



NEWS RELEASE

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FORMER STATE PATROL SUPERINTENDENT NAMED TO NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR POST

LINCOLN, Neb. – The former head of the Nebraska State Patrol has been tapped by **Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac**, Nebraska Military Department adjutant general, to become the next assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

Bryan Tuma, who served as the Nebraska State Patrol's superintendent from 2005-2011, will assume the post of assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency from current director Al Berndt, who is retiring at the end of the month after having served in the post since being appointed to the post by the late Maj. Gen. Stanley M. Heng in March 2000. Tuma most recently served as the safety coordinator for Dupont Pioneer.

"Bryan brings a blend of experiences to the position of assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency that will ensure a smooth transition. I am impressed with his knowledge of state government and his past experience in emergency management as the superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol," said Bohac, who as the Nebraska Military Department adjutant general, also serves as the director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. "I look forward to working with Bryan in serving the citizens of the State of Nebraska."

A native of Columbus and a 1977 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a major in Criminal Justice, Tuma was commissioned in the Nebraska State Patrol on Nov. 2, 1979. Tuma then went on to serve in a variety of command assignments with the Nebraska State Patrol, including director of training and troop area commander in the Field Services Division at Troop C headquarters in Grand Island and administrative services manager, before being named to assume command of the Nebraska State Patrol by Gov. Dave Heineman in May 2005. During his tenure with the Nebraska State Patrol, Tuma was assigned emergency management and homeland security responsibilities. This assignment also included work on the Nebraska statewide radio project.

At the time of his selection, Tuma served on the Governor's Leadership Group on Terrorism and as the Nebraska State Patrol's point of contact on the coordination of homeland security efforts within the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Tuma is also a 1993 graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy.

Tuma, who since 2011 has been engaged in monitoring and implementing a wide range of worker safety programs at Dupont Pioneer, said he's eager to join the staff of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency as its assistant director.

"I am looking forward to working with the staff at NEMA and continuing to address the emergency management and homeland security issues of the state of Nebraska," Tuma said. "The partnerships with local, state and federal representatives are critical to the effective response in Nebraska and I want to continue to strengthen those relationships.

In following Berndt as assistant director, Tuma will assume a senior leadership role in the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. As the assistant director of NEMA, Tuma will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the agency and overseeing the state's response to state and federally declared disasters and emergencies.

During Berndt's tenure as assistant director, he successfully oversaw a restructuring of the agency and the implementation of a formalized system of rules, regulations and standardized operating procedures, while also strengthening the state's relationships with local emergency managers and essential support function partners. That work enabled NEMA to more effectively coordinate the state's response to numerous emergencies, including tornadoes, floods and widespread wildfire outbreaks. Berndt was also credited with starting Nebraska's homeland security program.

"Al Berndt has done an incredible job in leading the day-to-day operations of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. I have benefited tremendously in working with him. His service to the citizens, local emergency managers and the state has been nothing short of amazing," said Bohac about Berndt, who, prior to assuming his post at the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, spent 27 years with, and retired from, the Lincoln Police Department. At the time of his retirement, Berndt was responsible for supervising the Technical Investigations, Liquor and Vice, and Checks and Frauds Units of the Police Department. "We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his unwavering commitment to the safety and welfare of all citizens of our great state."

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