooper Miles Rhonemus began to search for the suspect vehicle when he heard radio traffic that a male subject was firing rounds from a handgun in the south Fargo area, not far from his current location. Additional radio traffic on the Fargo PD channel identified that the male was firing rounds from the balcony at a blue pickup truck in the parking lot at the apartment complex. While responding to the active shooter incident, Trooper Rhonemus heard additional radio traffic that the male suspect had entered a blue Chevrolet Silverado with front end damage and had left the apartment complex. Rhonemus surmised that the suspect from the hit and run incident on I-29 and the active shooter were likely the same person.

When Trooper Rhonemus located the vehicle, it had just been involved in a crash at an intersection. The driver did not stop after striking another vehicle, traveling west on 32nd Avenue. South, Trooper Rhonemus activated his emergency lights, crossed the median boulevard, and began to catch up to the vehicle that came to a stop along 32nd Avenue. Trooper Rhonemus radioed the high risk stop to dispatch and conducted a felony stop. Trooper Rhonemus was providing the suspect with loud verbal commands. A short time after the stop began, a Fargo PD Officer arrived on scene. Both officers observed the suspect waving a handgun inside the cab and then pointed it at his own head. After a few moments, the suspect fled this traffic stop.

The two officers re-entered their vehicles and began a pursuit of the suspect. Visibility was reduced because of the heavy rain, heavy traffic, and road spray from the heavy traffic. The suspect began to pass motorists northbound I-29 on the outside shoulder at a high rate of speed and exited northbound I-29 and took the exit ramp to travel eastbound on I-94. Trooper Rhonemus continued his pursuit of Chevrolet on the exit ramp. While the Chevrolet was negotiating the exit ramp, it was involved in three additional crashes, the final one causing the Chevrolet to lose control, leaving the roadway and becoming disabled and stuck off the north side of the exit ramp.

As it was evening rush hour, traffic was heavy in this area and only several feet from where the vehicle was disabled. Traffic had stopped on the exit ramp. One of the struck vehicles was disabled and only 15 yards away from the suspect. This vehicle was occupied by a family of four. There were many other vehicles on the exit ramp.

# AWARDS

## NDHP DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

Trooper Rhonemus stopped his patrol vehicle and observed the suspect digging around inside the Chevrolet approximately 50-60 yards away. Trooper Rhonemus drew his sidearm and began to advance toward the Chevrolet. There was no cover or concealment available, but Trooper Rhonemus knew he needed to advance on the suspect to prevent further violence from occurring.

Trooper Rhonemus provided the suspect with loud verbal commands to comply. At the same time, Trooper Rhonemus was aware of the traffic stopped around him and knew the suspect had been in possession of a weapon at the apartment complex and had been firing that weapon. Trooper Rhonemus was concerned for the stopped motorists and began to yell to them to leave the area.

The suspect exited the Chevrolet with a handgun and began to fire rounds. Trooper Rhonemus immediately returned fire and struck the suspect with two of the four rounds he fired from approximately 50 yards away. The suspect fell to the ground and out of the line of sight of Trooper Rhonemus. Trooper Rhonemus tactically advanced and observed the suspect on the ground, and a handgun a short distance away. Trooper Rhonemus approached the suspect and handcuffed him, and recognized he was bleeding and began to treat him. While Trooper Rhonemus was doing this, Fargo PD Officers arrived on scene and took over the medical care and custody of the suspect.

Trooper Rhonemus had kept dispatch informed of his actions throughout this event, so they were aware of the incident and shooting. Trooper Rhonemus displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty during this incident. He calmly responded to a highly volatile chain of events, which initially no one knew were related. But because Miles was monitoring both radio channels, Trooper Rhonemus had the situational awareness to know both were related. Without the actions Trooper Rhonemus took on this day, this suspect may have been able to evade law enforcement and harm additional innocent parties. Without direction, Trooper Rhonemus took it upon himself to respond to these incidents in an appropriate manner.

Trooper Rhonemus was nominated for the award by Captain Bryan Niewind and Sergeant Adam Malafa which was presented October 10, 2023.

## GOVERNORS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE-ZEZULA AWARD CAPTAIN BRYAN NIEWIND

Governor Doug Burgum and Lt. Governor Tammy Miller presented Captain Bryan Niewind with the Zezula Award at the 2023 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Public Service recognition event on September 7. The Zezula Award ("One Who Helps") was presented to Captain Niewind for responding with professional aid in times of great stress and tragedy, including in the aftermath of officer-involved shootings in Fargo in 2022 and 2023, as well as his efforts to support and enhance Vision Zero with new traffic safety strategies.

# AWARDS

## VISION ZERO AWARDS

### SERGEANT WADE KADRMAS

Sgt. Wade Kadrmas received the Vision Zero Appreciation award at the Vision Zero Partner Conference. The award recognizes individuals who actively play a role in decreasing motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries in North Dakota through their work to support Vision Zero. Sgt. Kadrmas was recognized for his work on SB 2168 to enhance the speed fine structure and SB 2169 to enhance penalties for repeat offenders who commit crash-causing violations.

### COMMEMORATIVE COIN RECIPIENTS

These NDHP Troopers were recognized for their commitment to enforcing traffic safety laws and promoting traffic safety:

- Sgt. Josh Gudvangen
- Sgt. Kristjan Helgoe
- Sgt. Nate King
- Trooper Coby Hubble
- Trooper Jamey Jahner
- Trooper Kristina Luhman
- Trooper Ves Marinov
- Trooper Jimmy Myers
- Trooper Miles Rhonemus
- Trooper Jon Skalicky
- Trooper Andrew Skogen
- Trooper Thomas Steenstrup

## STATE RADIO MOBILE OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

### TROOPER GRANT LONSKI

The North Dakota State Radio Mobile Operator of the Year Award is given each year to an emergency response partner who uses proper radio etiquette while coordinating with dispatchers and other units and for maintaining professionalism during radio calls.

Other 2023 NDHP nominees: Trooper Kristina Luhman and Trooper Gabe Irvis.

# AWARDS

## NDHP MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

The NDHP Meritorious Service Medal may be awarded to any sworn member who served with merit and distinction and voluntarily retired or involuntarily retired due to a line of duty injury or medical illness.

- Merit – having superior quality or worth; demonstrated ability or achievement; praiseworthy
- Distinction – accomplishments that set one apart; served with excellence; reputable
- Agency Mission and Values – strict adherence throughout career
- Community Involvement – strong community support
- Extra Duties – involvement in duties that are needed for the department to function

### 2023 Recipients:

- Trooper John Sova, retirement date: January 31, 2023
- Lieutenant Troy Hischer, retirement date: February 3, 2023
- Captain Eric Pederson, retirement date: April 16, 2023
- Sergeant Chad Hermanson, retirement date: April 30, 2023
- Trooper Scott Guenthner, retirement date: June 30, 2023
- Lieutenant David Wolf, retirement date: August 31, 2023

## SAVED BY THE HELMET

### JOHN BOURY

On July 12, 2021, John Boury, 62, Northwood, was severely injured when the trike he was driving was hit by the driver of a three-quarter ton pickup who ran through a stop sign. Sgt. Christopher Schaefer nominated him for the award and acknowledged that “He made a conscious decision before he started riding that morning to wear his helmet, he had a family to return home to. That says a lot about a person to take the time to think about what a small action could do and what it could mean to your family if something happens on the road.” At the award presentation in Grand Forks on May 2, 2023, John and his wife Deb met with the first responders for the first time since the crash.

### VERNON HEDBERG

On June 19, 2023, Vernon Hedberg, 76, Bismarck was driving his 2006 Harley Davidson traveling west from Bismarck to Mandan at 40 mph when the cruise control malfunctioned. Unable to get his cruise control off, he slammed on the brakes causing him to lose control and go into a slide forcing his motorcycle down on its right side. Vernon, who was wearing a helmet, sustained only minor injuries, and was transported to a local hospital. Trooper Steven Mayer nominated Hedberg for the award.

