

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
December 13, 2018

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, December 13, 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 Jane Christenson, Secretary  
Commissioner Bob Burns, Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Neff Basore  
Commissioner Bill Benton  
Commissioner Steve Edwards  
Commissioner Jeffery Teague

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Major Mark Hollingsworth
Major Charles Hubbard	Major Forrest Marks
Major Lindsey Williams	Captain Randall Dias
Lieutenant Brad Lann	Emma French
Jenna Castleberry	Tina Williams
Chris Carter	Keri Permenter
Elizabeth Johnson	Corporal Robert Middleton
Truly Stone	Lieutenant Jamie Gravier
Corporal Kevin Webb	Captain David Cooper
Lieutenant David Moore	Lieutenant Stacie Rhoads
Corporal Randall Murphy	Sergeant Daniel Nichols
Captain Wesley Smithee	Lieutenant Matt Miller
TFC Ryan Leuer	Sergeant Jorge Oseguera
TFC Stephen Briggs	Sergeant John Blackmon
Lieutenant Mike Moyer	Sergeant Stuart Woodward
Bridget White	Bill Sadler
Jonathan Nettles	Mary Claire McLaurin
Donna Humphries	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sara Farris, Asst. Attorney General	Ret. Corporal Derrick Briggs
Cord Walker	Jaime Briggs
Ben Post	Sean O’Nale

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Teague led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on December 06, 2018.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Basore made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2018 monthly Commission Meeting. Commissioner Burns seconded and the motion passed.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Matt Miller promoting him to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop I.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Jorge Oseguera promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop K.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATION:

Captain David Cooper gave an overview of the nomination of TFC Ryan Leuer for an Official Commendation.

Captain Cooper stated on June 1, 2018 at approximately 7:21 p.m., TFC Ryan Leuer and Arkansas Highway Police Officer PFC Jonathan Breshears were assisting a motorist on Interstate 49, they were northbound near mile marker 57. They observed a vehicle that was traveling northbound come upon them and it ran off the left side of the roadway into the median. The vehicle continued across the median and entered the southbound lanes of traffic and continued to travel northbound meeting oncoming traffic. PFC Breshears entered the median and began to follow the vehicle while TFC Leuer immediately responded and traveled north bound in the north bound lanes a distance past the vehicle who was still traveling head-on into traffic. When TFC Leuer passed the vehicle, he looked over and observed an elderly male that appeared conscious with his head up and hands on the steering wheel, but he also appeared disoriented based on his driving mannerisms. He continued northbound for some distance, TFC Leuer observed a break in the southbound traffic and crossed the median and began traveling southbound back toward the vehicle that was traveling the wrong way. TFC Leuer had all of his emergency equipment activated and he used the serpentine pattern to slow all the south bound traffic that was behind him. TFC Leuer then slowed his vehicle to a stop in the left hand lane southbound and waited for the vehicle to approach him. As the vehicle approached, it slowed to approximately 5 to 10 miles per hour. But then when it came close to TFC Leuer's vehicle it veered as an effort to go around TFC Leuer. As the vehicle began to pass him, TFC Leuer utilized the left side of his patrol unit and struck the left side of the vehicle attempting to force it into the median to stop it. The impact did disable the vehicle and it came to rest facing north in the southbound lane. TFC Leuer exited his vehicle and immediately checked on the welfare of the driver, the elderly male was disoriented, did not realize what had happened and did not even know that he had been involved in a crash with TFC Leuer. The EMS responded to the scene and evaluated the condition of the driver. The driver refused medical treatment and was released to the care of his brother. TFC Ryan Leuer's quick thinking and decision to place himself in the direct line of travel of this wrong way vehicle was outstanding and reflects great credit on his dedication to serve and protect the citizens of the State of Arkansas. His decision to utilize his patrol unit to disable the vehicle almost certainly saved the life of the elderly male and potentially the lives of the southbound motorists who were unaware of the vehicle traveling the wrong direction on the interstate toward them. For this reason, I submitted him for an Official Commendation. Also due to these actions, he was selected by the Attorney General's Office as the Washington County Officer of the Year.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to TFC Ryan Leuer.

