

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
March 15, 2018

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Allison called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner John Allison, Chairman  
Commissioner Bob Burns, Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Jane Christenson, Secretary  
Commissioner Bill Benton  
Commissioner Steve Edwards

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Neff Basore

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Lt. Colonel Tim K’Nuckles
Lt. Colonel Shawn Garner	Major Mike Foster
Major Forrest Marks	Major Mark Hollingsworth
Major Lindsey Williams	Major Charles Hubbard
Sherry Woods	Jenna Castleberry
Emma French	Major Jeff Drew
Phyllis Huitt	Jackie Baker
Elizabeth Johnson	Robin Gifford
Captain Jason Aaron	Lieutenant Randall Dias
Corporal Tiffany Dycus	Gary Glisson
Mary Claire McLaurin	Captain Wesley Smithee
Lieutenant Ronnie Qualls	Captain Brady Gore
Captain David Lafferty	Lieutenant Scott Woodward
Lieutenant David Cooper	Captain Paulette Ward
Elaine Lee	Lieutenant David Moore
Lieutenant Mike Moyer	Lieutenant Todd Shaw
Bridget White	Sergeant David Williams
Corporal Kurt Ziegenhorn	TFC Andy Metcalf
Trooper Jason Fagan	Sergeant Robert Wilson
Lieutenant Michael Exum	Corporal Todd Harris
Sergeant Michael Bain	Sergeant Coty Williams
TFC Gabriel Monroe	TFC James Dallas Taylor
TFC Terry Sawyer	Corporal Greg Dycus
Sergeant Matt Miller	Lieutenant Barry Saffold
Trooper Danny Farias	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Vanessa Harris	Ret. Captain Rick Dickinson
Chris Dickinson	Kari Sawyer
Sara Farris, Attorney General’s Office	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Edwards led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on March 05, 2018.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Christenson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 01, 2018 monthly Commission Meeting. Commissioner Burns seconded and the motion passed.

Commission Chairman John Allison stated he would like to introduce to all of you, Commissioner Jeffery Teague, he is our new commissioner who just joined us recently. Commissioner welcome and if you would like to say any welcoming remarks I give you the

floor. Commissioner Teague stated thank you, it is a pleasure to serve on this commission and I consider it an honor. I shared with the Chairman a moment ago, the Governor I think was really scraping the bottom of the barrel when he came up and asked me to serve on here but never the less I am here. I will tell you that I have for many many years had the utmost respect for our troopers, our police men, and our law enforcement all across this state. I was just sharing with the Chairman, you know you think about an officer who stops someone at midnight out in the middle of nowhere and what they are faced with and so I have utmost respect for the job that you guys do and ladies and will support you in every way that I can. Thanks you so much Mr. Chairman, I appreciate it.

Commission Chairman Allison stated we welcome you and will provide whatever assistance we can.

#### OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Sergeant David Williams gave an overview of the nomination of TFC Dallas Taylor for an Official Commendation.

Sergeant David Williams stated I am here for a nomination for TFC Dallas Taylor. To tell you a little bit about the events that lead us here, on January 3, 2017 we were contacted actually by Pulaski County they were in search of a homicide suspect that killed someone in their county that morning. We were given the description of the suspect and the vehicle and they were supposed to be headed to Woodruff County, which is a rural area in the northern part of our post. We immediately sent officers and troopers to that area, there were a lot of local officers that assisted, they were canvassing the highways watching for this vehicle coming into town. After about probably an hour or two hours of nothing we couldn't find anything, we grouped up and met at the Cache River Refugee Headquarters there on State Highway 33 in Woodruff County. All of the marked units were there, we were kind of getting a briefing of exactly what we were dealing with, what was going on and during the same time, there was a lot of unmarked vehicles going to known locations where this suspect may have been. It seemed like we were there maybe 15 to 20 minutes and all of a sudden we have a radio call that they had found the suspect vehicle in the small town of Gregory. Immediately we went to that location, officers went in, surrounded the residence it was like a little hunting cabin but it was actually in a neighborhood. So it wasn't like you could actually see the house so when these officers went in they had to get really close to the location in order to put eyes on it. The troopers that went in on our behalf was TFC Dallas Taylor and Trooper Corey Skarda, they immediately went in, they positioned themselves at the front of the residence beside a large shipping container with one on one end and the other one was on the other end. As soon as they got to this location where they could peek around at the residence to try to find the suspect, the suspect shot from inside the residence out at TFC Taylor's location. When he did that Trooper Skarda, on the other the end of the shipping container, saw the suspect fire and he immediately returned fire. After Trooper Skarda returned fire there was just silence, we never heard anything else. I finally made it up to their location, removed Trooper Skarda from the scene, they set up a perimeter and after several hours we actually had our SWAT Team respond and they used our robot to make entry into the residence and they actually found the suspect deceased inside the residence. It was found out later that it was a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

