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Media Release

Nevada Department of Public Safety Announces New NHP Colonel

Carson City, Nev. - The Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director James Wright announced the appointment of John O'Rourke as Colonel of the Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP). O'Rourke has been the NHP Acting Colonel for the past several months and will officially assume the title of Colonel on Monday, December 4, 2017.

"Colonel O'Rourke brings vast knowledge and experience to the position, having served in two Divisions and in multiple capacities with the Department," DPS Director Wright said.

Colonel O'Rourke has served for over 20 years with the DPS, joining the Highway Patrol Division in 1995. As a Trooper, O'Rourke was active in impaired driving apprehension, field training and motorcycle programs, field sobriety test instruction, and defensive tactics instruction. His numerous assignments have included Deputy Chief with the Parole and Probation Division, Commander with the Honor Guard and Lieutenant Colonel with the Highway Patrol.

O'Rourke was the first NHP Trooper to be awarded the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Mountain Pacific Trooper of the Year. He is also a James D. Hoff Meritorious Service Award and Gold Star Medal of Valor recipient.

"It is a privilege and honor to serve as Colonel alongside the men and women of the NHP," Colonel O'Rourke said. "We will continue to make safety a priority for residents and visitors on Nevada highways and in our state."

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