

Crime Commission Update

June 2007



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

Dave Heineman, Governor

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

The mission of the Jail Standards Division is to improve detention operations, including facility design and planning at the local level.

The three member staff includes Dan Evans, Jef Sevenker and Denny Macomber, the Division Chief. The division conducts 78 annual inspections, which includes jails, lockups and juvenile detention facilities within our state.

These annual inspections involve three stages: (1) an interview with the facility administrator to assess existing operational and management practices; (2) a physical plan inspection to determine the facility's level of security, sanitation and capacity to conduct operations; and (3) a review of facility records and written policies and procedures.

In addition, the operational activities such as classification, security and control, library services and exercise, rehabilitative services, communication and health and food services are observed while onsite to further determine compliance.

Once the inspection is completed, a report is prepared for the Jail Standards Board, the facility administrator and local officials with any non-compliance areas noted.

With 78 facilities across our state to inspect, the staff of the Jail Standards Division has racked up many hours of 'windshield time' making their rounds around the state.

The staff of the Jail Standards Division work very hard to maintain their excellent working relationships with Nebraska's Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police, to ensure their facility is within compliance.

~ Michael E. Behm
Executive Director

INITIAL JAIL TRAINING OPTION FOR NEW JAIL OFFICERS

The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) will begin offering **Initial Jail Training and Certification** as part of their pre-service training courses. NDCS Director Bob Houston and the Staff Training Academy Training and Development Manager, Ken Sturdy have modified their 5-week pre-service training classes to include a 2-week section with the required curriculum for Initial Jail Training certification. This 2-week portion of the course will be opened to all county and city Jail Officers **at no cost**. NDCS schedules 22 courses a year providing jails with several options for enrolling a new officer during their first year of employment.

The courses will be offered at the NDCS Staff Training Academy in Lincoln. During the two weeks, the course will include all the required jail training with the exception of self defense. Jail Officers can attend the self defense portion at the NDCS Academy one day the following week or they can bring their PPCT certification with them and skip that portion.

Jail Administrators can check the training course schedules on the DCS website at www.corrections.state.ne.us and enroll their staff through the academy two weeks prior to the start of the desired class. The first class to include initial jail training will begin July 16, 2007.

If you have any questions about this training, contact Ken Sturdy at the Department of Correctional Services Staff Training Academy, 471-1781 or Dan Evans, Nebraska Jail Standards 471-3988.

INTERIM STUDY RESOLUTIONS 2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

These are some of the interim study resolutions introduced during the 2007 legislative session.

- LR 91 (Senator Pahls) - a study to determine if more can be done via legislation to effectively protect citizens from becoming victims of identity theft.
- LR 99 (Schimek) - to examine policies relating to the incarceration of persons with mental illness in Nebraska's state, county, and local correctional facilities, including juvenile facilities.
- LR 112 (Pedersen) - to examine the Department of Correctional Services in order to determine what, if any, additional legislation or state financial assistance may be necessary to address issues of staffing and the treatment of inmate substance abuse and mental health needs.
- LR 121 (Pedersen) - to examine the feasibility of adopting juvenile certification legislation to provide that the juvenile court shall have original jurisdiction as to any juveniles who have committed crimes identified in Nebraska statutes.
- LR 160 (Erdman) - to examine the results of the law enforcement retirement survey conducted using the data reported pursuant to the Law Enforcement Officers Retirement Survey Act in LB 328. The study shall include a recommendation to the Legislature that addresses the lack of retirement plans for peace officers employed by cities of the second class and villages.
- LR 165 (McGill) - to examine the service needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking and identify cost-effective system enhancements for prevention and intervention.
- LR 178 (Christensen, Ashford) - a study to examine the nature and consistency of local firearm regulation across Nebraska.

2007 Interim Study Resolutions Continued:

- LR 195 (Schimek) - a study that examines and provides recommendations relating to the state's operation of facilities that provide twenty-four hour care.
- LR 196 (Janssen) - to review the findings of the Nebraska Juvenile Correctional Facilities Master Plan Update.
- LR 200 (Ashford) - to examine the guardian ad litem statutes. Specifically, the study shall examine how guardians ad litem should be appointed and managed, whether there should be guidelines and standards regulating the guardian ad litem practice, and whether a centralized office should be created to oversee such guidelines and standards.

The full text of these resolutions is available at the Unicameral's website:

www.nebraskalegislature.gov. These interim studies will be conducted while the Legislature is in recess during the remainder of 2007.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

In 1994, a federal law was enacted requiring the American flag to be lowered to half-staff every May 15 in tribute to the more than 15,000 law enforcement officers who have sacrificed their lives in service to their fellow citizens.

In Nebraska, 128 officers have lost their lives in the line of duty since 1866. Those who have made the ultimate sacrifice include federal, state, county, municipal and tribal agency officers, as well as railroad, game and parks, and correctional officers.

On May 15, Governor Heineman and Colonel Bryan Tuma, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol, spoke at a public ceremony honoring the fallen officers of the State Patrol.



NEBRASKA: URBAN POPULATION INCREASES, RURAL POPULATION DECREASES

The U.S. Census Bureau has released population figures for the period of July 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006. During that time period, the population of Nebraska increased 3.3% - from 1,711,265 to 1,768,331.

The figures showed 68 counties recorded population losses and 25 showed increases. Sarpy County recorded the greatest percentage increase in population (16.3%). The nine metropolitan counties had a population increase of 69,215 during the period. The non-metropolitan counties had a population decrease of 12,149.

To view the chart released by the U.S. Census Bureau, go to www.census.gov and enter Nebraska in the search engine. There are population figures for each county.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE VIDEO LIBRARY

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

THE METH EPIDEMIC (DVD)
54 Minutes PBS: 2006 AD

This program was produced by the PBS FRONT-LINE series and documents the history of methamphetamine abuse. What started as a fad among motorcycle gangs in the 1970s has become the fastest growing drug abuse problem in this country, with hundreds of illegal meth labs. An investigative report by *The Oregonian* newspaper is discussed, and it is noted that most of the property crimes in Oregon are committed by meth addicts and more than 50% of the kids in Oregon foster care facilities are children of meth addicts.

This video presents a comprehensive look at the meth abuse problem and is valuable for an understanding of the effects of the drug on users and a look at treatment and enforcement efforts across the country.

Criminal Justice Video Library Continued:

HUFFING: THE LATEST FACTS ABOUT INHALENT ABUSE (DVD) EL-JH
19 Minutes Human Relations Media: 2007

One in five students in America has used an inhalant to get high by the time he or she reaches the eighth grade. This program is designed for grades 5-9 and contains true stories of teens involved with inhalant abuse. Included is a segment about a Ohio police officer whose son died after a brief experiment inhaling pressurized computer cleaner air. This is a valuable program for viewing by elementary and middle school students.

COULD A RUSSIAN SCHOOL SIEGE HAPPEN HERE? (DVD)
30 Minutes In The Line of Duty: 2007 AD

A recent attack by terrorists at a school in Russia resulted in a hostage situation, bombs, and the death of 323 innocent people, including 156 children. What would happen if such an attack happened at an American school? This program looks at the psychological impact of school shootings and includes discussion of shootings in a Minnesota school where seven kids were killed as well as the Columbine school shooting in Colorado. A short segment at the end includes "lessons learned" from these incidents.

THE STOP OF THE CENTURY / THE TIM MCVEIGH STOP (DVD)
33 Minutes In The Line of Duty: 2007 AD

This video contains an interview with the officer who made a routine traffic stop which resulted in the arrest of Timothy McVeigh less than two hours after he had detonated a bomb and destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The officer stopped McVeigh for a license plate violation, and during the stop he noted that McVeigh gave confusing answers to routine questions and was hiding a handgun beneath his jacket. The officer took physical control of the situation and arrested McVeigh. This is an excellent program for refresher training, and shows that even the most "routine" traffic stop can have important consequences.

Criminal Justice Video Library Continued:

COP SHOT IN FACE KILLS ASSAILANT (DVD)

30 Minutes In The Line of Duty: 2007 AD

A Georgia Deputy Sheriff, while serving a felony warrant, was shot in the face, leg, and chest. He returned fire and was able to kill his attacker. This program includes a summary of the incident and an interview with the deputy. He reviews his thought process, his actions, and what mistakes he may have made. His most important decision was when he refused to surrender to his serious injuries and fired the shots that eventually killed his attacker. There are several "lessons learned" included at the end of this video.

LB 540

LB 540, known as the Probation and Parole Services Study Act, was passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor on May 30.

The bill directs the Community Corrections Council to contract with an organization with expertise in the field of corrections policy to conduct a study of Nebraska's probation and parole service delivery system.

The study is to be completed prior to December 31. The full text of LB 540 can be found at www.nebraskalegislature.gov.

MEETINGS

- The next meeting of the Police Standards Advisory Council is June 20, 2007 at 9:00 AM at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island, Nebraska.
- The next meeting of the Crime Commission is July 27, 2007 at 9:30 AM at the Nebraska State Office Building, Lower Level A Conference Room in Lincoln, Nebraska.

THOUGHT(S) FOR THE DAY

- "Learn from others' mistakes. We don't have the time to make them all ourselves."
~*Eleanor Roosevelt*



- "The man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them."

~*Mark Twain*