This actually started as a dual nomination for Trooper Corey Skarda and TFC Dallas Taylor. Trooper Skarda no longer works here but both of them did an exceptional job, to me it was just extreme courage. I am sure there was a better safer place they could have gotten but they choose to move forward and get back there actually where they had to get and they never backed down and for that exemplary service and courage I nominated him for this award.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented an Official Commendation Award to TFC Dallas Taylor.

Sergeant David Williams gave an overview of the nomination of Corporal Kurt Ziegenhorn for an Official Commendation.

Sergeant David Williams stated on January 6, 2017 at approximately 6:01 p.m. Corporal Kurt Ziegenhorn arrived at an accident scene on U. S. Highway 49 in Poinsett County. At

the time of this incident, the roadways were covered with snow and ice and it was a horrible situation

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that day. He responded to the accident scene because he heard about it and even though it was in another Troop well outside his post, he felt like he was the closest unit there so as soon as he heard about it he went ahead and took it upon himself to respond. Upon his arrival he learned that a male subject inside one of the vehicles not involved in the accident had become unresponsive and had stopped breathing. Corporal Ziegenhorn called for EMS and then checked for a pulse on the individual. Corporal Ziegenhorn was unable to detect a pulse and so Corporal Ziegenhorn along with several bystanders removed the individual from the vehicle and began to administer CPR. CPR was administered by Corporal Ziegenhorn and the bystanders for approximately twenty-five minutes. Despite their efforts, the individual did not respond to the CPR and was later pronounced deceased. I know that is not the outcome we are looking for, but what really touched me in this was the next part, I think in and of itself what he did was above the normal call of duty of what we do on a day to day basis. But when I received a letter written by the spouse of the deceased individual who was actually on scene that night and she witnessed everything that Corporal Ziegenhorn did. In her letter she said that Corporal Ziegenhorn did everything possible to save her husband and that he was her angel, because he gave it his all that night. In response to that letter, Corporal Ziegenhorn received a letter of commendation from Captain Jackie Clark and was nominated for this official commendation. That is one of the things that he did this year, but shortly after this there was an incident in McCrory, Arkansas in his post near where he lived. The Chief actually got a call of a female that was attempting suicide. When he got there she had cut her wrist and was bleeding profusely. Corporal Ziegenhorn heard this on the radio, he responded immediately went in and found what they had, he knew he had been issued a tourniquet and brought it in and was able to put the tourniquet on the arm and stop the bleeding and finally the EMS arrived and because of his actions in this incident, Corporal Ziegenhorn received a letter from the Colonel.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented an Official Commendation Award to Corporal Kurt Ziegenhorn.

Sergeant Mike Bain gave an overview of the nomination of TFC Gabe Monroe for an Official Commendation.

Sergeant Mike Bain stated on January 17, 2017 at approximately 9:00 a.m. Trooper Gabriel Monroe initiated a traffic stop for an unsafe vehicle. After making contact with the driver and an unidentified female passenger, Trooper Monroe returned to his patrol car. While attempting to get ACIC/NCIC returns Trooper Monroe realized the driver was wanted out of several states with nationwide extradition warrants which were later confirmed. Trooper Monroe was unable to get a return on the front passenger. The radio room advised that the driver was a convicted felon with a history of assault on Law Enforcement and should be considered armed and dangerous as well as an escape risk. The driver fled the traffic stop and began driving in a very reckless manner, passing several vehicles on the shoulder and even went the wrong way on the interstate multiple times. Trooper Monroe exercised excellent judgment throughout the pursuit and attempted to immobilize the vehicle by ramming it after it started going the wrong way on the interstate the first time. The attempt was unsuccessful and forced Trooper Monroe to have to travel a short distance the wrong way as well. With the information provided by responding troopers, Trooper Monroe was able to anticipate the vehicle direction of travel and get into position to block the vehicle's escape which was again going the wrong way. When the driver saw Trooper Monroe's unit blocking his path, he reversed the vehicle and fled this time going the proper direction. At the point that the vehicle traveled towards Trooper Monroe, who was outside his patrol car armed with his rifle, deadly force was justified to protect his life and the lives of innocent civilians. Trooper Monroe did not use deadly force, the vehicle turned around and went the proper way. The pursuit continued going the wrong way again and the vehicle attempted to make a U-turn and travel southbound on Interstate 530 northbound, at that point Trooper Monroe used his vehicle to ram the suspect vehicle, disabling it. He exited his vehicle took cover behind responding ASP troopers and at that point in time, Sergeant Williams who was now on the scene, authorized the tires to be shot out not knowing that the vehicle had become disabled. Once the tires were shot out, the female passenger exited the vehicle and was taken into custody. After a short standoff with the driver involving several responding

officers as well as a negotiator, the driver surrendered and was taken into custody. The driver was arrested on scene and then later the driver escaped from Arkansas Department of Corrections but was eventually captured by the U. S. Marshals in North Carolina. At this time, I would like to present Corporal Gabriel Monroe for heroism during the course of this incident.

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Colonel Bill Bryant presented an Official Commendation Award to TFC Gabe Monroe.

Lieutenant Michael Exum gave an overview of the nominations of Corporal Todd Harris and TFC Andrew Metcalf for Official Commendations.

Lieutenant Michael Exum stated on January 24, 2017 Corporal Todd Harris and TFC Andrew Metcalf responded to a three vehicle crash on U. S. Highway 49 in Greene County. After arriving on scene, Corporal Harris immediately entered the wreckage of one of the vehicles, one of the drivers was entrapped, and he immediately began holding the c-spine while rescue personnel extricated the driver. The extrication took approximately 28 minutes, once they got the driver moved from the vehicle the driver went into a full code. Corporal Harris immediately started CPR lifesaving procedures as he was doing chest compressions he noticed that they had an arterial bleed. He instructed the paramedic that was assisting him to remove the tourniquet from his boot and apply the tourniquet to stop the bleeding. At that point after several minutes of CPR, Trooper Andrew Metcalf took over CPR procedures started chest compressions and continued CPR in the ambulance from the scene until the Paragould Hospital which is approximately 15 miles away. They were able to revive the driver, regain life and was able to get him on an aircraft in route to a Little Rock Hospital. They were also able to notify the immediate family, however unfortunately the driver did pass away a few hours later. But due to the lifesaving measures and the effort of both Corporal Todd Harris and TFC Andrew Metcalf who went way beyond the call of duty I recommend commendations for both of them.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented Official Commendation Awards to Corporal Todd Harris and TFC Andrew Metcalf.

Lieutenant Michael Exum gave an overview of the nomination of Trooper Jason Fagan for an Official Commendation.

Lieutenant Michael Exum stated on May 27, 2017 Trooper Jason Fagan was notified that two Truman police units were in pursuit of a vehicle traveling West on State Highway 69. Trooper Fagan responded to the area to assist the local agency in the pursuit. As Trooper Fagan approached the pursuit the suspect vehicle crashed, overturned and caught fire with the driver being entrapped. Trooper Fagan went beyond the call of duty, went through the back glass of the vehicle and entered the burning car in order to rescue the driver. At the time the driver was suicidal and stated several times that she wanted to die and would not come out of the vehicle. Trooper Fagan had to break the rear of the driver's seat and physically remove the combatant suspect from the engulfed car. During that time he had minor injuries from glass which cut his arms and due to his efforts he was able to protect life and effect an arrest and it was a good honor to nominate Trooper Fagan.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented an Official Commendation Award to Trooper Jason Fagan.

Commission Chairman Allison stated those are amazing situations and you kind of get a feel, Commissioner, of what these gentlemen do and that is just everyday life for these guys and sometimes they have to take a life they don't want to and sometimes they save lives.

**DIVISION REPORTS:**

Fiscal Section – Emma French

Ms. French gave an overview of the reports which were distributed to the Commission. She stated we are at 67% with 4 months left in the fiscal year. She stated that we have sent our request in to pay certificate pay, but have not heard back from that yet. We had to rebid our health plan bank account, but we have gotten that completed. We have been working on Risk Assessment, which every 2 years the law requires that every state agency goes through a process where you evaluate in every little function that you do what the risk are

and what procedures, processes and internal controls you have in place to mitigate those risks. We have been working on that and it is due at the end of March.