# AWARDS

## SAVED BY THE BELT

### PHOENIX PAULSEN

On March 16, 2023, Phoenix Paulsen, West Fargo, was driving west on I-94 from West Fargo to Bismarck. Weather conditions at the time of the crash included snow and blowing snow with drifts along the roadway. Blowing snow was reducing visibility. Paulsen entered a low visibility area and struck snow drifts that had formed across the westbound roadway, the vehicle hit the snowbanks and rolled and came to rest in lane one of westbound I-94 on its top facing north. Paulsen was alone in the vehicle and extricated herself from the vehicle. A passerby picked her up and waited with her until EMS arrived. The vehicle was totaled and since she was wearing a seatbelt, she suffered only minor injuries. Captain Bryan Niewind nominated Phoenix for the award.

## COLONEL'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The Colonel's Award for Excellence is awarded to NDHP personnel and citizens who are deserving of special recognition.

**Recipients: NDDOT Employees Mike Watson, Michael Gasper, and Norm Westbrook.**

*Nominated by Captain Eric Pederson*

Colonel Brandon Solberg presented NDDOT employees Mike Watson, Michael Gasper, and Norm Westbrook with the Colonel's Award for Excellence for their help with trouble-shooting issues such as transportation, storage, and maintenance of patrol vehicles over the past several years. Recent supply chain issues in the vehicle industry have led to difficulties in obtaining new vehicles and parts.

**Recipients: NDDOT Employees Leisa Borstad and Robin Stephens**

*Nominated by Captain Eric Pederson*

Colonel Brandon Solberg presented NDDOT employees Leisa Borstad and Robin Stephens with the Colonel's Award for Excellence. Since 2021, the NDHP has experienced challenges in maintaining the NDHP vehicle fleet to include late vehicle deliveries, short notice cancellation, and an above normal number of vehicles being damaged in crashes. Both Leisa and Robin were recognized for going above and beyond to assist the NDHP with vehicle orders and recouping costs.

**Recipient: Assistant Attorney General Mike Mahoney**

*Nominated by Major Aaron Hummel*

Mike Mahoney was the legal counsel for the NDHP from 2015 until 2023. He helped the agency work through several areas of law, was instrumental in ensuring that all the agency's MOUs and contracts were updated and reviewed regularly. He was also a key player in the drafting of MOUs between the NDHP and MHA and Spirit Lake Nations. He also provided crucial training at the Law Enforcement Training Academy.

**Recipient: Lieutenant Daniel Haugen**

*Nominated by Captain Luke Hendrickson*

Lt. Dan Haugen was presented with the Colonel's Award for Excellence for his years of service and dedication to the NDHP Honor Guard team. Lt. Haugen was a member of the Honor Guard since its inception and served as the Honor Guard Commander for nine years. In his nomination letter, Capt. Luke Hendrickson noted, "Over the years I have had the opportunity to observe the NDHP Honor Guard at several other funerals and events. The Honor Guard represents our agency with the highest level of professionalism. This is due primarily to the hard work and dedication that Lt. Haugen has put into this team."

# AWARDS

## COLONEL'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

**Recipient: Greg Brothers**

*Nominated by Trooper Kyle Stern*

Greg Brothers was nominated for his nearly 10 years of assistance and dedication to the NDHP's K9 program. In 2015, 2016, and 2017, Greg conducted the annual narcotic K9 certification, traveling to North Dakota. In 2018, all narcotic detector K9 teams traveled to Gillette. In 2021, Greg retired from law enforcement and opened a training and kennel business in Gillette but continued to be available to conduct the certification. Greg was always fair and impartial, wanting the best for all the narcotic detector K9 teams. Greg takes time out of his busy schedule to accommodate NDHP teams for certification each year. Greg has also been called upon by the NDHP to sit in on interviews for several positions within the K9 program. Greg has always done this willingly and accommodates the NDHP into his busy schedule.

Greg served as a mentor to all the narcotic detector handlers. His knowledge in training of teams and willingness to provide feedback has greatly enhanced the work of the NDHP handlers and his service to the State of ND and the agency's K-9 program is greatly appreciated.

**Recipients: Sgt. Nathaniel King, Trooper Daniel Andersen, Cass County Deputy Justin Mortenson and Cass County Deputy Kenneth Custodio**

*Nominated by Captain Bryan Niewind*

On March 6, 2023, Sgt. Nathaniel King was patrolling in western Cass County. While parked on the eastbound I-94 Exit 314 off-ramp, a vehicle pulled up next to Sgt. King and the lone male occupant told Sgt. King he was having a heart attack, Sgt. King directed him to pull onto the shoulder and called ND State Radio and requested EMS response to his location. The driver, identified as Chad Nevland, then lost consciousness, stopped breathing and Sergeant King could not find a pulse. The AED advised no shock. Nate removed Nevland from the vehicle and laid him on the ground. Once removed from the vehicle, Nevland began breathing on his own and regained an irregular pulse.

While this was on-going, Trooper Daniel Andersen, Deputy Justin Mortenson and Deputy Kenneth Custodio arrived on scene and assisted Sergeant King with keeping Nevland comfortable and warm with blankets and monitoring his condition. After some time, the Buffalo Quick Response Team then arrived and continued care of Nevland, before transferring care over to Sanford Ambulance. Nevland was transported to Sanford Hospital in Fargo and was found to have had the "widow maker" heart attack, with a survival rate of approximately 12%.

In speaking with Nevland after the fact, he was extremely complimentary of Sergeant King, the other officers, and EMS. Nevland is a former law enforcement officer and his father retired from the Minot Police Department. Nevland complimented all involved saying those he encountered were "courteous, calm, professional and compassionate."

# AWARDS

## COLONEL'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

**Recipients:** Trooper Kristina Luhman, Fargo PD Officer Emily Martin, Amber Graves, and Zainaba Kamara

*Nominated by Captain Bryan Niewind*

On June 6, 2023, the NDHP and Fargo Police Department responded to a report of a female in crisis who was sitting on the ledge of the I-29 Exit 62 overpass with both legs over the concrete ledge and threatening to jump.

FPD and NDHP were able to control traffic in the area with multiple units and FPD Officer Emily Martin began to speak with the female and a friend of the female, Amber Graves, arrived on scene. They continued to speak with the female when Trooper Kristina Luhman arrived on scene. The three were able to keep the female engaged, listened to her, remained calm, and showed her respect, true concern, and empathy.

A short time later, Zainaba Kamara arrived on scene. She identified that she was related to the female in crisis. Both Graves and Kamara were able to establish trust with the female and were able to approach and hug her. While distracted, Officer Martin and Trooper Luhman were able to safely pull the female off the ledge; she was treated on scene and transported to a medical facility in Fargo for continued treatment.

All four worked together, while showing empathy and compassion, and ultimately kept the female from self-harm.

**Recipients:** Brandon Hass

*Nominated by Trooper Shawn Fulwider*

On June 28, 2023, a severe two-vehicle injury crash occurred on Centennial Road in Bismarck. Three adults and a juvenile were critically injured. Off-duty firefighter, Brandon Hass, was driving in the area near the time of the crash. Hass used his training and experience to immediately take control of the crash scene making sure 911 was contacted, assessing the situation and providing clear, proper directives to assisting civilians. While on scene, Hass had a hand in the care and well-being of every injured party on scene.

While tending to an adult male and his injured child, one of the vehicles began to catch on fire. That vehicle was still occupied by two injured men. Due to the fire, Hass extracted the men out of and away from the burning vehicle. Emergency responders began to arrive on scene. Hass continued to tend to the patients, assisting in the moving, packaging and loading of patients into ambulances.

Bismarck PD, Burleigh County SO, Burleigh Rural Fire, Metro Ambulance, and NDHP Troopers were on scene. This crash scene had a chance to become very chaotic due to the circumstances but due to Hass's selflessness and ability to take control of the scene, every person was performing their duties. It is one thing to show up to a call, knowing what to expect, and to have all the equipment at one's fingertips. It is another thing to be thrown into chaos without tools and still being able to control that chaos, especially with the assistance of untrained civilians.

# AWARDS

## COLONEL'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

**Recipients: Trooper Paul Sova and Jason Kuntz**

*Nominated by Captain Bryan Niewind*

On September 1, 2023, Trooper Paul Sova was attending the funeral for his father-in-law in Grand Forks. After the funeral, an attendee of the luncheon began to choke on food at the luncheon. The attendee's grandson, Jason Kuntz, noticed that she was choking and attempted the Heimlich maneuver but was unsuccessful. Trooper Sova noticed what was occurring and determined she had no air movement, and he administered the Heimlich maneuver. After several thrusts, Trooper Sova was able to dislodge food blocking her airway. Kathy was able to begin breathing on her own and was attended to by several nurses that were attending the luncheon.