Lieutenant Stacie Rhoads gave an overview of the nomination of Special Agent Kevin Webb for an Official Commendation.

Lieutenant Rhoads stated it is my pleasure to share with you some of the great work we are doing in Company A. First up is Special Agent Kevin Webb, in January of this year he was assigned to the FBI Taskforce and on that taskforce they received a collateral request from the FBI in Minnesota. They were looking for a 25 year-old missing woman from Edina, Minnesota and her last known whereabouts was with her boyfriend who was an Arkansas native. They requested that the FBI in Little Rock try to locate this gentleman in Arkansas and they found him in Jacksonville. So, Special Agent Webb went with the FBI to find this gentleman and when they found him, he had burns on his face. When they questioned him, he denied any knowledge of her whereabouts. They conducted other interviews and one of his buddies had told them that yeah he admitted to me that he had murdered her that he had taken her body to New Orleans and burned her in a conex box. So with this information they started trying to piece together what was going on. They took this gentleman into custody for investigative purposes, he did have two misdemeanor warrants which was not very much to hold this gentleman for here in Pulaski County. As they are digging through this, Special Agent Webb gets a call and I will tell you it was a Friday evening, he calls me at 5:15 and say Lieutenant, they are going to let our suspect go they are not going to hold him. This was not our ballgame to play, we had no crime here, the crime was either in Minnesota or New Orleans and at this point we just did not know. Special Agent Webb says I don't know what we are going to do. Well, Special Agent Webb made some phone calls and found out when they arrested him he was in possession of a stolen vehicle. So, Special Agent Webb took the initiative and said I am going to get a theft by receiving warrant. That evening Special Agent Webb made phone calls to New Orleans and was able

to connect a death they were working down there where they had found a burned body in a conex box. They did not know that it

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was the missing woman from Minnesota because they had not recovered her car yet. Special Agent Webb's actions staying over that Friday night, making all of these calls was great work and this was a holiday weekend. Special Agent Webb found a Judge, got the theft by receiving warrant and he was able to hold this guy in Pulaski County so the people in New Orleans could do DNA testing, he bought them time. Special Agent Webb bought them time and they were able to hold him until they were able to confirm the death. He is now sitting in Minnesota awaiting murder and kidnapping charges. If not for Special Agent Webb's initiative, I told him Kevin it is not our ballgame and he says Lieutenant I can't go home without having done this. This is the reason I nominated Special Agent Kevin Webb for an Official Commendation.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Special Agent Kevin Webb.

Lieutenant Stacie Rhoads gave an overview of the nomination of Special Agent Randall Murphy for an Official Commendation.

Lieutenant Rhoads stated a couple of years ago we established a moto in Company A and it was "Doing what matters, finding answers, making a difference." The actions of Special Agent Randall Murphy that I am going to explain to you today is the epitome of that statement. Last year a 15 year-old female reported to the McCrory Police Department that she had been having sex with a particularly large number of men. A 15 year-old girl. McCrory being the small police department that it is called upon the state police and Special Agent Randall Murphy called and said I really want to take this case. These cases are hard because a lot of times you don't have evidence, a lot of times they become he said she said investigations and a lot of times they don't see the courtroom. So, Special Agent Murphy knows this and he accepted the responsibility anyway. During a formal interview of this young woman, she identified 23 subjects that she had had sex with, as part of that she also disclosed that she had been traded for methamphetamine. Special Agent Murphy once he recognizes this, he is thinking this could be a potential human trafficking case. Human trafficking is I guess the professional way to say getting pimped out. The two pimps in this case of this 15 year-old was her mother and her grandmother and not only were they pimping her out they were also videotaping much of this and also trading that for methamphetamine. Knowing this Special Agent Murphy is able to arrest fifteen people in connection with this case. And I wish I could tell you that the tragedy stopped there but it didn't, next came the trial phase. Special Agent Murphy had to testify, this young woman had to testify and in the courtroom, this girl who is now 16 years-old is begging the jury not to send her mother and her grandmother to prison. This is all shouldered on Special Agent Murphy's shoulders but he did it, they each received 10 years in the penitentiary. There are still 7 or 8 of the suspects that had sex with her that are still awaiting trial, but he went above and beyond on this case. Another thing, Special Agent Murphy was nominated and chosen by the Attorney General's Office as Woodruff County Officer of the Year. The other thing is recently he was awarded a key to the city of Augusta. I have been with the state police for at least 21 years and I have never known of a trooper getting a key to a city. If that is not the epitome of making a difference in your community, I don't know what is.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Special Agent Randall Murphy.