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Administrative Services – Major Charles Hubbard

Major Hubbard presented an oral summary of the written report distributed to the Commission. He began by reporting the Human Resources/Personnel transactions for the month; the civilian transactions include four new hires, five lateral transfers, four promotions, and one disciplinary. The commissioned transactions included forty eight new hires which includes the troop school, eight lateral transfers, four voluntary resignations, one retirement, two promotions, and two disciplinaries. We currently have five military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, February paid claims were \$825,792.00 with a decrease of \$161,245 from last month, the fund balance is \$122,877 lower than last month for a total fund balance of \$5,377,083.00. The average discount savings for the month of February was 78%.

We currently have 40 recruits participating in our troop school, we are in week 3. This week they are in the process of studying mandatory reporting by Crimes Against Children, ACIC and Sovereign Citizens.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commission Chairman Allison asked Colonel Bryant if there was a need to go into Executive Session and Colonel Bryant stated we have personnel matters to discuss. Commission Chairman Allison asked if there was a motion. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of an employee, Commissioner Christenson seconded and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:30 a.m.

Commission Chairman Allison called the meeting back to order at 11:18 a.m. and stated we have been in executive session discussing personnel matters.

Commissioner Chairman Allison stated he would turn it over to Colonel Bryant for any recommendations. Colonel Bryant stated the first order of business would be a reinstatement request we received from Gabe Chambers. Gabe used to be a trooper in Troop L, was hired by the State Police in 2012, he resigned from ASP in 2017 and went to Missouri. He has applied for reinstatement, the background was conducted and all of his previous supervisors gave positive comments, so my recommendation to the Commission is that we reinstate Gabe Chambers as an Arkansas State Trooper. Commissioner Christenson made a motion that Gabe Chambers be reinstated as a state trooper, Commissioner Burns seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the next order of business is an ASP Sergeant position in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B North and I would like to use the Colonel's discretion on this to approve a lateral transfer of Sergeant Robert Wilson from Highway Patrol Division to Criminal Investigation Division, Company B North.

Colonel Bryant stated the next order of business, we have a vacant position of Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L. My recommendation to the Commission would be Lieutenant David Cooper for the position of Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L. Commissioner Edwards made a motion that Lieutenant Cooper be promoted to Captain, Commissioner Teague seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the next order of business, we have a vacant position of Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop E. My recommendation to the Commission would be Lieutenant William Randall Dias for the position of Captain in the Highway Patrol

Division, Troop E. Commissioner Benton made a motion that Lieutenant Dias be promoted to Captain, Commissioner Burns seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the next order of business, we have a vacant position of Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Tactical & Air Support. My recommendation to the Commission would be Lieutenant Barry Saffold for the position of Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Tactical & Air Support. Commissioner Christenson made a motion that Lieutenant Saffold be promoted to Captain, Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

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Colonel Bryant stated the next one is a vacant position of Sergeant in the Director's Office, Office of Professional Standards. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Tiffany Dycus for the position of Sergeant in the Director's Office, Office of Professional Standards. Commissioner Christenson made a motion that Corporal Dycus be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Burns seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the next one is a vacant position of Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop G, Hempstead & Nevada Counties. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Kyle Peek for the position of Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop G, Hempstead & Nevada Counties. Commissioner Burns made a motion that Corporal Peek be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Teague seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the last one is a vacant position of Sergeant in the Administrative Services Division, Training. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Benjamin Hoyt for the position of Sergeant in the Administrative Services Division, Training. Commissioner Edwards made a motion that Corporal Hoyt be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Christenson seconded and the motion passed.

Commission Chairman Allison stated as the Colonel and Commissioners discuss these names a lot of thought goes into it and as the Colonel said sometimes we run into a group of 400 hitters and they are all great troopers, have to be tuff decisions made, but those who didn't get promoted we talked about you and maybe next time will be your chance. We understand that and recognize that and we will do the right thing.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Allison stated the April Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

With no more business, Commission Chairman Allison asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Christenson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Burns seconded and the motion passed. Commission Chairman Allison adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

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Commission Chairman

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Commission Secretary