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New Nebraska State Patrol Member to Focus on Seat Belt Safety

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) - The newest member of the Nebraska State Patrol has been assigned to seat belt duty.

The patrol commander, Colonel David Sankey, on Monday pinned a badge on Trooper Buck L. Up at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island. Sankey said the new mascot "will be used by our troopers across the state, promoting our agency's mission of saving lives on Nebraska roads."

The mascot was created by Street Characters Incorporated at a cost of \$9,000. It was bought for the patrol by the Nebraska State Patrol Foundation, thanks to a grant from the Motorola Solutions Foundation. The patrol's other mascot is the inflatable Trooper Ted. It debuted in 2004.

Sankey says Trooper Buck will be encouraging people to wear their seat belts, "every trip, every time."

Associated Press