Sergeant Stuart Woodward gave an overview of the nomination of TFC Stephen Briggs for an Official Commendation.

Sergeant Stuart Woodward stated in January 2017, the DEA Task Force Group 2 initiated an investigation into the Blood Street Gang affiliated group known as Real Hustlers Inc. (RHI). This investigation was initiated by Special Agent Stephen Briggs, an assigned Task Force Officer, along with DEA's Task Force Officer from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office. This investigation was worked up into an Organized Drug Enforcement Drug Task Force initiative named "Operation Street Wayz." Special Agent Briggs was instrumental in building a working relationship with the ATF and members of surrounding law enforcement agencies such as the Little Rock Police Department as investigators identified the members of RHI and targeted them for surveillance and controlled purchases of narcotics and firearms. After July 1, 2017, a mass casualty shooting incident at the Power

Ultra Lounge in Little Rock, the DEA investigation received additional urgency when it was determined that the shooting was sparked in large part by a rivalry between members of RHI and a Crypt associated West Memphis street gang. After Governor Hutchinson called for the creation of a gang task force

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spearheaded by the FBI, Special Agent Briggs began coordinating the investigative strategy of Operation Street Wayz with the newly created “GET ROCK Task Force.” Special Agent Briggs was able to incorporate confidential sources from ASP into the investigation and utilize those confidential sources to gain vital intelligence as well as prosecutable controlled purchases. During the course of the investigation, Special Agent Briggs was responsible for coordinating and directing dozens of controlled purchases from members of the violent street gang. Drawing on the controlled purchases as a basis for probable cause, Special Agent Briggs and co-case agents were able to obtain a federal T-III wire-tap of one primary leader of RHI. This initial T-III led to additional T-IIIs of senior leaders of RHI. During wire-taps conducted in the investigation, Special Agent Briggs was able to identify an apparent human trafficking organization tied to the leader of RHI. Based on an intercepted call from this RHI leader, Special Agent Briggs was able to conduct a traffic stop of the RHI leader and remove a juvenile female before the leader was able to possibly introduce her to a human trafficking scheme. Special Agent Briggs went above and beyond in this investigation by relentlessly tracking down each lead and utilizing countless law enforcement techniques to acquire enough physical evidence to lead to a federal grand jury in February 2018. The grand jury indicted 29 individuals associated with this investigation and RHI. On February 22, 2018 Special Agent Briggs oversaw a massive law enforcement operation that involved eleven federal, state, and local tactical teams and an additional 150 federal, state and local law enforcement personnel. As a result of the preparation and planning conducted by Special Agent Briggs, a total of 27 individuals were taken into custody without incident during the operation. Also seized during the operation were 21 firearms, approximately \$50,000 in U. S. Currency, 9.6 pounds of cocaine, 4 ounces of methamphetamine, 7.2 ounces of crack cocaine and various amounts of other drugs to include heroin, ecstasy, marijuana, and prescription drugs. The successful investigation and prosecution of these violent offenders will result in the crippling of RHI as a viable street gang in Little Rock and undoubtedly result in the reduction in gang related violence in the greater Little Rock metropolitan area.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Special Agent Stephen Briggs.

Tina Williams gave an overview of the nominations of Keri Permenter and Chris Carter for Official Commendations.

