

The
2005
Cops on Top
Officer Thomas Steiner
Elbrus Memorial Expedition
18,513 Feet

Cops on Top is proud to announce the 2005 Officer Thomas Steiner Elbrus Memorial Expedition. On August 5, 2005, the Cops on Top climbing team will depart for the Caucasus region of Russia where the team will attempt to summit Mount Elbrus, the 18,513 foot, highest summit in Europe. The twin coned summit of Elbrus, a dormant volcano, is completely covered in glaciers.

The team will be climbing on behalf of [Officer Thomas Steiner](#) of the [California Highway Patrol](#), who was killed in the line of duty on April 21, 2004. Officer Steiner was gunned down on the steps of a courthouse in a cowardly act of murder by a young gang member. Officer Steiner, a 5 year veteran of the Santa Fe Springs Division, is survived by his wife, a four year old son, and a 12 year old step-son.

An international team of police officers will gather in Mineralnye Vody, Russia to honor Officer Steiner's memory, his service, and his sacrifice.

Sergeant Keith McPheeters, [Farmington NM PD](#), Expedition Team Leader (Denali 2001, Aconcagua 2004, Kilimanjaro 2005)

Officer Spencer Berntsen, [Bremerton WA PD](#), Assistant Team Leader (Denali 2003, 2005, Aconcagua 2004, Kilimanjaro 2005)

Trooper Stu Frink, [Washington State Patrol](#), Assistant Team Leader (Denali 2001, Aconcagua 2004, Kilimanjaro 2005)

Battalion Chief Kaley Erickson, USFS (retired), Team Logistics Manager (Denali 2005, Kilimanjaro 2005, Aconcagua 2004, Elbrus 2003)

Deputy Erik Wallitner, [Washoe County NV SO](#) (Boundary 2002, 2003, 2004)

Officer Shane Lueddeke, San Jose CA PD (Aconcagua 2004, Kilimanjaro 2005)

Sergeant Mark Newcomb, [Whitehall OH PD](#) (Aconcagua 2003, Kilimanjaro 2005)

Officer Renato Dallenbach, [Neuchâtel Switzerland Police Force](#) (Aconcagua 2004)

Officer Fannie Dallenbach, [Switzerland Federal Police Force](#) (Aconcagua 2004)

Lane McPheeters, [Weber County UT SO Search and Rescue Team](#) (Grand Teton 2000, Gannett 2003)

Jim Leininger, IBM, Tucson AZ (Aconcagua 2004)

Cops on Top will be attempting the North Face of Elbrus, a seldom climbed route to the summit, far from the crowds and huts of the South Face's Standard Route. Hosting the team will be Sergey Bershov and Igor Svergun, 8000 meter veterans and Everest summiteers. The expedition will take approximately 10 days. After completing the Elbrus climb, a portion of the team will stop in Switzerland to attempt Mont Blanc, the 15,771 foot highest mountain in the Alps and the birthplace of mountaineering.

The team will be carrying satellite communication equipment and will deliver live updates from the mountain as the team progresses up the mountain.

The Cops on Top 2005 Officer Thomas Steiner Elbrus Memorial Expedition represents the third major expedition of the year to the highest point of three of the world's continents. Cops on Top has already successfully climbed to the summit of [Kilimanjaro](#), the highest point in Africa (January 2005) on behalf of Officer Isaac Espinoza of the San Francisco CA PD, and [Denali](#), the highest mountain in North America (June 2005) on behalf of Officers Eric White and Jason Wolfe of the Phoenix AZ PD.

Cops on Top is deeply honored to climb on behalf of Officer Thomas Steiner and wishes to thank the Steiner family as well as his collective family of the California Highway Patrol. The cowardly and despicable act that ended Officer Steiner's service to the citizens of California and the United States epitomizes the unknown daily risks facing the officers who keep our streets safe and our communities and homes secure. We are saddened that such lawless and cowardly acts continue to threaten the lives of our fellow comrades and to cause such deep pain and suffering to the families of our fallen comrades who are left behind. We call on all citizens to stand with us against any person or group who commit such acts of depravity.

[Horace Small](#), makers of fine uniforms for Law Enforcement professionals, and [The North Face](#), manufacturer of premier outdoor clothing and equipment, are the primary sponsors of the Cops on Top 2005 Officer Thomas Steiner Elbrus Memorial Expedition.