

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
May 09, 2019

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, May 09, 2019 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Burns called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Bob Burns, Chairman
Commissioner Jane Christenson, Vice-Chairperson
Commissioner Neff Basore, Secretary
Commissioner John Allison
Commissioner Steve Edwards
Commissioner Bill Benton
Commissioner Jeffery Teague

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Lt. Colonel Shawn Garner
Major Charles Hubbard	Major Mike Foster
Major Lindsey Williams	Major Mark Hollingsworth
Major Forrest Marks	Sergeant Russ Rhodes
Gary Glisson	Captain David Lafferty
Lieutenant Mike Moyer	Captain David Moore
Captain John Carter	Corporal Josh Heckel
Elizabeth Johnson	Jackie Baker
Sherry Woods	Lieutenant Jamie Gravier
Sergeant Aaron Easley	Sergeant Jack Young
Trooper Michael Valentin	Sergeant Kim Fontaine
Corporal Eric Wold	Trooper Darryle Hinton
Trooper Kevin Yates	Lieutenant Alex Krneta
Corporal Greg Rowland	Sergeant Wanda James
Lieutenant Ronnie Qualls	Captain Paulette Ward
Captain David Cooper	Lieutenant Darran Austin
Sergeant Jimmie Thomas	Lieutenant Dennis Morris
Captain Brady Gore	Lieutenant Rick Neill
Lieutenant Kyle Drown	Bill Sadler
Jonathan Nettles	Elaine Lee
Mary Claire McLaurin	Donna Humphries

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe West

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Teague led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on May 07, 2019.

Commission Chairman Burns recognized former Director Steve Dozier and thanked him for being here and for his contribution to the ASP Memorial Service earlier. He also recognized former Director J. R. Howard and stated he appreciates him for coming down today and staying for the meeting.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Basore made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2019 monthly Commission Meeting. Commissioners Christenson/Allison seconded and the motion passed.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATION:

Sergeant Jimmie Thomas gave an overview of the nomination of Special Agent Josh Heckel for an Official Commendation.

Sergeant Thomas explained over the course of three days spanning from Tuesday, September 18, 2018 through Thursday, September 20, 2018, Special Agent Joshua Heckel distinguished

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himself as a result of his efforts in multiple on-going narcotics investigations, resulting in the arrest of multiple offenders and the seizure of significant amounts of additional narcotics, firearms, motor vehicles, and cash. On Monday, September 17, 2018, Operation Task Force Arkansas was initiated in multiple locations across the state. Various law enforcement and drug task force agencies participated in the operation resulting in the arrests of multiple suspects. In preparation for this operation, Special Agent Heckel prepared a total of 5 individual arrest warrants for multiple narcotics violations based on 4 on-going narcotics investigations that he was conducting and 1 search warrant. Each of the suspects was charged with multiple counts of Delivery of a Controlled Substance as a result of these investigations. Special Agent Heckel and members of the 18th East Drug Task Force initiated service of the 5 arrest warrants in the early morning hours of Tuesday, September 18, 2018. Over the course of this operation, 5 arrest warrants were successfully served and 1 search warrant was executed resulting in the following arrests and seizures: 9 persons were arrested on multiple felony charges for a total of 80 felony charges, 86 grams of methamphetamine, 85 grams marijuana, 9 Sub Oxone strips, 3 hydrocodone pills were seized, along with 3 firearms, 4 vehicles, and \$6,000 in U. S. Currency. During the month of September, 2018, as a result of multiple on-going narcotics investigations that he had initiated in the previous months, Special Agent Heckel was responsible for the seizures of \$10,405.00 in U. S. Currency, 6 firearms valued at \$3,000.00, 4 vehicles valued at \$21,000.00 and a total of 10 felony arrests resulting in 90 separate felony charges. He also seized \$20,470 in illicit narcotics including methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and illegally possessed prescription drugs. These numbers, though culminating over a period of 3 days, are the direct result of several months and many long hours of undercover operations, conducting controlled purchases of narcotics, surveillance, and collecting intelligence information during overnight hours, on weekends, and what would normally be days off for Special Agent Heckel. This type of law enforcement work requires personal dedication and self-initiation on the part of the agent. Special Agent Heckel exemplifies this description in his work performance each and every day. Without the ability to go into great detail of the circumstances surrounding each of the investigations and the overall operation itself, I believe that the numbers speak for themselves as to the extraordinary results attained due to the dedication, long hours and extensive work detail that Special Agent Josh Heckel has exhibited. Results of this nature should be recognized and it goes without saying that Special Agent Heckel deserves appropriate recognition for his efforts.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Special Agent Josh Heckel

