

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
December 09, 2021

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, December 09, 2021 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Basore called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Neff Basore, Chairman  
Commissioner John Allison, Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Steve Edwards, Secretary  
Commissioner Jeffery Teague  
Commissioner Jim Hinkle  
Commissioner Murray Benton, Sr.  
Commissioner Ken Reeves

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Lt. Colonel Shawn Garner
Major Forrest Marks	Major Charles Hubbard
Major Jeff Drew	Major Jason Aaron
Sherry Woods	Dan Mack
Captain Mike Moyer	Jenna Castleberry
Captain Scott Woodward	Trooper Charles Allen
Sergeant Robert Middleton	Captain David Williams
Captain Paulette Ward	Lieutenant Philip Hydron
Debra Meachum	Donna Humphries

OTHERS PRESENT:

Billy Meachum	J. R. Hankins, DPS
Jackie Baker, DPS	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Basore led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on November 30, 2021.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Hinkle made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2021 regular monthly commission meeting and the November 30, 2021 special conference call commission meeting. Commissioners Reeves and Allison seconded, and the motion passed.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Captain Scott Woodward presented the overview for the nomination of Trooper Charles Allen for an Official Commendation.

Captain Scott Woodward stated on April 20, 2021, El Dorado issued a BOLO for a black Dodge Challenger. It was reported that a man was seen kidnapping his wife at gunpoint, forcing her into the car, and speeding away. A while later, Ashley County Deputies saw the car on U. S. Highway 82 west of Crossett, AR traveling east toward Crossett. They tried to stop the car, the guy refused, and a pursuit began. Trooper Charles Ross Allen was in the area that day and he heard the traffic on his radio, so he went out West of Crossett and set up on U. S. Highway 82 to watch for the car. Moments later he saw the car approaching at a high rate of speed and he was easily out running the deputies as they were in pick-up trucks. As the car passed, Trooper Allen pulled in behind it with hopes that the man would stop for him, but he didn't so the pursuit continued into Crossett. The man was operating the car extremely recklessly, at high rates of speed, swerving in and out of traffic and running red lights. As the pursuit traveled out of Crossett back into the county, Trooper Allen formulated a plan for a form of precision immobilization technique (PIT) to put an end to the pursuit. When it was safe to do so, he pulled up and pitted the car. The PIT was successful, causing the car to spin out of control, run down in a ditch and come to a stop. By this time other officers had arrived, and they were able to take the suspect into custody without further incident. Later that day as he was being interviewed by investigators, he confessed to killing his wife and dumping her body. He also confessed to investigators it was his intent to come

out of the car with his pistol and engage in a shootout with the police. But during the PIT maneuver as the car spun out of control, he lost the pistol somewhere in the car. So, it is my belief that the suspect would have been on the run for some time before being apprehended had it not been for Trooper Allen's quick and deliberate thinking and his courageous actions on this day. Trooper Allen's valiant actions directly resulted in the apprehension of a kidnapping and murder suspect, who had already escaped Ashley County's attempt to stop him. The suspect drove recklessly, creating a clear and present danger to the public and who had a propensity to do harm to others without showing any remorse.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Trooper Charles Allen.

Lieutenant Philip Hydron presented the overview for the nomination of Debra Meachum for an Official Commendation.

