
Crime Commission Update

<http://www.ncc.ne.gov>



Dave Heineman, Governor

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

December 2006

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

One of my responsibilities as Executive Director involves the revocation of law enforcement officer certifications. As a retired State Trooper, I appreciate and support the need for a system which can legally revoke an officer's law enforcement certification. Since my appointment in May 2005, there has been a substantial increase in requests for revocations.

Since May 2006, we have received twelve complaints against sworn officers, bringing the total of pending cases to twenty-four. The procedures and authority to revoke an officer's certification are authorized by state statute and by rule and regulation.

Nebraska Rev. Statute(s) 81-1401(5) (c), 81-1401(3) (a)-(b), 81-1414(2) and 81-1439 et.seq. define law enforcement officers in Nebraska. In addition, Neb. Rev. Statute 81-1403(6), grants the statutory authority to revoke certificates.

The process for the revocation of certificates is outlined in Title 79-Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center. Specifically, Chapter 9 identifies responsibilities for the Police Standards Advisory Council (PSAC) and the Crime Commission.

Chapter 9 also provides the purpose, scope, authority and procedures to initiate a complaint leading to revoking an officer's certification. As Mr. Dave Stolz of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center has told me several times, "Chapter 9 is steeped in due process to ensure the rights of the law enforcement officer being investigated."

If your agency has questions regarding the revocation process, please contact me at the Crime Commission office at (402) 471-2194.

- Michael E. Behm
Executive Director

ELECTION RESULTS

Following are the election results from November 7th for the State Legislature:

- District 2 - Dave Pankonin
- District 4 - Pete Pirsch
- District 6 - John E. Nelson
- District 8 - Tom White
- District 10 - Mike Friend
- District 12 - Steve Lathrop
- District 14 - Tim Gay
- District 16 - Kent Rogert
- District 18 - Mick Mines
- District 20 - Brad Ashford
- District 22 - Arnie Stuthman
- District 24 - Greg L. Adams
- District 26 - Amanda McGill
- District 28 - Bill Avery
- District 30 - Norman Wallman
- District 32 - Russ Karpisek
- District 34 - Annette Dubas
- District 36 - John Wightman
- District 38 - Tom Carlson
- District 40 - Cap Dierks
- District 42 - Thomas F. Hansen
- District 44 - Mark Christensen
- District 46 - Danielle Nantkes
- District 48 - John N. Harms

In addition, Governor Heineman has appointed Tony Fulton to represent District 29 in the Legislature. The current senator for that district, Mike Foley, has been elected to serve as State Auditor.

2007 CJIS TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

The eighth annual CJIS Technology Conference will be held in North Platte on March 7 - 8, 2007. The conference will feature pre-conference sessions the morning of the 7th followed by a full agenda. This is targeted at agency heads, technical staff and line personnel working with technology but is open to all criminal justice professionals. There is no charge to attend but you must pre-register to be guaranteed a spot, lunch and materials.

The agenda and online registration will be available on the Crime Commission's website (www.ncc.ne.gov). Participants will need to make their own hotel reservations at the Sandhills Convention Center and should say they are with the Crime Commission meeting to get the group rate.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE VIDEO LIBRARY

The following videos have been added to the library and are available for loan:

INTERROGATION AND FIELD INTERVIEWING (DVD)

45 Minutes

Color

In the Line of Duty: 2006

AD

Proper interrogations can be a key ingredient in solving crimes and providing evidence for a conviction. This video teaches the proper interrogation techniques for patrol officers. Included are (1) the differences between interrogations and interviews, (2) the Reed Technique for interrogation, (3) when Miranda rules apply, (4) how to interpret body language which may indicate lying, and (5) advice from experts.

SHREVEPORT CELL PHONE SHOOTING (DVD)

32 Minutes

Color

In the Line of Duty: 2006

AD

This program examines a police in-car video of an incident that occurred after a traffic stop in Shreveport, Louisiana. After a long pursuit, the subject (a young black male) pulled into a parking lot and exited his car. He ignored several police commands to stop and kept walking away. He turned towards the officers two times and pointed a metallic object at them, which looked like a gun.

He was shot eight times by the officers and died. The entire incident took less than ten seconds. The officers involved in the shooting were found not guilty by a police review board and the Department of Justice. There was a public outcry about the incident and litigation is pending against the police department. The police video is shown several times and an entire segment is devoted to "lessons learned" from this incident.

A short segment at the end of this program discusses an incident where a police officer used a taser on a hysterical woman who refused to exit her vehicle after a traffic stop.

GROUND FIGHTING FOR FEMALE AND SMALLER OFFICERS (DVD)

31 Minutes

Color

In the Line of Duty: 2006

AD

A police in-car video shows an incident in Texas where a female police officer is beaten unconscious during a traffic stop. Some of the mistakes made by the officer are discussed, and a demonstration of ground fighting tactics is conducted by Herb Hood, an experienced police instructor. The demonstration includes advice on how to gain tactical advantage when fighting a larger opponent.

A sequel to this program, entitled "Michelle Jeter Beating" has also been released by In the Line of Duty and is part of our library.

MICHELLE JETER BEATING (DVD)

34 Minutes

Color

In the Line of Duty: 2006

AD

This program is the sequel to “Groundfighting for Female and Smaller Officers.” It tells the story of Michelle Jeter, a Texas police officer who was nearly beaten to death during a traffic stop. This video contains a lengthy interview with her as she describes what happened. The incident was captured on her in-car police video.

Officer Jeter stopped a van for speeding. A large man was driving and was wanted for traffic warrants. He exited his vehicle with his young daughter. She had no back-up but asked to search his vehicle. During her search, she finds drugs. She gets ready to handcuff the suspect, but he turns around and punches her. She falls to the ground and he gets on top of her and beats her unconscious. He then tries to remove her gun from her holster but a good samaritan stops at the scene and the criminal gets back in his car and flees.