Sergeant Jeremy Roberts gave an overview of the nomination of Corporal Scott Ellis for an Official Commendation.

Sergeant Roberts stated he appreciates the Honors Board for understanding how important Corporal Scott Ellis is to this department and he would also like to thank the ASP Commission and Colonel Bryant for allowing us this time today. Sergeant Roberts explained that during his preparation for this presentation, my wife who works in disaster assistance and utilizes volunteers on a daily basis mentioned that the Federal Government has actually set a value of over \$24.00 an hour for volunteerism. I feel like this is a simple illustration of the value of Scott's work and provides us all with the appropriate appreciation for what he has done and the importance of this will be revealed shortly.

Everyone that knows Corporal Scott Ellis knows that he is an outstanding State Trooper and an even better person, but what you may not know is that he is a diligent volunteer and he has been doing this for most of his adult life. For several years, Corporal Scott Ellis has been volunteering for the Boy Scouts of America dedicating his time to this organization as an Assistant Scout Master for Troop 18. He spends countless hours organizing and planning events for this organization, setting a fine example for these young men to follow. Scott does not stop there, he also serves his local community by being a member of the West Pulaski Water Association. He is the Co-Chairman for the men's ministry at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Scott is the Unit Commissioner for the Quapaw Area Counsel, Commissioner of the Pinnacle District Roundtable, and has developed and served as security team leader at his church and sits on many boards for his church. He also teaches the Wednesday night Awana's program. A conservative estimate is that Corporal Ellis has served his community by volunteering over 10,000 hours, so according to my wife and the Federal Government, Scott has donated to his community approximately a quarter of a

million dollars through his efforts. The Arkansas State Police is lucky to have Scott as a Trooper. Executive Protection Detail is lucky to have Scott as a member of our detail and I am lucky to have Scott as a friend, a role model and truly somebody to look up to. Thank you Scott for all you do.

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Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Corporal Scott Ellis.

Lieutenant Darran Austin gave an overview of the nominations of Sergeant Elvis Mull and Corporal Brandon Love for Official Commendations.

Lieutenant Austin stated like many know, Arkansas is a very rural state and we have a lot of natural wonders that travel through our state and one of those is the Arkansas River which is a beautiful river but it is also very dangerous river. In Pulaski County, we have three extremely busy interstate bridges that cross that river. Occasionally we have people who want to jump from those bridges for the fun of it and sometimes like in this case it is unfortunately some people would like to jump from those bridges to end their life. Either way it is very dangerous. On the afternoon of December 31, 2018, Troop A Communication Center received a call of a person wanting to jump from the Interstate 430 River Bridge to end their life. In response, Sergeant Elvis Mull and Corporal Brandon Love were dispatched to the area and responded to the scene for the state police. Sergeant Elvis Mull arrived first and he found three vehicles parked on the shoulder of the Interstate 430 River Bridge. He also observed three people standing on the shoulder between one of the cars and the bridge railing, which at that point being on the shoulder of the road there was not very much room between the car and the bridge railing. He immediately went to the area and began speaking with the person and as he was approaching, he overheard the female say she wanted to end her life. Sergeant Mull is a member of the ASP Crisis Negotiation Team and has training in negotiation with people in crisis. So, he began to speak to the lady and try to talk her down. Her body language was telling him that she wanted to jump over the railing, she kept directing her attention to the railing and the river below the railing. Sergeant Mull continually tried to get her to keep her attention on him and to speak with him. Moments later, Corporal Love arrived and approached from the other side in a direction she could not see him. After a few minutes of speaking with her, Corporal Love and Sergeant Mull were in eye to eye contact with each other. The moment the time was right Sergeant Mull gave the nod, they both rushed and were able to get control of the female, get her away from the bridge railing to safety and in a sense keep her from jumping and possibly injuring herself or ending her life. I believe they should be recognized for their actions. Also, I would like to mention the two motorists who stopped and were doing what they could to keep her from doing this. In any case if she had decided to go and someone had grabbed her, she could have taken them over the bridge railing with her. I think in this case Sergeant Mull and Corporal Love deserve recognition for their efforts that day.

