

*North Dakota
Highway Patrol*



600 East Boulevard Avenue Dept 504

Bismarck, ND 58505-0240

701-328-2455

RED TOMAHAWK
NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL
SYMBOL

The North Dakota Patrol symbol is a profile of Red Tomahawk, a Teton Dakotah (Sioux) Indian who had lived on his land near the Cannonball River on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation near Mandan, North Dakota.

As a Sioux warrior, Red Tomahawk participated in several tribal wars which stemmed from hunting to territorial disputes between tribes. However, with the signing of the Treaty of Minehanska, all acts of hostility between whites and Indians were to be forgiven and forgotten. Red Tomahawk, the subchief, became a friend of the whites and encouraged harmony among all Americans, native and immigrant.

The North Dakota Highway Patrol officially adopted the profile of Red Tomahawk as the patrol vehicle door emblem and department symbol in 1951.



The enclosed patch is the one worn by our officers on each shoulder of the uniform. If we may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call on us.

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The North Dakota Highway Patrol was created in 1935. Initially five officers were appointed to the department and the organization was to be called the "Highway Police". Their duties were to enforce the provisions of the laws of the state of North Dakota relating to the use of the public highways and the operation of motor vehicles.

The officers traveled the state in special factory built coupes, each of which was equipped with a radio tuned to long wave. It was anticipated that radio stations throughout the state would participate by using their long wave stations to report emergencies to the traveling highway patrolmen.

Patrol policy during the initial stages was to emphasize safety and conduct intensive educational campaigns. The policies were designed to obtain public acceptance, cooperation, and to make the motoring public safety conscious.

July 1, 1983, the Highway Department Truck Regulatory Division was merged with the North Dakota Highway Patrol. The Patrol now has major responsibility for commercial motor carrier permits, weights and measures, and enforcement of truck safety regulations.

For over fifty years the North Dakota Highway Patrol has been a symbol of service and protection, and motorists in North Dakota have turned with confidence to their Highway Patrol during emergencies and times of need.