**Recipients: Darrell Parsons**

*Nominated by Trooper Mitchell Mehrer*

On October 31, 2023, Trooper Damon Burkel and Trooper Mitch Mehrer responded to a single vehicle rollover on I-94, near the Hailstone Creek Rest Area. The pickup lost control and was on its roof due to icy road conditions. The pickup was occupied by a male driver, two female passengers and two children who were entangled in their seatbelts.

Darrell Parsons, Mandan, witnessed the crash. He risked his own safety by walking across the icy roadway and cutting the seatbelts of the children. He then took the two children across I-94 to his vehicle to stay warm and calm, until first responders arrived. The other occupants were placed in another driver's vehicle. The children were not injured.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## PROMOTIONS

Jan. 6, 2023	<b>Trooper Preston Langer</b> , Northwest Region-Watford City Promoted to Sergeant, Northwest Region-Williston
Jan. 6, 2023	<b>Trooper Matthew Peschong</b> , Northeast Region-Grand Forks Promoted to Sergeant, Northwest Region-Minot
Jan. 26, 2023	<b>Sgt. Adrian Martinez</b> , LETA-Bismarck Promoted to Lieutenant, Northwest Region-Minot
Feb. 1, 2023	<b>Trooper Nathaniel King</b> , Southeast Region-Jamestown Promoted to Sergeant, Southeast Region-Jamestown
March 27, 2023	<b>Lt. Adam Dvorak</b> , Asst. Field Operations Commander, HQ-Bismarck Promoted to Captain, HQ-Bismarck
May 1, 2023	<b>Trooper Erin Quinn</b> , Cultural Liaison Officer, HQ-Bismarck Promoted to Sergeant, LETA-Bismarck
May 1, 2023	<b>Sgt. Ryan Duletski</b> , Director of Capitol Security, HQ-Bismarck Promoted to Lieutenant, Northwest Region-Minot
May 11, 2023	<b>Trooper Benjamin Hixson</b> , Capitol Security, HQ-Bismarck Promoted to Sergeant, HQ-Bismarck
Aug. 1, 2023	<b>Trooper Michael Brown</b> , Northeast Region-Devils Lake Promoted to Sergeant, Northwest Region-Minot
Oct. 1, 2023	<b>Lieutenant Derek Arndt</b> , Asst. Field Operations Commander, HQ-Bismarck. Promoted to Captain, HQ-Bismarck
Nov. 1, 2023	<b>Sgt. Christopher Messer</b> , Southwest Region-Dickinson Promoted to Lieutenant, Northwest Region-Watford City

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## TRANSFERS

July 31, 2023	<b>Trooper Brandon Dalzell</b> , Traffic Enforcement Trooper, SE-New Rockford. Transferred to NE Region, Devils Lake
Aug. 1, 2023	<b>Sgt. Matthew Peschong</b> , Regional Sergeant, NW-Minot Transferred to Traffic Enforcement Trooper, NE Region, Grafton
Sept. 1, 2023	<b>Trooper Troy Roth</b> , Criminal Interdiction Trooper, HQ Transferred to Capitol Security, HQ
Oct. 9, 2023	<b>Trooper Michael Wald</b> , Traffic Enforcement Trooper, SW-Bismarck Transferred to Recruiter/Cultural Liaison Officer, HQ
Nov. 1, 2023	<b>Lt. Ryan Duletski</b> , Regional Commander, NW-Minot Transferred to Assistant Operations Commander, HQ
Nov. 1, 2023	<b>Sgt. Erin Quinn</b> , Training Officer, LETA Transferred to Regional Sergeant, SW Region, Dickinson
Nov. 1, 2023	<b>Capt. Luke Hendrickson</b> , Administrative Services Commander, HQ Transferred to Regional Commander, MCO-Fargo
Dec. 1, 2023	<b>Sgt. Wade Kadrmass</b> , Safety and Education Officer, HQ Transferred to Training Officer, LETA

## NEW HIRES

March 7, 2023	<b>Jorge Martinez</b> , Capitol Security Officer
June 16, 2023	<b>Kai Engstroen</b> , Pilot
Sept. 5, 2023	<b>Aria Forster</b> , Capitol Security Officer
Sept. 23, 2023	<b>Amy Jo Winkelman</b> , Pilot
Oct. 31, 2023	<b>Maria Rosa Nieves</b> , Capitol Security Officer
Nov. 13, 2023	<b>Darcy Peterson</b> , Permit Technician
Dec. 1, 2023	<b>Jamie Bostyan</b> , Purchasing Coordinator
Dec. 4, 2023	<b>Chad Hermanson</b> , Capitol Security Officer
Dec. 18, 2023	<b>Stephen Horn</b> , Trooper, MCO-Williston

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## 2023 LETA GRADUATING CLASS



2023 NDHP Troopers (left-right): Kolton Krance, Damon Burkel, Peter Miley, Landon Jacobson, Remington Timothy, Amanda Mohs, Trevor Elfman, Andrew Klegstad, Jacob Hudson, Mykal Porter, Evan Johnson, Frank Holdburg, Damian Wright, Gregory Conlin, Shane Johnson, Trenton Stewart, Casey Fetch, Zackary Kennedy, and Arlen Rohrich. *Not pictured: Joseph Peterson who resigned prior to the graduation ceremony.*

Nineteen troopers celebrated their graduation from the North Dakota Law Enforcement Training Academy on Friday, January 26, 2024. Ten of the officers, who were currently licensed peace officers prior to joining the NDHP, completed a two-week highway patrol specific training program and were sworn in at various times in 2023. The remaining nine troopers completed an 18-week, comprehensive law enforcement training program that began in September 2023.

- **Trooper Evan Johnson** graduated from Williston State College and Lake Region State College and worked in law enforcement in North Dakota for six years prior to joining the NDHP.  
Hometown: Williston, ND. Hire date: July 5, 2023. Assigned duty station: Jamestown.
- **Trooper Andrew Klegstad** graduated from Lake Region State College with a degree in Law Enforcement and worked as a deputy for the Traill County Sheriff's Office prior to joining the NDHP.  
Hometown: Thompson, ND. Hire date: July 5, 2023. Assigned duty station: Hillsboro.
- **Trooper Damian Wright** graduated from Lake Region State College with a degree in Criminal Law and worked in law enforcement prior to joining the NDHP.  
Hometown: Bismarck, ND. Hire date: July 5, 2023. Assigned duty station: Wahpeton.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

- **Trooper Damon Burkel** graduated from Alexandria Technical and Community College and worked in law enforcement for five years prior to joining the agency.  
Hometown: Bismarck, ND. Hire date: August 9, 2023. Assigned duty station: Bismarck.
- **Trooper Joseph Petersen** graduated from Alexandria Technical and Community College and worked as an Officer with the Bismarck PD prior to joining the NDHP.  
Hometown: Chandler, MN. Hire date: August 9, 2023. Assigned duty station: Bismarck.
- **Trooper Gregory Conlin** graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in Criminal Justice. Prior to joining the NDHP, he worked for the city of Fargo and served in the National Guard.  
Hometown: Fargo, ND. Hire date: September 20, 2023. Assigned duty station: Fargo.
- **Trooper Casey Fetch** graduated from the University of Jamestown with a degree in Exercise Science. He worked as a Case Manager at the James River Correctional Center prior to joining the agency.  
Hometown: Sykeston, ND. Hire date: September 20, 2023. Assigned duty station: Jamestown.
- **Trooper Frank Holdburg** graduated from the University of Jamestown with a degree in Criminal Justice and worked as a Case Manager at the James River Correctional Center.  
Hometown: Jamestown, ND. Hire date: September 20, 2023. Assigned duty station: Jamestown.
- **Trooper Jacob Hudson** graduated from Bismarck State College as a Process Technician and most recently worked at a North Dakota gasification facility.  
Hometown: Bismarck, ND. Hire date: September 20, 2023. Assigned duty station: Williston.
- **Trooper Landon Jacobson** attended Bismarck State College and is currently enrolled at the University of Mary studying Psychology.  
Hometown: Bismarck, ND. Hire date: September 20, 2023. Assigned duty station: Williston.
- **Trooper Kolton Krance** attended North Dakota State University and studied liberal arts. While in college, he was active-duty Marine Corps and worked in banking.  
Hometown: Mandan, ND. Hire date: September 20, 2023. Assigned duty station: Grafton.
- **Trooper Mykal Porter** attended Central Methodist University and studied Physical Therapy. Prior to joining the NDHP, he worked at the Burleigh County jail.  
Hometown: New Britain, CT. Hire date: September 20, 2023. Assigned duty station: Williston.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