Colonel Bryant presented Official Commendations to Sergeant Elvis Mull and Corporal Brandon Love.

On behalf of the state police and people of the State of Arkansas, Commission Chairman Burns stated we certainly appreciate the Official Commendations and congratulations to those who received them today.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Fiscal Section – Emma French

The Fiscal Section reports were distributed to the Commission. No overview was given.

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 five new hires, two voluntary resignations, two extra help hires, six promotions, three transfers and one voluntary demotion. The commissioned transactions include five lateral transfers, four voluntary resignations, three retirements, and three disciplinaries. We currently have six military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, April paid claims were \$1,051,692 an increase of \$138,756 from last month and the fund balance is \$591,447 higher than last month for a total fund balance of \$6,260,377.68. The average discount savings for the month was 77%.

Major Hubbard stated just a quick update on our current troop school, we are in week 11 and they are working on EVOG emergency driving this week. Half of the group went to Stuttgart

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for this training and the other half are here working on their violent encounter resolution skills which we teach in house here at headquarters. We still have 37 recruits and again we are hoping to graduate them all on July 18.

We are also excited that we have announced our next Troop School for 2020 which will begin on January 26, 2020.

Commissioner Allison asked what the claims were again. Major Hubbard stated \$1,051,692. Commissioner Allison asked if we have had any drop outs and Major Hubbard stated we are pretty steady right at the moment and we are excited about the group we have, they seem to be pretty solid.

Commissioner Basore asked when you said the graduation was. Major Hubbard stated July 18.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Burns asked Colonel Bryant if he had any new business to discuss. Colonel Bryant asked Elaine Lee to come to the podium and update the Commissioners on the status of the Trooper David Harrell Appeal Hearing. Ms. Lee explained Trooper Harrell's attorney Mr. Robert Newcomb has a conflict with the June 13 date that was set for his appeal, he has a prior setting in front of the Civil Service Commission. He asked if we thought we would be finished by 12:30 p.m. and I told him no. So at this time, I would ask that we reset his appeal hearing to either the July or the August date whichever is most convenient for you guys.

Commission Chairman Burns stated they would discuss it further in executive session to give everyone a chance to check their schedules and make a decision and let you know the date.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commission Chairman Burns asked for a motion. Commissioner Basore made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of employees, Commissioner Christenson seconded and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 11:07 a.m.

Commission Chairman Burns called the meeting back to order at 11:44 a.m. and stated let me take a moment and focus on the Commission Meeting schedule.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Burns stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The July Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. and the Appeal Hearing for Trooper David Harrell will be held at 10:00 a.m. following adjournment.

Commission Chairman Burns stated Colonel Bryant I believe you have changes in personnel to report. Colonel Bryant stated we have one position today, it is the Sergeant in Highway Patrol, Troop A, Pulaski County. I am using the Director's discretion to do a lateral transfer of Sergeant Alan Johnson from Saline County to Pulaski County in Troop A, Highway Patrol.

With no more business, Commission Chairman Burns asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Benton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Christenson

seconded and the motion passed. Commission Chairman Burns adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary