

SMINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
November 15, 2018

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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner John Allison, Chairman  
Commissioner Bob Burns, Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Bill Benton  
Commissioner Steve Edwards  
Commissioner Jeffery Teague

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Jane Christenson, Secretary  
Commissioner Neff Basore

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Major Mark Hollingsworth
Major Charles Hubbard	Major Forrest Marks
Major Jeff Drew	Captain Mike Hagar
Captain Todd Shaw	Lieutenant Matt Toon
Corporal David West	TFC Matthew West
Trooper Josh Elmore	Sherry Woods
Elizabeth Johnson	Jackie Baker
Sergeant Jeff Preston	Sergeant David Outlaw
Lieutenant Alex Krneta	Captain Randall Dias
Lieutenant David Moore	Corporal Ryan Jacks
Jenna Castleberry	Lieutenant Brad Lann
Caitlin Teague	Sergeant Alan Johnson
Sergeant Dustin Morgan	Gary Glisson
Captain Jason Aaron	Lieutenant Mike Moyer
Bridget White	Corporal Russ Rhodes
Bill Sadler	Jonathan Nettles
Elaine Lee	Mary Claire McLaurin
Donna Humphries	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Andres' Rhodes, Governor's Office	Sara Farris, Asst. Attorney General
Ret. Corporal John West	Cylinda Johnson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Benton led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on November 13, 2018.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Teague made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2018 monthly Commission Meeting. Commissioner Burns seconded and the motion passed.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Matthew Toon promoting him to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant David Outlaw promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop F.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Jeff Preston promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop E.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Alan Johnson promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Dustin Morgan promoting him to Sergeant in the Regulatory and Building Operations Division, PI/Security.

**OFFICIAL COMMENDATION:**

Captain Jason Aaron gave an overview of the nomination of Trooper Josh Elmore for an Official Commendation.

Captain Aaron stated I am here today to recognize Trooper Josh Elmore for his criminal interdiction efforts. Trooper Elmore is probably one of the finest criminal interdiction troopers we have working the interstate and I am fortunate enough to have him assigned to Crawford County. This past summer Trooper Elmore was recognized nationally out of San Diego at a conference for his criminal interdiction drug seizures. In 2017, Trooper Elmore seized 425 pounds of marijuana, 183 pounds methamphetamine, ½ pound of cocaine, 16 grams of heroin, 30 grams of fentanyl, 30 grams of kratom and \$639,984 in U. S. Currency. He did all of this while also going through training and the selection process to get a K9. A lot of times in interdiction with K9 handlers you don't see a trooper or police officer who has continued success when taking on the responsibility of a K9. Obviously it is a huge responsibility with extra duties and you are at the call of other law enforcement officers requesting a K9 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Trooper Elmore is a 4 year trooper, very young, and he has taken on these tasks very maturely and has been very successful. He has earned the respect of various law enforcement agencies in Troop H. Trooper Elmore earned this official commendation and we are very fortunate to have him working for the Arkansas State Police and I just want to recognize him for his work.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Trooper Josh Elmore.

Lieutenant Brad Lann gave an overview of the nomination of TFC Mark Blackerby for an Official Commendation.

Lieutenant Lann stated on December 22, 2017 at approximately 7:00 p.m., TFC Mark Blackerby arrived on the scene of a rear end crash near the 163 mile marker on Interstate 40. A Mitsubishi Montero Sport rear ended a tractor trailer. Once TFC Blackerby arrived on scene and assessed the situation, he noticed there was an unresponsive female in the back seat of the Montero Sport. He immediately pulled her from the vehicle, placed her on the asphalt, which happened to be in the right lane of Interstate 40, and started chest compressions. As her family looked on TFC Blackerby attempted to save her life by performing CPR for the next 15 minutes. He attempted to contact Sergeant Williams who was the on duty supervisor via radio but he was inaudible because he could not stop the chest compressions. He was using his cheek to try to press the button on his microphone but was not able to transmit. When Sergeant Williams arrived on scene, he made contact with TFC Blackerby who was drenched and cold due to the heavy rain and cool temperatures that night and was obviously tired from his lifesaving attempt. TFC Blackerby did prolong her life long enough for medical professionals to arrive on scene to make another attempt. The young woman eventually succumbed to her injuries while on scene. TFC Blackerby showed courage and determination attempting to save her life in adverse conditions especially with the pressure of her family looking on. With the totality of the cold and rainy weather, his willingness to be a first responder, and his determination to prolong life long enough for medics to arrive on scene, TFC Blackerby should be considered for an Official Commendation. Even though he did not save the young woman's life, he prolonged her life long enough for the medics to use their expertise to make another attempt to save her life. TFC Blackerby's determination on the night of December 22, 2017 is consistent with his exemplary work ethic and behavior.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to TFC Mark Blackerby.