- **Trooper Arlen Rohrich** graduated from Kidder County High School and served in the Marines and worked with the railroad prior to joining the NDHP.  
Hometown: Steele, ND. Hire date: September 20, 2023. Assigned duty station: Williston.
- **Trooper Trevor Elfman** graduated from Larimore High School and worked with the McHenry County Sheriff's Officer prior to joining the NDHP.  
Hometown: Larimore, ND. Hire date: November 27, 2023. Assigned duty station: Devils Lake.
- **Trooper Peter Miley** graduated from Bemidji State University with a degree in Criminal Justice and worked for the Grafton Police Department and North Dakota Game and Fish prior to joining the NDHP.  
Hometown: Wadena, MN. Hire date: November 27, 2023. Assigned duty station: Williston.
- **Trooper Remington Timothy** graduated from Minot State University with a degree in criminal justice and most recently worked for the Cascade County Sheriff's Office in Montana.  
Hometown: Minot, ND. Hire date: November 27, 2023. Assigned duty station: Rugby.
- **Trooper Amanda Mohs** graduated from Moorhead State University Moorhead with a degree in Criminal Justice and most recently worked for the Moorhead Police Department.  
Hometown: Fargo, ND. Hire date: November 27, 2023. Assigned duty station: Fargo.
- **Trooper Shane Johnson** graduated from the Lake Region-Devils Lake with an AAS in law enforcement and most recently worked with the Griggs County Sheriff's Office and has served with the North Dakota Air National Guard.  
Hometown: Cooperstown, ND. Hire date: November 27, 2023. Assigned duty station: Jamestown.
- **Trooper Trenton Stewart** graduated from Mt. Carmel High School and most recently worked for the Mandan Police Department.  
Hometown: San Diego, CA. Hire date: November 27, 2023. Assigned duty station: Fargo.
- **Trooper Zackary Kennedy** graduated from Valley City State University with a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management and most recently worked as a deputy with the Towner County Sheriff's Office.  
Hometown: Cando, ND. Hire date: December 18, 2023. Assigned duty station: Cando.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## RETIREMENTS/SEPARATION

**Michael Miller**, Capitol Security Officer  
June 21, 2021 - Jan. 19, 2023

**Trooper John Sova**, MCSAP Coordinator/Trooper - MC Operations-Jamestown  
Jan. 1, 2002 - Jan. 31, 2023

**Lt. Troy Hischer**, Northeast Regional Commander  
Jan. 1, 1997 - Feb. 3, 2023

**Trooper Jonathan Kramer**, Northwest Region-Williston  
Sept. 21, 2022 - Feb. 10, 2023

**Riley Cronin**, HQ-Security Officer  
Oct. 19, 2022 - Feb. 28, 2023

**Trooper Anthony Potter**, Northwest Region-Williston  
Dec. 6, 2021 - March 31, 2023

**Capt. Eric Pederson**, Support Services Division Commander, HQ-Bismarck  
Jan. 1, 1997 - April 16, 2023

**Sgt. Chad Hermanson**, LETA-Bismarck  
Jan. 1, 1999 - April 30, 2023

**Stephanie Hicks**, HQ-Security Officer  
March 19, 2019 - April 30, 2023

**Gavin Miller**, HQ-Security Officer  
May 15, 2018 - May 31, 2023

**Trooper Stephen Horn**, Motor Carrier Operations-Williston  
Nov. 30, 2020 - May 31, 2023

**Trooper Joshua Wold**, Motor Carrier Operations-Williston  
Jan. 8, 2018 - Feb. 28, 2019; Nov. 1, 2019 - June 15, 2023

**Trooper Scott Guenthner**, Motor Carrier Operations-Mohall  
Jan. 1, 1997 - June 30, 2023

**Lt. David Wolf**, Motor Carrier Operations Commander  
Jan. 1, 1997 - Aug. 31, 2023

**Hannah Black Cloud**, HQ-Security Officer  
June 2, 2020 - Aug. 31, 2023

**Sue Wood-Lindquist**, Motor Carrier Operations-Permit Technician  
Nov. 1, 1992 - Nov. 14, 2023

**Trooper Joseph Petersen**, Southwest Region-Bismarck  
Aug. 9, 2023 - Nov. 30, 2023

**DeAnn Steckler**, Procurement Coordinator, HQ-Bismarck  
Dec. 15, 1980 - Dec. 31, 2023

# INTERNAL OPERATIONS

**Internal Grievances:** There were no internal grievances filed in 2023.

**Equal Employment Opportunity Complaints Filed:** There were no equal employment opportunity complaints filed in 2023.

**Internal Investigations:** There were three internal investigations conducted in 2023.

**Citizen Complaints:** There were 24 documented complaints in 2023 (multiple complaint types may occur in a single complaint).

- Enforcement Arrest & Rude Unprofessional Conduct: 1
- Enforcement Arrest Only: 18
- Rude Unprofessional Conduct Only: 2
- Abusive Behavior: 0
- Harassment: 0
- Other – Honesty/Integrity of Employee: 1
- Patrol Vehicle Operations: 2

**Results of the investigations:**

- 41.7% (10 complaints) were unfounded.
- 16.7% (4 complaints) were improper conduct.
  - Two officers were verbally counseled; and two received performance notes.
- 37.5% (9 complaints) were proper conduct.
- 4.2% (1 complaint) had insufficient evidence.

The complaints were reviewed for bias-based profiling. No corrective measures, such as counseling, training, or other corrective measures related to bias-based profiling occurred during 2023.

# FISCAL REPORT

## JANUARY 31 - DECEMBER 31, 2023

### Receipts

TRANSFERS FROM HWY TAX DISTRIBUTION FUND	\$2,814,095
TRANSFERS FROM GENERAL FUND	\$30,149,125
DIRECT FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENTS	\$1,667,615
ND PASS-THRU FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENTS	\$940,974
SPECIAL FUEL TAX REVENUE	\$48,745
TRANSFERS FROM ASSET FORFEITURE FUND	\$9,062
TRANSFERS FROM STATE CONFERENCE FUND	\$0
INSURANCE RECOVERIES	\$0
MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS	<u>\$38,609</u>

**TOTAL RECEIPTS** \$35,668,225

### Disbursements

SALARIES AND WAGES	(\$25,316,546)
OPERATING EXPENSES	(\$8,207,631)
EQUIPMENT	(\$230,775)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	(\$1,709,389)
GRANTS TO NON-PUBLIC ENTITIES	(\$30,863)
TRANSFERS TO GENERAL FUND	(\$110,640)
TRANSFERS TO FEDERAL FUND	(\$23,772)

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS** (\$35,629,616)

### Revenue

<b>REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES/TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$38,609</b>
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# NDHP CURRENT STAFF

Trooper Brady Aberle, Williston, 9/21/2022  
Sgt. Darcy Aberle, Capitol Security, 10/1/2000  
Trooper Christopher Allen, Jamestown, 1/7/2013  
Trooper Dan Andersen, Valley City, 9/23/2020  
Trooper Joshua Anderson, Minot, 6/1/2004  
Capt. Derek Arndt, Headquarters, 1/1/2007  
Trooper Michael Arndt, LaMoure, 12/1/2014  
Trooper Paul Bakke, Grand Forks, 9/1/2015  
Trooper John Bartlette, Dignitary Protection, Bismarck, 11/28/2022  
Sgt. Jeffrey Bauske, Devils Lake, 8/1/2005  
Jarod Biberdorf, Capitol Security Officer, 10/19/2022  
Trooper Andrew Birkholz, Devils Lake, 5/18/2015  
Trooper Bennett Bitz, Bismarck, 9/1/2014  
Rachel Bitz, HQ-Planning Analyst, 12/17/2019  
Hannah Black Cloud, Capitol Security Officer, 6/20/2020 - 8/31/2023  
Sgt. Jeremiah Bohn, Bismarck, 1/1/2007  
Trooper Nathan Boll, Fargo, 1/8/2018  
Jamie Bostyan, HQ-Purchasing Coordinator, 12/1/2023  
Trooper Alex Breitbach, Jamestown, 1/20/2020  
Sgt. Michael Brown, Minot, 1/8/2018  
Trooper William Brown, Bismarck, 12/1/2007  
Trooper Jeremy Buehre, Northwood, 6/1/2004  
Trooper Reece Burckhard, Rolla, 1/6/2020  
Recruit Damon Burkel, Bismarck, 8/9/2023  
Sgt. Andrew Cashin, Fargo, 1/1/2010  
Trooper Tarek Chase, Headquarters, 8/1/2008  
Trooper Steven Clark, New Salem, 7/5/2011  
Sgt. Jenna Clawson Huibregtse, Headquarters, 5/18/2015  
Recruit Gregory Conlin, LETA, 9/20/2023  
Trooper Justin Cote-Kanning, Stanley, 11/28/2022

