

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
April 09, 2015

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, April 09, 2015 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Vice Chairman Guinn called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Frank Guinn, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Dr. Lewis Shepherd, Secretary
Commissioner Bob Burns
Commissioner Jane Christenson
Commissioner Neff Basore
Commissioner Bill Benton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner John Allison

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Donna Humphries
Captain Lindsey Williams	Captain Ron Stayton
Major Shawn Garner	Sergeant Scott Russell
Lieutenant David Sims	Captain Steve Coppinger
Sergeant Stuart Woodward	Emma French
Sherry Woods	Lieutenant David Lafferty
Lieutenant Scott Woodward	Lieutenant Stacie Rhoads
Major Mike Foster	Lieutenant Charles Hubbard
Lieutenant Brady Gore	Captain Forrest Marks
Lieutenant Paulette Ward	Lieutenant Darran Austin
Sergeant Hoyt Harness	Lieutenant Jason Aaron
Corporal Wendall Jines	Lieutenant John Carter
Lieutenant Brant Tosh	Mary Claire McLaurin
Jackie Baker	Sergeant Scott Pillow
Lieutenant David Moore	Lieutenant Mark Hollingsworth
Janet Chappelle	Alexis Winters
Major Stan Witt	Captain Alex Finger
Sergeant Kim Warren	Caitlin Sparks
Sergeant Rodney Myers	Gary Glisson
Sergeant Dennis Morris	Lieutenant Mike Kennedy
Corporal Doug Estes	Tamara Newsom
TFC Ted Jones	Mary Jo Saling
Trooper Steven Roberts	Bridget White
Captain Wesley Smithee	Greg Downs
Elaine Lee	Corporal Kevin Brown
Corporal Jimmie O. Thomas	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Retiree Rick Dickinson	Leah Cunigan
Sam Hubbard	Emily Hubbard
Misty Hubbard	James W. Brown
Michael Krenn – DFA Budget	Joey Pillow
Doug Smith – Governor’s Office	Retiree Dwight Tosh

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Christenson led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on March 31, 2015.

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INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Commission Vice Chairman asked Ms. Donna Humphries to recognize the guests in attendance, and she recognized the troopers' families and friends, Doug Smith from the Governor's Office, Retired Captain Rick Dickinson, Retired Captain Dwight Tosh, and Michael Krenn with DF&A Budget.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Christenson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2015 monthly Commission Meeting. Commissioner Burns seconded and the motion passed.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Sergeant Dennis Morris gave an overview of the incident for which Corporal Jimmie Thomas was nominated for an Official Commendation. He stated that on Friday, January 31, 2014 Arkansas Forestry Commission Pilot Jake Harrell was flying a regularly scheduled wildfire detection flight from Malvern to points throughout west Arkansas. The last contact with Pilot Harrell was made by radio at approximately 1:12 p.m. and was never heard from again. A search was initiated, with ground and aircrews searching gridded locations in Montgomery and Polk Counties as inclement weather blanketed the area. On February 11, 2014 the crash site was discovered by the Civil Air Patrol in an extremely remote and mountainous area in Montgomery County. That night a meeting was held to formulate a plan and Corporal Jimmie Thomas was asked by Sheriff David White of Montgomery County to lead the recovery effort. On February 12, 2014 Corporal Thomas and U.S. Forestry Service Officer Joe Liles began the two mile hike to the crash site with equipment for processing the scene. The walk took them over two and one half hours due to the distance, terrain, temperature and ice covering the area. Once on scene, Corporal Thomas photographed the crash site as requested by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Corporal Thomas then used extreme caution in the recovery of Pilot Harrell's remains so he would not disturb any more of the scene than absolutely necessary. Pilot Harrell's remains were airlifted out of the crash site, transported to the Mena Airport where an Honor Guard detail was awaiting to escort them back to Little Rock. Corporal Thomas located Pilot Harrell's North Little Rock Police Department badge and requested to personally deliver the badge to the North Little Rock Police Department where it could be restored and then presented to Pilot Harrell's wife. The NTSB investigator was able to move more of the debris and additional personal items were discovered including his wedding ring. Corporal Thomas along with Montgomery County Sheriff White and Sergeant Lea hand delivered Pilot Harrell's personal items back to his family.

Colonel William J. Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Corporal Jimmie Thomas.