Lieutenant David Moore gave an overview of the nomination of Trooper Matthew West for an Official Commendation.

Lieutenant Moore stated it is his pleasure to be the one reading the nomination for the award of an Official Commendation for Trooper Matthew West. For those of you that do not know, Trooper Matthew West is a third generation trooper, his grandfather John West served as a trooper for the department for over 31 years, and his father, Corporal David West, has been employed with the department for over 21 years and is currently the Sheriff Elect for Cross County. I am told that his one year-old son Matt is currently preparing for employment and I hope at our ages that we will be around to see this.

On August 12, 2017, Trooper Matthew West was dispatched to an injury accident on Highway 364 in Cross County. When he arrived, he found that a young female had been decapitated and was lying in the highway. Trooper West began his investigation and during the course of the investigation, found a male had also been in the vehicle but had caught a ride to a local hospital. When Trooper West made contact with the male subject, he stated that his girlfriend had been driving and had wrecked the vehicle. Trooper West began interviewing witnesses and subsequently contacted Sergeant Tim Carter for assistance with the investigation. Sergeant Carter came to Troop D and met with Trooper West on his day off and they looked at all the evidence and went to the accident scene. They concluded that the male subject was driving and had left the young lady fatally injured at the scene. On October 27, 2017, the prosecuting attorney issued warrants for the driver. On the night of the accident, the male subject had a blood alcohol content of .15. In December, Trooper Matthew West and Special Agent Randall Murphy found the male subject was living in Batesville, Arkansas. On December 13, 2017 the male subject was arrested in Batesville and transported to the Cross County Jail. At the Cross County Jail, he met with Special Agent Murphy, where Special Agent Murphy took a statement. The male subject stated that he was in fact the driver of the vehicle when the female passenger was killed. For Trooper Wests' relentless resolve to solve this case I ask that you recognize Trooper West for the award of an Official Commendation.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Trooper Matthew West.

#### DIVISION REPORTS:

##### Fiscal Section – Jenna Castleberry

Ms. Castleberry gave an overview of the reports which were distributed to the Commission. She stated you have your reports in front of you and we are about 1/3 of the way through the year. We are doing fine and are right on track. We had our budget hearing on October 23 and that went well. We have been working closely with DFA and the Governor's Office to make sure our needs are known.

##### 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 six new hires, five voluntary resignations, one lateral transfer, one retirement, and one promotion. The commissioned transactions included twenty-eight lateral transfers, one disciplinary, one termination, one voluntary resignation, and three promotions. We currently have five military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, October paid claims were \$1,095,846 which is an increase of \$156,771 from last month and the fund balance is \$110,477 lower than last month for a total fund balance of \$6,203,684.47. The average discount savings for the month of October was 79%.

Regarding the 2019 troop school, we are currently working through background investigations, polygraphs and oral interviews with the applicant review board and Colonel Bryant. Those who are selected will proceed with the hiring process and go through the physical and psychological examination.

Commission Chairman Allison asked when the ASP Health Plan comes back up for bidding. Major Hubbard stated he did not know. Jenna Castleberry stated she believes we have the rest of this year and one more year before renewal.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Allison asked if anyone had any new business to discuss. Colonel Bryant stated he has a couple of things. First of all, I received a phone call this morning from Governor Hutchison about 15 minutes ago. He wanted me to announce in this meeting, as you know Commissioner Allison's term is coming to end as Chairman but he has re-appointed Mr. Allison again to the Arkansas State Police Commission. So join me in applause and welcoming Mr. Allison back to the commission.

Colonel Bryant also stated there were some promotions for the Commissioners to consider.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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 employees, Commissioner Teague 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 11:01 a.m. and stated we have been in executive session discussing personnel matters.

Commission Chairman Allison stated he would turn it over to Colonel Bryant for any recommendations. Colonel Bryant stated the first position is a Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H. My recommendation to the Commission would be Sergeant Christopher Goodman for the position of Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H. Commissioner Benton made a motion that Sergeant Christopher Goodman be promoted to Lieutenant, Commissioner Teague seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the next position is a Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop C, Clay, Greene and Randolph Counties. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Aaron Easley for the position of Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop C, Clay, Greene and Randolph Counties. Commissioner Burns made a motion that Corporal Aaron Easley be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the last position is a Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, ICAC. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Russell Rhodes for the position of Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, ICAC. Commissioner Teague made a motion that Corporal Russell Rhodes be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Benton seconded and the motion passed.

Commission Chairman Allison stated he was looking forward to working with all the Commissioners and everyone at ASP for another seven years.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Allison stated the December Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

With no more business, Commission Chairman Allison asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Benton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Burns seconded and the motion passed. Commission Chairman Allison adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

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Commission Chairman

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Commission Secretary