# NDHP CURRENT STAFF

Sgt. Timothy Coughlin, Headquarters, 1/1/2007  
Riley Cronin, Capitol Security Officer, 10/19/2022 - 2/28/2023  
Jennifer Dahl, HQ-Grants/Project Specialist, 12/12/2022  
Thomas Dahl, Capitol Security Officer, 2/13/2023  
Sgt. Jed Dahnke, Fargo, 8/1/2008  
Trooper Brandon Dalzell, Devils Lake, 1/8/2019  
Jackie Darr, Permits Supervisor, 5/1/2001  
Sgt. Matthew Denault, Fargo, 5/1/2003  
Peggy Dietz, LETA-Admin. Assistant, 7/1/1983  
Lt. Ryan Duletski, Headquarters, 8/1/2007  
Trooper Joshua Dura, Fargo, 9/22/2021  
Capt. Adam Dvorak, Headquarters, 1/1/2002  
Recruit Trevor Elfman, LETA, 11/27/2023  
Kai Rune Engstroem, HQ-Pilot, 6/16/2023  
Trooper Austin Erickson, Grafton, 9/21/2022  
Recruit Casey Fetch, LETA, 9/20/2023  
Trooper Cory Formanek, Wahpeton, 9/2/2014  
Aria Forster, Capitol Security Officer, 9/5/2023  
Trooper Timothy Frank, Washburn, 1/1/2010  
Donna Fuchs, HQ-Admin. Assistant, 5/1/1975  
Trooper Shawn Fulwider, Bismarck, 1/8/2018  
Trooper Dennis Gallagher, HQ-Pilot, 5/1/2008  
Trooper Adam Gebhardt, Dickinson, 8/1/2008  
Jill Ginder, Safety Auditor, 7/1/1983  
Deb Grasl, Safety Auditor, 9/1/2000  
Sgt. Joshua Gudvangen, Minot, 5/18/2015  
Trooper Scott Guenther, Mohall, 1/1/1997 - 6/30/2023  
Trooper Daniel Hanson, Williston, 9/2/2014  
Trooper Cody Harstad, Hillsboro, 8/1/2008  
Lt. Daniel Haugen, Bismarck, 9/1/2000

# NDHP CURRENT STAFF

Trooper Michael Hayen, Linton, 3/12/2012  
Trooper Nevon Heisler, Grand Forks, 1/6/2014  
Sgt. Kristjan Helgoe, Fargo, 8/1/2005  
Lt. Luke Hendrickson, Fargo, 5/1/2003  
Shannon Henke, HQ-Pilot, 9/1/2020  
Sergeant Chad Hermanson, LETA, 1/1/1999 - 4/30/2023  
Chad Hermanson, Capitol Security Officer, 12/4/2023  
Stephanie Hicks, Capitol Security Officer, 3/19/2019 - 4/30/2023  
Trooper Austin Hilzendeger, Minot, 9/2/2014  
Trooper Michael Hinrichs, Bismarck, 1/1/2007  
Lt. Troy Hischer, Grand Forks, 1/1/1997 - 2/3/2023  
Sgt. Benjamin Hixson, Dignitary Protection, 1/6/2014  
Trooper Anthony Hoaby, Stanley, 1/6/2014  
Trooper Ryan Hoffner, Fargo, 6/1/2004  
Recruit Frank Holdburg, LETA, 9/20/2023  
Doug Hoopman, HQ-Warehouse Manager, 4/1/2012  
Trooper Major Hopp, Bottineau, 1/8/2018  
Trooper Stephen Horn, Williston, 11/30/2020 - 5/31/2023; 12/18/2023  
Trooper Coby Hubble, Crosby, 4/20/2020  
Recruit Jacob Hudson, LETA, 9/20/2023  
Major Aaron Hummel, Headquarters, 1/1/1999  
Trooper Steven Iden, Dignitary Protection, 5/18/2015  
Trooper Gabriel Irvis, Fargo, 3/12/2012  
Major Thomas Iverson, Headquarters, 6/1/2004  
Trooper Isaiah Jackson, Dickinson, 1/20/2020  
Recruit Landon Jacobson, LETA, 9/20/2023  
Trooper Jamey Jahner, Fargo, 5/1/2003  
Trooper Abe Johannes, Fargo, 9/21/2022  
Trooper Dan Johnson, Minot, 1/20/2020  
Trooper Evan Johnson, Jamestown, 7/5/2023

# NDHP CURRENT STAFF

Sgt. Matthew Johnson, Grand Forks, 1/6/2014  
Recruit Shane Johnson, LETA, 11/27/2023  
Trooper Jacob Jones, Bismarck, 7/5/2011  
Sgt. Wade Kadrmas, LETA, 8/1/2005  
Trooper Charles Kelly, Bismarck, 5/18/2015  
Bruce Kemmett, Capitol Security Officer, 2/13/2023  
Robert Kennedy, HQ-Crash Assistance Specialist, 10/11/2021  
Recruit Zach Kennedy, LETA, 12/18/2023  
Sgt. Benjamin Kennelly, LETA, 1/1/2007  
Trooper Darby Kessner, Williston, 1/8/2018  
Sgt. Nathaniel King, Jamestown, 9/2/2014  
Trooper Andrew Klegstad, Hillsboro, 7/5/2023  
Trooper Mark Kline, Minot, 9/2/2014  
Sgt. Dave Kolness, Williston, 3/12/2012  
Trooper Christa Kovarik, Garrison, 5/1/2003  
Kristin Krahler, HQ-Human Resource Officer, 9/23/2019  
Recruit Jonathan Kramer, LETA, 9/21/2022 - 2/11/2023  
Recruit Kolton Krance, LETA, 9/20/2023  
Trooper Christopher Laite, Devils Lake, 5/1/2003  
Sgt. Preston Langer, Watford City, 9/2/2014  
Trooper Brian Larson, Fargo, 1/6/2014  
Mark Learn, HQ-Account Manager, 4/20/1987  
Trooper Mathew Lee, Watford City, 9/22/2021  
Trooper Tanner Lembke, Fargo, 9/21/2022  
Trooper Jackson Loeffel, Dickinson, 9/2/2014  
Trooper Grant Lonski, Bismarck, 9/1/2008  
Trooper Tyler Loven, Dickinson, 1/20/2020  
Trooper Kristina Luhman, Fargo, 9/23/2020  
Sgt. Adam Malafa, Fargo, 7/5/2011  
Trooper Darin Malafa, Fargo, 5/18/2015