Sergeant Rodney Myers gave an overview of the incident for which Trooper Steven Roberts was nominated for an Official Commendation. He stated on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 Trooper Steven Roberts was working traffic on Interstate 40 just west of Palestine in St. Francis County, when a Be on the Lookout (BOLO) for an armed bank robbery suspect along with a photo of the suspect vehicle was emailed from the Arkansas State Fusion Center. Trooper Roberts took it upon himself get off the interstate and go to the truck stops in Palestine to look for the red Mustang which he located less than 12 minutes after the BOLO came out. Trooper Roberts confirmed the vehicle and was able to positively identify the guy in the pictures as being the guy there with the car; he then called for backup and watched the vehicle. As backup got there, the vehicle began to leave and Trooper Roberts was able to stop the vehicle and take the driver into custody. The suspect was mirandized and admitted to robbing the bank in Benton, AR and that the money from the bank robbery was in the vehicle along with a fake gun. The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) was notified and a Special Agent arrived to interview the suspect, who admitted to robbing approximately 30-60 banks across several states and lead to him being

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identified as the "Loan Ranger Bandit", the most wanted bank robbery suspect in the history of the FBI.

Colonel William J. Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Trooper Steven Roberts.

Sergeant Kim Warren gave an overview of the incident for which Corporal Kevin Brown and TFC Ted Jones were nominated for Official Commendations. She stated on May 19, 2014, Corporal Kevin Brown was made aware that an undercover Pulaski County Sheriff's Detective was utilizing an undercover social media site and had been contacted by someone, regarding needing assistance with robbing and injuring a subject in Clinton, Arkansas. Corporal Kevin Brown along with TFC Ted Jones made arrangements to meet with this suspect on an undercover basis and they met in a park and they were able to apprehend the suspect. They had been looking for the suspect and during the interviews they found out the suspect had been basically hired by another party to not only rob this subject, but to beat him and place him in the trunk of a car and take a photograph of it. The suspect had been soliciting assistance online for this endeavor. Corporal Brown and TFC Jones were able to identify the possible victim and they contacted him to ensure his safety. They conducted interviews with the victim and his girlfriend and advised them of the potential robbery and battery. They both related that they knew the subject that had hired the suspect and they have had problems with him in the past and that they have a current protection order against him. Corporal Brown and TFC Jones were able to determine that the suspect involved was still communicating with the main subject by cell phone. So the main subject and the undercover officer began texting and the main subject sent a text during the interview. Corporal Brown and TFC Jones were able to identify who the main subject was and get enough evidence and information to obtain a search warrant for his home. They executed the search warrant and found surveillance materials, where the main subject had been stalking the victim and other evidence that lead to the arrest of the main subject. This was a proactive investigation effort which stopped a crime before it had an opportunity to happen. It is noted during this investigation; Corporal Brown and TFC Jones were in a mandatory training class during the day and worked on this case on their off-duty time and during breaks.

Colonel William J. Bryant presented Official Commendations to Corporal Kevin Brown and TFC Ted Jones.

Lieutenant Brant Tosh gave an overview of the incident for which Sergeant Scott Pillow and Corporal Wendall Jines were nominated for Official Commendations. He stated on April 23, 2014, a subject from rural Lawrence County came forward and stated he was approached by an emotionally unstable man he had known since childhood, but not seen in several years, who was armed with a .22 caliber handgun and that he was making comments that gave him great concern. He stated that the man asked his permission to stay in a shed on his property and he gave him permission, food and water. He stated he was concerned he felt that the man was dangerous and he might be wanted. The man told him that he had done something really bad, but did not tell him what he had done. A check was done and found that the man was wanted in Callahan County, Texas for Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon which occurred in February 2014. Contact was made with Callahan County, Texas and learned they were in the process of obtaining an arrest warrant for him for murdering his ex-girlfriend. Callahan County forwarded a copy of the warrant and was advised that the suspect was possibly in Arkansas. Company F agents met with the complainant again, looked at aerial photos and determined it would be near impossible to get to the complainant's residence without being seen by the suspect. They met with the complainant a third time and asked if he would be willing to take some agents in his vehicle to his residence so they could set up surveillance on the shed the suspect was staying in. He agreed to do that and before anyone could be assigned, Sergeant Scott Pillow and Corporal Wendall Jines volunteered. They successfully made it inside the residence without being seen and an open line of communication was established between both of them and the support team. Not long after surveillance started, Sergeant Pillow advised the support team he thought he could see the suspect moving around in the shed. A short time later, he made

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contact again and stated the suspect was headed towards the residence and could be heard giving commands to the suspect to surrender. The support team rushed to the residence and could hear a struggle taking place inside. Once the team entered the residence, Sergeant Pillow and Corporal Jines had the suspect on the floor in handcuffs and there were obvious signs of a struggle, with a handgun lying on the floor. The suspect had the handgun in his front pants pocket and as they tried to arrest him, he went for the handgun; they overpowered him, took the handgun away from him and successfully restrained him without any serious injury. The suspect was interviewed later that night and confessed to the murder of his ex-girlfriend, and was extradited back to Texas and pled guilty to murder. When they volunteered to go to that residence they knew they would likely encounter the suspect who was unstable, armed and had murdered someone and they still volunteered. Sergeant Pillow and Corporal Jines' acts that day were both brave and remarkable.