Officer Jeter was in a coma for six days and needed facial reconstruction for a crushed eye socket and broken cheek bones. She discusses the mistakes she made during the traffic stop, and experts offer a list of “lessons learned.” This is a good video for basic or in-service training and all officers can benefit from viewing it.

UTAH CRUISER STOLEN (DVD)

29 Minutes

Color

In the Line of Duty: 2006

AD

This program documents an incident in rural Utah. An officer makes a night-time traffic stop. A felony warrant has been issued on the car. There are four people in the car, and the felony warrant has been issued on a female passenger. She is arrested, handcuffed, and placed in the back seat of the officer’s car. The officer has no back-up assistance. He goes back to the stopped car. The driver has no license and one passenger has two smaller warrants. The other passenger is on parole.

While the officer is distracted, the female he has arrested slips out of her handcuffs, climbs into the front seat of the patrol car (which is running) and drives away. The officer is left at the scene of the traffic stop. The female subject is stopped after a forty mile police pursuit. The officer discusses the mistakes he made and the “lessons learned” are also discussed.

IRON WILL TO SUCCEED – OFFICER JOHN ANGLE (DVD)

32 Minutes

Color

In the Line of Duty: 2006

AD

This program documents a police pursuit in Mobile, Alabama. It is captured on police in-car video. The two men in the pursued car stop in a residential area and open fire on the officer’s car with an assault weapon and handgun. More than sixty rounds are exchanged. The officer is forced to return fire through his windshield. The incident ends when back-up help arrives and the two men surrender. One of the suspects is injured. The officer survives with no injuries. He discusses the incident and how he was able to remain calm and in control during a potentially deadly situation.

PLEA BARGAINS: DEALING FOR JUSTICE (DVD)

26 Minutes

Color

Films for the Humanities and Sciences: 2004 AD

The vast majority of criminal cases are settled with plea bargains. This video documents the role of the public defender and shows them during their daily routine. More than 75% of people charged with crimes use public defenders. Without them, the judicial system would grind to a halt. Filmed behind the scenes, this program presents a realistic view of what happens before trial and how plea bargains are negotiated.

MEHAMPHETAMINE: NEUROCHEMISTRY AND RECOVERY (DVD)

30 Minutes

Color

CNS Productions: 2006

SH-COL-AD

This video examines how methamphetamine changes the brain both chemically and structurally and how these changes interfere with the recovery process. Included are interviews with a cross-section of people in recovery along with comments from treatment professionals. The information is presented in non-technical language. This is an excellent program that clearly explains how meth affects those who use it and the difficulties faced during the recovery process.

GRANT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE

Application kits are now available on the Crime Commission's website for Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Title 2 federal funds and Juvenile Services state funds. The deadline for applications is January 12, 2007. For more information, contact Monica Miles-Steffens at (402) 471-3998.

The Crime Commission's website is <http://www.ncc.ne.gov>.

VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT SUBGRANTEES

Coming soon for VOCA subgrantees is the VOCA Toolkit for the quarterly required statistics. Many of the Victim Witness Units were able to get together for a meeting to discuss the federal requirements for the VOCA statistics. All critical points discussed at this meeting regarding the statistics were compiled and a toolkit was developed for VOCA subgrantees. The VOCA Toolkit will be tentatively available for all VOCA subgrantees to view by mid-December. The toolkit will be posted on the Nebraska Crime Commission website <http://www.ncc.ne.gov>.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next meeting of the Crime Commission will be held on January 26, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Office Building in Lincoln.
- The next meeting of the Community Corrections Council will be held on December 15, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln.

BARBARA MCCREIGHT

Barbara McCreight passed away on October 10, 2006. She was diagnosed with cancer earlier in the year. Those of us who had the privilege of working with her during the many years she was at the Crime Commission will remember her for her sense of humor, her work ethic, her compassion, and her great people skills.

She served as the Executive Director's Administrative Assistant for most of her time with our agency, but was promoted to a Federal Aid Administrator in 2004. She was truly one of the key employees for the Crime Commission, and her abilities made the entire agency more efficient.

We will miss her friendship and all the skills she brought to her jobs. She leaves a void that will not be easily filled.



METH AWARENESS WEBSITE

The Department of Justice has created a meth awareness web page that answers common questions about methamphetamine including how it is manufactured, the physical affects on users, and how it affects the community.

The website address is <http://www.usdoj.gov.methawareness/>.

U.S. PRISON POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW

According to a report released by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics, a record number of people are in prison, jail, on probation, or on parole. Seven million people – or about three percent of the American adult population – were behind bars, on probation, or on parole at the end of 2005. The breakdown is 2.2 million people in prison or jail, 4.1 million people on probation, and .8 million people on parole.

The number of prisoners under state and federal jurisdiction rose 1.9 percent in 2005. Of those inmates, the number of prisoners held by state authorities rose by 1.6 percent while the prison population under federal jurisdiction increased by 4 percent. The biggest increases in prison population were in South Dakota (11.9%), Montana (10.9%), and Kentucky (10.4%).

THOUGHT(S) FOR THE DAY

On Happiness:

- Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.
~**Abraham Lincoln**
- Happiness is nothing more than good health and a bad memory.
~**Albert Schweitzer**
- Slow down and enjoy life. It's not only the scenery you miss by going too fast – you also miss the sense of where you are going and why.
~**Eddie Cantor**
- Cherish all your happy moments: they make a fine cushion for old age.
~**Christopher Morley**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE STAFF OF THE CRIME COMMISSION