# NDHP CURRENT STAFF

Trooper Wesley Maley, Oakes, 9/1/2005  
Trooper Ves Marinov, Fargo, 1/6/2014  
Lt. Adrian Martinez, LETA, 11/27/2017  
Jorge Martinez, Capitol Security Officer, 3/7/2023  
Pam Mattern, HQ-Admin. Assistant, 3/1/2008  
Trooper Steven Mayer, Bismarck, 9/1/2005  
Trooper Cameron McCann, Fargo, 1/6/2014  
Trooper Tucker McDonald, Watford City, 1/8/2018  
Trooper Camron McFarland, Rolla, 9/21/2022  
Sgt. Brian Mehlhoff, Bismarck, 1/1/2007  
Trooper Mitchell Mehrer, Williston, 9/23/2020  
Lt. Christopher Messer, Williston, 9/1/2000  
Recruit Peter Miley, LETA, 11/27/2023  
Gavin Miller, Capitol Security Officer, 5/15/2018 - 5/31/2023  
Michael Miller, Capitol Security Officer, 6/2/2021 - 1/19/2023  
Trooper Brett Mlynar, Devils Lake, 1/1/2010  
Sandy Moen, HQ-Admin. Assistant, 11/1/2001  
Recruit Amanda Mohs, LETA, 11/27/2023  
Trooper Daniel Moore, Glen Ullin, 10/1/2015  
Trooper Alyson Moses, Williston, 12/6/2021  
Trooper Robert Moyle, Bismarck, 1/1/2010  
Trooper Ryan Mugan, Grand Forks, 8/1/2007  
Trooper James Myers, Grand Forks, 9/23/2020  
Kathy Nelson, HQ-Office Assistant, 7/19/2022  
Trooper Travis Nelson, Grand Forks, 8/1/2007  
Trooper Donald Neumann, Minot, 1/1/2002  
Maria Nieves, Capitol Security Officer, 10/31/2023  
Captain Bryan Niewind, Fargo, 9/1/2000  
Blaine Northrup, Capitol Security Officer, 3/7/2023  
Trooper Cody Nuenthel, Grand Forks, 1/6/2014

# NDHP CURRENT STAFF

Trooper Denver Oase, Bowman, 9/2/2014  
Trooper Christopher Olson, Minot, 4/20/2020  
Jerry Olson, Safety Auditor Supervisor, 2/2/2015  
Brenda Olson-Wray, HQ-Crash Assistance Specialist, 10/11/2021  
Wayne Onger, Capitol Security Officer, 8/7/2017  
Debbie Opp, HQ-Records Specialist, 7/28/2021  
Mark Oster, LETA-Operations Coordinator, 1/3/2012  
Johnny Pabon, Jr., HQ-Property Specialist, 9/7/2021  
Trooper Joshua Page, Bismarck, 9/2/2014  
Lt. Ryan Panasuk, Grand Forks, 8/1/2007  
Trooper Dustin Pattengale, Valley City, 4/1/2020  
Captain Eric Pederson, Headquarters, 1/1/1997 - 4/16/2023  
Trooper Matthew Peschong, Grafton, 1/1/2010  
Trooper Joesph Petersen, Bismarck, 8/9/2023 - 11/30/2023  
Darcy Peterson, HQ-Permits Technician, 11/13/2023  
Trooper Timothy Peterson, Lisbon, 1/1/2010  
Recruit Mykal Porter, LETA, 9/20/2023  
Trooper Anthony Potter, Williston, 1/6/2021 - 3/31/2023  
Trooper Shea Pulley, Minot, 12/6/2021  
Trooper Christopher Pulver, Stanley, 1/1/1999  
Sgt. Erin Quinn, Dickinson, 1/7/2013  
Trooper Jed Reile, Dickinson, 4/1/2020  
Trooper Miles Rhonemus, Fargo, 1/20/2020  
Trooper Joshua Rode, Steele, 1/1/2007  
Amanda Roehrich, HQ-Account Specialist, 2/22/2021  
Recruit Arlen Rohrich, LETA, 9/20/2023  
Sgt. Michelle Romans, Williston, 1/6/2014  
Judy Rosendahl, HQ-Admin. Assistant, 6/1/1993  
Sgt. Jeremy Rost, Bismarck, 1/1/2002  
Trooper Ethan Rostvedt, Minot, 9/2/2014

# NDHP CURRENT STAFF

Trooper Troy Roth, Capitol Security, 8/1/2007  
Trooper Eric Rumble, Grand Forks, 1/6/2014  
Dawsyn Rusch, Capitol Security Officer, 4/11/2022  
Sgt. Evan Savageau, Jamestown, 7/5/2011  
Mark Sayler, Capitol Security Officer, 2/9/2023  
Sgt. Christopher Schaefer, Grand Forks, 7/5/2011  
Trooper Chelsey Schatz, Watford City, 1/7/2013  
Dana Schweitzer, MCO-Admin. Assistant, 8/1/2012  
Trenton Scott, MCSAP-Bowman, 10/1/1995  
Lisa Seefeld, LETA-Cook, 2/11/2013  
Trooper Jonathan Skalicky, Valley City, 4/1/2010  
Trooper Andrew Skogen, Fargo, 9/23/2020  
Sgt. Shawn Skogen, Dickinson, 6/1/2004  
Brad Smith, HQ-Property Assistant, 12/1/2015  
Trooper Tanner Smith, Grand Forks, 1/20/2020  
Col. Brandon Solberg, Headquarters, 1/1/1999  
Cindy Solberg, HQ-Public Info Specialist, 11/1/2017  
Trooper John Sova, Jamestown, 1/1/2002 - 1/31/2023  
Trooper Paul Sova, Jamestown, 1/1/2007  
Trooper Johnathan Stanley, Dickinson, 9/2/2014  
DeAnn Steckler, HQ-Purchasing Coordinator, 12/1/1980 - 12/31/2023  
Trooper Thomas Steenstrup, Fargo, 1/1/2018  
Trooper Tyler Steffen, Dickinson, 6/11/2018  
Trooper Kyle Stern, Hillsboro, 1/1/2002  
Trooper Bennett Strege, Fargo, 11/30/2020  
Recruit Trenton Stewart, LETA, 11/27/2023  
Jodene Suko, Capitol Security Officer, 5/1/2015  
Trooper Myles Sundby, Grand Forks, 8/1/2005  
Lori Tietz, HQ-Human Resource Tech, 12/14/2009  
Recruit Remington Timothy, LETA, 11/27/2023

# NDHP CURRENT STAFF

Trooper Rodney Torgeson, Minot, 6/1/2004  
Trooper Sean Trentman, Grand Forks, 5/18/2015  
Trooper Craig Tuhy, Hettinger, 1/1/2002  
Trooper Christopher Vigness, Minot, 1/1/2007  
Trooper Brandon Wade, Jamestown, 8/1/2008  
Trooper Michael Wald, Headquarters, 3/12/2012  
Joe Weigum, Capitol Security Officer, 10/22/2018  
Trooper Benjamin Wenger, Fargo, 11/28/2022  
Amy Jo Winkelman, HQ-Pilot, 9/29/2023  
Trooper Joshua Wold, Williston, 11/1/2019 - 6/15/2023  
Lt. David Wolf, Fargo, 1/1/1997 - 8/31/2023  
Sue Wood-Lindquist, Permits Technician, 11/1/1992 - 11/14/2023  
Trooper Grant Wosick, Grand Forks, 9/2/2014  
Trooper Damien Wright, Wahpeton, 7/5/2023  
Trooper Austin Yancy, Fargo, 9/22/2021  
Preston Zander, Capitol Security Officer, 10/14/2019  
Michele Zeller, Permits Technician, 5/1/2006

## 2023 NDHP K-9s *(listed with handler and service start date)*

Bleu, Trooper Steve Mayer, July 2019  
Bodo, Trooper Troy Roth, September 2015 - April 2023  
Casey, Trooper Nathan Boll, September 2016  
Draco, Trooper Kyle Stern, September 2016  
Huck, Trooper Brett Mlynar, May 2022  
Judge, Trooper Nevon Heisler, December 2023  
Kota, Trooper Steve Clark, March 2020  
Lasta, Trooper Gabe Irvis, May 2022  
Lorace, Trooper Tucker McDonald, June 2023  
Rico, Trooper Josh Page, May 2023  
Tank, Trooper Cody Harstad, May 2017  
Tara, Trooper Chelsey Schatz, May 2019

# HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 1935:** The North Dakota Highway Patrol was created when the 1935 Legislative Assembly gave the state highway commissioner, with the consent of the governor, authority to appoint a state highway patrol superintendent and assistant superintendent.
- 1936:** The state highway patrol superintendent was authorized and empowered to appoint not more than 10 persons to constitute such state highway patrol to be known as "Highway Police." Five men were appointed with a duty to enforce North Dakota laws relating to the protection and use of public highways in the state and the operation of motor and other vehicles upon said highways. These highway patrol officers were vested with all the powers and performance of duties held and performed by peace officers in North Dakota. The jurisdiction of the officers extended throughout the state.
- 1936:** In 1936, three additional men were added to the regular staff, bringing the staff total to eight.
- 1937:** In 1937 the staff was increased to 12 patrolmen, including the superintendent, which filled the quota allowed by the 1935 Legislative Assembly.
- 1941:** The 1941 Legislative Assembly authorized the Patrol to be increased to 20 men, including the superintendent and assistant superintendent.
- 1947:** The authorized strength of the Patrol was increased to 42 uniformed officers.
- 1947:** A law was passed making it necessary for all new drivers to take a driver's examination and the responsibility to conduct these examinations fell on the shoulders of the Highway Patrol. Examinations were scheduled and were given throughout the state at strategic places once or twice a month. These examinations included a test of the applicant's eyesight; the ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning, and directing traffic; knowledge of the traffic laws of this state; and an actual demonstration of the ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle.
- 1951:** The 1951 Legislature gave the power of appointment of the superintendent and assistant superintendent directly to the governor. It was also mandated each patrolman be bonded by the state and each carry a badge of authority "with the seal of the state in the center thereof;" the words "North Dakota Highway Patrol" emblazoned around the border.
- 1955:** The 1955 Legislature authorized an additional increase in staff, and after comprehensive written and oral examinations were given to approximately 150 applicants, nine men were selected as patrolmen and reported for duty July 1, 1955.
- 1955:** The 1955 Legislative Assembly gave the superintendent of the Highway Patrol power to set up districts as deemed necessary and to designate ranks lower than assistant superintendent. Subsequently, the state was divided into eight districts and a sergeant appointed to supervise the work of the men in each district. This has proved invaluable in coordinating work in the field and the state officers.
- 1957:** The 1957 Legislature granted an increase to 17 men to the Patrol, thereby making the total strength 68. Five of these officers were provided when the department was given the additional responsibility of enforcing Public Service Commission regulations.
- 1959:** The 1959 Legislature authorized an additional 10 patrol officers resulting in a departmental total of 78 sworn uniformed officers.
- 1961:** In addition to the superintendent and assistant superintendent, the position of property officer was added to the department staff.

# HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 1963:** Two men were added to the department with the creation of the Public Safety Division. The staff position of safety director was created, and this brought the number of sworn personnel in the department to 80. District commanders were elevated to the rank of captain, and sergeants were created to serve as their assistants.
- 1964:** The positions of driver license examiner and training officer were created and added to the department staff. The superintendent and assistant superintendent were given the rank of colonel and major, respectively.
- 1965:** The authority of the Highway Patrol was expanded to include the enforcement of criminal laws at all state institutions. Employees were authorized to serve in each of the eight district offices as clerks. The position of operations officer was added to the department staff, and the positions of driver licensing examiner and property officer were abolished.
- 1966:** The position of operations and training officer was added to the department staff, and the existing operations officer and training officers were made his assistants.
- 1967:** Department authority was expanded to include the enforcement of all criminal laws on highway rights-of-way.
- 1969:** The Patrol was given the responsibility of regulating all commercial driver training schools in the state.
- 1970:** The department reorganized district boundaries to conform with the governor's regionalization requirements. The assistant superintendent and the operations and training officers were elevated to the ranks of lieutenant colonel and major, respectively.
- 1971:** Responsibilities were expanded to include the operation of the Law Enforcement Training Center. Seventeen training programs were offered at the new facility during the first year of operation.
- 1973:** The Legislature authorized a total of 82 Highway Patrol officers. The hiring of the additional officers was predicated on enforcement of Public Service Commission rules and regulations.
- 1975:** After completing a special selective traffic enforcement program which consisted of 13 patrol officers funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Legislature authorized the Patrol to increase its strength.
- 1978:** The Patrol was authorized to hire an additional seven officers to enforce the 55 miles-per-hour speed limit. National Traffic Highway Safety Administration funded the additional staff for three years.
- 1979:** Trooper Heidi Sand was hired in 1979. She served North Dakota citizens with the NDHP for five years.
- 1982:** Effective May 1, 1982, the North Dakota Highway Patrol relinquished primary responsibility for the administration of driver license examining. Renewal, written, and road test was changed to an instant issue under the supervision of the Highway Patrol.
- 1983:** Effective July 1, 1983, truck regulatory employees were reclassified as Highway Patrol personnel. Uniformed officers would have the powers of a peace officer after mandated training and being sworn. This brought the Highway Patrol's total authorized strength to 125 sworn officers. The Patrol adopted the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP). The safety regulations relate to commercial motor carriers.

# HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 1985:** Several functions were conducted in 1985 in celebration of the department's golden anniversary. Patrol cars were equipped with distinctive license plates; billboards were posted around the state with a safety message in conjunction with identifying the fiftieth year; an open house was held at the district offices; and a departmental banquet was held in Bismarck on September 14, with current members and many former members of the Patrol in attendance
- 1985:** A tactical team was created and implemented eventually becoming the emergency response team which primarily focuses on crowd control, search and rescue operations, and dignitary protection
- 1986:** Reports are generated annually to record our department's activities.
- 1987:** Although the Patrol hadn't formally offered driver's license written or road tests since 1982, legislation was enacted removing this responsibility from the Patrol and placing it under the power and jurisdiction of the highway commissioner.
- 1989:** The North Dakota Highway Patrol was successful in attaining national accreditation status from the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies on July 29, 1989. The North Dakota Highway Patrol became the first law enforcement agency in the state of North Dakota to become accredited, and also the eighth state agency and the 109th national agency to receive this status.
- 1991:** The position of planning and research officer was added to the department staff.
- 1992:** The Highway Patrol added its first K9 unit to the force. The 1 ½-year-old German shepherd, Shadow, and his handler work out of Linton, ND. Shadow was trained to protect his handler, apprehend people, search buildings and areas, look for evidence, and track. Shadow's assistance was made available to other law enforcement agencies and the public.
- 1992:** The Highway Patrol added two Capitol security officers to assist with enforcement on the capitol grounds and to provide security for the Supreme Court and during the legislative session.
- 1994:** Effective January 1, 1994, the North Dakota Highway Patrol reorganized, moving from eight districts to five districts. Each district is overseen by a district commander.
- 1995:** With the North Dakota Highway Patrol participating in the federal COPS Ahead Program, the agency was authorized to increase sworn officer strength by three, bringing the authorization to 127 sworn officers.
- 1995:** The North Dakota Highway Patrol initiated a special project, "North Dakota 88 Shutdown," in an attempt to keep traffic fatalities below the 88 recorded in 1994. This project involved all law enforcement agencies in the state. Success was met with North Dakota recording 74 traffic fatalities, the fourth-lowest death toll in the state's history.
- 1996:** Two K9 units, both German Shepherds, were added to the force. Thor and his handler work out of Minot. Chase and his handler work out of Hillsboro. The Patrol's three K9 units play an important role in the Highway Criminal Interdiction Program.
- 1997:** The Patrol was authorized to increase the sworn officer strength by five. This brought the total authorization of sworn officers to 132.

# HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 1999:** A detailed, four-year planning process involving leadership from the governor's office, approval of the legislative assembly, and citizen support became a reality with the addition of a mobile data communications system. Sixty-five patrol vehicles were equipped with a high-tech mobile data communications system. The system utilizes a laptop in a wireless environment with the aid of ten tower sites located statewide. The efficiency of this system is recognized through enhanced officer safety, improved communications, reduced data entry/improved data handling efficiency, and reduced dispatcher workload.
- 2000:** Effective March 1, 2000, the North Dakota Highway Patrol returned to the organizational structure consisting of eight districts with each headed by a district commander.
- 2000:** In May, the agency held its first sobriety checkpoint. The checkpoints were initiated in an effort to reduce impaired driving and make highways safer.
- 2001:** The Patrol moved into Phase II of the mobile data computer project. This phase included the installation of an additional 20 systems, bringing the total to 95 vehicles equipped with this technology. Five additional tower sites were also included in this phase of the project.
- 2002:** The Patrol continued to increase its use of electronic technology with the implementation of the E-Permits Application Phase I project. Several types of commercial vehicle permits for the motor carrier industry (fuel, trip, longer vehicle combination, 10% weight exemption for harvest and wintertime, resident custom combiner) went online.
- 2003:** The Patrol was authorized to increase the sworn officer strength by three. This brought the total authorization of sworn officers to 135.
- 2003:** The NDHP added four K9s to the department in May of this year: two male black labs, Tyson (Devils Lake), and Smoke (Bismarck), one male chocolate lab named JJ (Fargo), and one female yellow lab named Bailey (Williston). All K9s are dual-purpose; and are trained for narcotics detection, article searching, and tracking. The status of three of the department's K9s changed: Shadow was retired for medical reasons and was replaced with Ricco (Linton), a male Belgium Malinois. Ricco was also certified for aggression and is the only aggression K9 in the department. Thor was also retired this year due to medical reasons and was replaced by a female yellow lab named Sierra (Minot). Chase and his handler are no longer with the department.
- 2003:** Weigh-in-motion technology is a process of screening out legal weight trucks subjecting only potentially overweight trucks to further weighing on portable or fixed scales. Data on vehicle weights is instantaneously made available to troopers through mobile data computers located in their patrol vehicles. This technology was used at four sites on North Dakota's highways. The use of WIM is a joint venture between the NDHP and the NDDOT.
- 2003:** On August 30, 2002, Governor John Hoeven issued Executive Order 2002-06 directing the superintendent of the NDHP, in cooperation with the Division of Emergency Management and other state agencies, local law enforcement, and broadcasters, to develop policies and procedures for child abduction incidents. The plan was fully implemented in February 2003.
- 2004:** The North Dakota Highway Patrol promoted Lori Malafa to the rank of captain on April 8, 2004. With the promotion, Malafa was assigned as the training director at the Law Enforcement Training Academy in Bismarck. Captain Malafa was also the first female to be promoted to sergeant.
- 2004:** A drug recognition expert program was created and implemented to help identify impaired drivers and remove them from our roadways.

# HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 2004:** In April, the NDHP K9 program was expanded to include three additional K9s and handlers, bringing the total to nine teams.
- 2005:** Operation Border Shield was developed to assist the US Customs Border Protection and US Border Patrol in the security of the northern border. The program targeted the ports of entry to detect and apprehend criminals and contraband using NDHP K9 teams. K9 teams assisted the immigrations and customs enforcement personnel in searching vehicles and persons during peak travel times identified by Custom Border Protection officials.
- 2005:** All security duties for the capitol were placed under the direction of the Highway Patrol. A director of security was appointed with four full-time and four part-time employees assigned to the capitol security function. A new duress alarm system was installed in the Capitol and surrounding state office buildings as well as additional video cameras. In July, capitol security equipped a Smith and Wesson tactical mountain bike with lights and a siren for special events and security patrolling during the summer months.
- 2007:** The Patrol was authorized to increase the sworn officer strength by two. This brought the total authorization of sworn officers to 140. (In 2004 and 2006, three authorized non-sworn positions were transferred to sworn positions.)
- 2007:** The North Dakota Highway Patrol made an organizational structure change going from eight districts to four regions with all eight of the former district offices remaining in place. Each region is headed by an administrative commander and includes an operations commander. The reorganization also created a new Motor Carrier Operations component which includes personnel involved with commercial motor vehicles.
- 2008:** The Highway Patrol purchased a 2007 Cessna T 206 airplane equipped with G1000 Garmin avionics and forward-looking infrared technology (FLIR). The airplane will be used to assist with search and rescue operations; conduct aerial searches after natural and man-made disasters; assist ground officers during pursuit operations; assist various state, local, and federal agencies; transport department personnel; and other law enforcement functions.
- 2010:** The ND Highway Patrol celebrated 75 years of service since the agency was created by the 1935 Legislative Assembly.
- 2010:** A crash reconstruction team was created and implemented consisting of crash reconstructionists and technicians to more efficiently process serious crashes. Crash reconstructions assist in both criminal and civil proceedings and help bolster personal responsibility while operating a vehicle.
- 2012:** The NDHP received its eighth accreditation award.
- 2013:** An automated routing permitting system was implemented to process routes for oversize and overweight vehicles online.
- 2013:** The ND Highway Patrol honor guard team was created and implemented to assist with special ceremonies and funerals.
- 2013:** A bloodhound team was added to the K9 program to assist with human tracking.
- 2014:** The agency was reorganized into five divisions with three in field operations (west, east, and motor carrier) and two in administration (support services and administrative services).

# HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 2015:** The construction of a new emergency vehicle operations driving pad and indoor firing range was completed on land donated by the City of Bismarck. The city also transferred an existing outdoor firing range to the NDHP.
- 2015:** The NDHP received its ninth accreditation award.
- 2017:** The NDHP purchased a skid car system for improved emergency vehicle operations training. All sworn officers were certified in the use of less lethal munitions, and emergency response team members were certified as grenadiers.
- 2017:** The NDHP supported Morton County with public safety efforts during the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. An emergency declaration was signed by Governor Jack Dalrymple on August 19, 2016, and a mandatory evacuation was signed by Governor Doug Burgum on February 15, 2017.
- 2017:** A cultural liaison officer position was added to the NDHP to assist with strengthening relationships with tribal nations and new Americans.
- 2017:** The department of transportation, department of health, and highway patrol were selected as lead agencies for a new Vision Zero initiative in North Dakota. The goal of Vision Zero is zero fatalities and serious injuries on North Dakota roads. To reach that goal, every driver and vehicle occupant must take personal responsibility for their safety.
- 2018:** The NDHP received its tenth accreditation award with excellence, successfully obtaining its first "Gold Standard" assessment.
- 2018:** The NDHP began a transition to black patrol vehicles with a logo on each door.
- 2018:** The NDHP youth academy was re-instated to help spark interest in the highway patrol and a career in law enforcement for ages 16-19.
- 2019:** The NDHP worked with multiple agencies to enhance the NDHP's jurisdiction. For example, troopers now have jurisdiction on private property for any crime that occurs in their presence and when responding to a call for emergency assistance.
- 2019:** The NDHP developed an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) program to assist with crash investigations and search and rescue operations. The NDHP was the first state highway patrol agency in the nation to receive a waiver to operate UAVs over people.
- 2019:** An NDHP trooper was selected to serve as the statewide drug recognition expert and standardized field sobriety testing coordinator for peace officers in North Dakota.
- 2019:** The NDHP hosted the Eight States Conference in Grand Forks. This conference is comprised of state or highway patrol leaders from Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.
- 2020:** The NDHP created a wellness committee focused on physical, social, mental, emotional, and financial health of employees and their family members.
- 2020:** The NDHP assisted in the development of the Project Find Safe program in collaboration with Minot State University. The program equips public safety agencies with training and technology to assist in locating at-risk individuals prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering.

# HISTORICAL TIMELINE

- 2021:** The first tribal agreement for mutual law enforcement services was signed with MHA Nation.
- 2021:** A five-member criminal interdiction team was created comprised of four troopers and one sergeant.
- 2021:** The NDHP started a two-member crash assistance program focused on victim services and employee wellness.
- 2022:** The NDHP signed the 30x30 pledge, a nationwide initiative whose goal is to increase the representation of women in law enforcement recruit classes to 30% by the year 2030 and to ensure agency policies and culture intentionally support the success of qualified women officers throughout their careers.
- 2022:** The NDHP partnered with police chiefs in Bismarck, Minot, Grand Forks, and Fargo to host roundtables bringing together local leaders, legislators, and public safety and public health partners to discuss strategies to address opioids and overdoses.
- 2022:** North Dakota joined 25 other states to form the American Governors' Border Strike Force and conducted a first-of-its-kind multi-state law enforcement operation focused on combating human and drug smuggling, disrupting transnational criminal organizations, and protecting our communities.
- 2022:** A tribal agreement for mutual law enforcement services was signed with Spirit Lake Tribe.
- 2022:** The NDHP deployed a less conspicuous patrol vehicle in the Fargo area to make it easier for troopers to detect aggressive drivers and crash-causing violations such as excessive speed and distracted driving.
- 2022:** The NDHP was awarded advanced accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. The NDHP received meritorious recognition for being accredited for more than 15 continuous years.
- 2023:** The NDHP worked with the department of health and human services to formalize a clinical mental health network comprised of 12 clinicians to provide all state law enforcement officers access to counselors statewide.
- 2023:** Twelve new trooper positions were authorized including four additional criminal interdiction members to expand the team into all four regions of the state.
- 2023:** An accelerated training program was created to recruit licensed peace officers, and 19 new troopers graduated on January 26, 2024 which equated to 20% of the NDHP's total traffic enforcement troopers.