Colonel William J. Bryant presented Official Commendations to Sergeant Scott Pillow and Corporal Wendall Jines.

Captain Steve Coppinger gave an overview of the incident for which Corporal Doug Estes was nominated for an Official Commendation. He stated between January 2012 and May 2014, Corporal Doug Estes, the lone special agent assigned to the Cyber Crimes Unit managed and/or investigated 146 cases of internet and other technology-facilitated crimes against children, executed 42 state and federal search and seizure warrants in those cases, secured 33 federal indictments against predators creating, possessing, and distributing videos and photographs horrifically memorializing the rape and sexual assault of children and recovered digital evidence substantiating the rape and sexual assault of children from 147 smart-phones and other digital storage devices. Corporal Estes' investigative efforts are responsible for the identification and rescue of ten child rape and sexual assault victims, both male and female, ranging in age from 6 to 16. Eight of the children lived in Arkansas, one lived in Texas and the other lived in Missouri. Since first being assigned to the Cyber Crimes Unit, Corporal Estes has acted as field coordinator for other detectives, investigators, and special agents from various federal, county and local law enforcement agencies throughout the Eastern District of Arkansas. This is a huge responsibility as Corporal Estes does not hold a supervisor's rank or receive that level of compensation for his work efforts. Corporal Estes expends all of his investigative efforts on rescuing these victimized children and arresting and prosecuting the predators responsible for the victimization.

Colonel William J. Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Corporal Doug Estes.

Captain Forrest Marks gave an overview of the incident for which Mary Jo Saling was nominated for an Official Commendation. He stated Mary Jo Saling has served as both the Chief Telecommunications Specialist and Troop K Administrative Assistant since the retirement of Mrs. Sheila Stanley in May, 2014. Mrs. Saling continued her regular duties, worked double shifts, trained new Telecommunications Specialists, and was tasked with the additional responsibilities of AASIS time entry, monthly reports, the processing of accident reports, Troop K correspondence and assisting the public. Without her devotion to duty and countless hours of dedicated service the day to day activity of Troop K would have suffered greatly. The commitment to service displayed by Mary Jo should serve as an example to all ASP employees when challenging times present themselves.

Colonel William J. Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Mary Jo Saling.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATE:

Colonel William J. Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Captain Charles Hubbard promoting him to Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop F.

DIVISION REPORTS:

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Fiscal Report – Emma French

Ms. French gave an overview of the reports which were distributed to the Commission. She stated we are at 75% and almost about to wrap this year up. We have a new Appropriation Act for next year. Financially we probably did not do so good in this session, we have a general revenue reduction around \$600,000.00 less that we will operate on this year. Other than that we are focusing on closing out the end of the year.

Administrative Services – Lieutenant Mike Kennedy

Lieutenant Kennedy presented an oral summary of the written report distributed to the Commission. He began by reporting the Human Resources/Personnel transactions for the month; we had six civilian new hires, one demotion, one retirement, and four new hire extra help personnel. The commissioned transactions included one promotion and two retirements, Captain Mark Allen and Corporal Tommy Stueart. At this time we currently have six military deployments.

From the recruiting side, we are moving forward with the 2015 Recruit School. We have 104 backgrounds out to be reviewed. There will be a Commission Meeting via phone sometime in April after the final list has been decided. We are on schedule to begin Troop School on May 17, 2015.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, March claims were \$1,108,741 that an increase of \$151,297 from last month. The total fund balance last month was \$159,454 higher for a total \$8,689, 133. We will continue to monitor the fund balance on a monthly basis.

Commission Christenson asked if we are budgeted for 30 or 35 for troop school. Lieutenant Kennedy stated we are budgeted for 35 positions.

Commission Vice Chairman Guinn stated they are going to take a break and then go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:39 a.m. and the open meeting resumed at 11:10 a.m.

Commission Vice Chairman Guinn asked Colonel Bryant if he had any recommendations. Colonel Bryant recommended the Commission consider Corporal Scott Russell for the vacant Sergeant position in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company A. Commissioner Christenson made a motion that Corporal Russell be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed.

NEXT MEETING:

The next monthly meeting of the Commission will be held Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. with the Josh Berry appeal hearing to follow adjournment at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Christenson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Shepherd seconded and the motion passed. Commission Vice Chairman Guinn adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Commission Vice Chairman

Commission Secretary