Tina Williams stated she would like to recognize Keri and Chris on the same incident, they were initially nominated by Richard Davis. On February 07, 2018 the Arkansas State Fusion Center (ASFC) received an e-mail notification from INTERPOL, Washington DC describing Instagram communications between a juvenile female located in Arkansas, who was communicating with a juvenile male in Manchester, England. The female alleged that an adult family member in Arkansas was forcing her to have ongoing sex relations. INTERPOL provided some identification leads that ASFC Senior Analysts Keri and Chris processed. The initial information from INTERPOL had identified a female living in Fort Smith, Arkansas. All the information was forwarded to ASP CID Administration who assigned the investigation to Company D. The information provided by INTERPOL proved to be incorrect after contact was made with the initially identified female, who was an adult and had no knowledge of the described crime. ASFC Analysts Permenter and Carter continued working to identify the actual juvenile female victim. On February 8, 2018 Keri and Chris reported they believed INTERPOL had identified the wrong female victim. Working on their own initiative, they forwarded identifying information that led them to believe the juvenile female victim actually lived in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Photos, identifying information and social media account information of the juvenile victim was also forwarded to ASP CID Major Hollingsworth and Company D investigators. Keri and Chris continued working on identification leads, utilizing open source data and social media research. All leads, photos, and support information was forwarded to ASP CID. ASP CID investigators following up on the Fusion Center leads, located and interviewed the juvenile female victim in Fayetteville, AR. Evidence led to the arrest of the juvenile female’s father. Keri and Chris are to be commended for their dedication to push forward in an investigation involving a sexual predator engaged in an illegal relationship with a juvenile female. Despite the initial information resulting in what appeared to be an unfounded

allegation, their persistence and initiative helped lead to the arrest of an offender and a safer future for a juvenile female that fell victim to a predator in her own home.

Colonel Bryant presented Official Commendations to Keri Permenter and Chris Carter.

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Commission Chairman Allison said congratulations to those promoted and congratulations to those, those are amazing stories you officers have completed and saved lives and stopped trafficking and that is pretty amazing. Congratulations to all of you, we are very proud of you.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Fiscal Section – Emma French

Ms. French gave an overview of the reports which were distributed to the Commission. She stated we should be at about 42%, financially we are at a very good place today. We are going to start in January making our plans, we are going to finish out the year by making a few adjustments. The only other thing I have to add is that the auditors are here. They came on Tuesday so they will be here for about 6 months with us.

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 seven new hires, one voluntary resignation, and two promotions. The commissioned transactions included four lateral transfers, one voluntary resignation, and two promotions. We currently have three military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, November paid claims were \$829,554 which is a decrease of \$266,292 from last month and the fund balance is \$38,515 higher than last month for a total fund balance of \$6,242,241.

Update on the 2019 troop school, currently the physical fitness test have been concluded and the entry level written examinations have been completed and evaluated. We have completed the polygraph exams and are currently in the final stages of the backgrounds as well as the interviews with the oral board and Colonel Bryant. We will begin that school on February 24 and hope to graduate on July 18.

Commissioner Basore asked what your count is right now. Major Hubbard stated as far as the pool of candidates we are currently around 82 that are still in the processes.

Commissioner Basore asked do we know what the population of the school is going to be, is it going to be 50 or 40. Colonel Bryant stated it depends on our vacant budgeted positions, right now we are, we anticipate 36. But it could if we lose anymore or any more retire in that time period it could be higher.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Allison asked if anyone had any new business to discuss. Colonel Bryant stated we have one promotion for the Commissioners to consider.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commission Chairman Allison asked if there was 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 10:33 a.m. Commission Chairman Allison called the meeting back to order at 11:02 a.m. and stated we have been in executive session discussing personnel matters.

Commission Chairman Allison asked Colonel Bryant if he had a recommendation. Colonel Bryant stated we have one position that would be the Captain in the Highway Patrol

Division, Troop D in Forrest City. My recommendation to the Commission would be Lieutenant David Moore for the position of Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D. Commissioner Edwards made a motion that Lieutenant David Moore be promoted to Captain, Commissioner Teague seconded and the motion passed.

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NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Allison stated the January Commission Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 10, 2019 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 11:04 a.m.

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Commission Chairman

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Commission Secretary