Lieutenant Philip Hydron stated what an honor and privilege it is to bring this employee before you today to be recognized. Before I go into detail concerning the Official Commendation, I think it is only fitting to tell you a little bit about Mrs. Debbie. Mrs. Debbie has been our administrative specialist for 10 years, there are many words that I think of when I think about Mrs. Debbie, but the word that comes to my mind is matriarch. Matriarch is simply defined as an older woman that is in charge of the family or organization and Mrs. Debbie is definitely the matriarch of the Troop D family. Captain Moore and I are smart enough to realize that every good Lieutenant and good Captain has an even better Administrative Specialist behind them and so she takes care of us. I will also say that you can tell a lot about a person when they are forced to work out of their comfort zone, what will that person do, will they fold their tent and want to go home or will they rise to the occasion to accomplish the mission at hand. We think Mrs. Debbie answered that question perfectly in May of 2021. The details behind this Official Commendation are as follows on May 25, 2021 at approximately 1:00 p.m. Troop D Dispatch received the worst call that any law enforcement agency could possibly receive and that was that we had an officer down. The Southaven Mississippi Police Department reported that they had tried to make a traffic stop of an individual that had several felony warrants. During the traffic stop, it resulted in a pursuit, the suspect rammed the officer's unit, exited the vehicle, and shot the officer. After shooting the officer, the suspect took the officer's unit and fled the scene. The officer's unit was described as an unmarked Chevrolet Impala, silver in color with Mississippi tags and possibly having front end damage. It was also relayed to us that when the vehicle left there, it left with lights activated and was possible headed into Arkansas. Troop D Administrative Assistant, Debbie Meachum overheard the call coming into dispatch, she quickly realized the chaos that was taking place in dispatch, and she reported to dispatch and began answering the phones, obtaining information pertinent to the suspect, and assisting with answering the normal call volume. With the information received, troopers were dispatched to that area in an attempt to locate the vehicle. A short time later, we received a second call from a civilian who wanted to report a suspicious vehicle. The caller stated that as she came out of Tennessee, she observed a silver impala traveling behind her with blue lights activated. She had thought the vehicle was trying to pull her over, so she moved to the shoulder and discovers that the vehicle continued on passed her and described the vehicle as a silver Impala with Mississippi tags and front-end damage. As they approached the I-40/1-55 split the vehicle in question continued westbound on I-40. Now having updated information on the location of the suspect, every Troop D trooper was sent to I-40 at strategic locations in an effort to intercept the suspect. Mrs. Debbie was constantly obtaining information from authorities in Mississippi and relaying that information to troopers out in the field. A short time later troopers located the suspect vehicle and a pursuit ensued. The suspect fled several miles before wrecking the vehicle on SFC 130 and fleeing on foot into a wooded area armed with a pistol. As a result, additional resources and personnel were called to the scene to search for the suspect. After a six-hour manhunt the suspect was located and arrested without further incident. Mrs. Debbie was willing to step out of her comfort zone as Administrative Specialist, went above and beyond her normal job description and stayed well past her normal working hours to accomplish this mission. In doing so she became a vital part of this team that brought the suspect's reign of terror covering multiple states to a peaceful end. It is for these reasons that we submitted Mrs. Debbie Meachum for an Official Commendation.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Debra Meachum

Fiscal Section – Jenna Castleberry

Jenna Castleberry presented an oral summary of the written report distributed to the Commission. Ms. Castleberry stated Legislative Audit has completed our FY22 audit, they finished their exit conference with Colonel Bryant and there were no audit findings for the year. They will return in January to audit FY21, very short turn around. We are continuing to watch fuel, our average fuel price for this month was \$2.90 a gallon which raised our yearly average .5 cents to \$2.80 cents a gallon. We are currently budgeted at \$2.85 cents a gallon.

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 uniformed noncommissioned transactions include six new hires, and three terminations. The commissioned transactions include two terminations, and two transfers. Currently we have six military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, November paid claims were \$890,771.00 which was a decrease of \$240,892.00 from last month and the fund balance is \$175,924.00 higher than last month for a total fund balance of \$7,683,293.00. The average discount savings for the month of October was 73%.

A quick update on our Troop School we currently have 44 recruits today, as they continue through the medical and psychological examinations. We should have all of those complete by the 16<sup>th</sup> and then will know for sure who will be attending the school. That school will start on January 23, with orientation on January 10 and then Troop School Graduation will be June 16, 2022.

Commissioner Reeves stated if you will indulge me, I have been looking at these reports for a few months and I have gradually learned some of these acronyms and stuff. I am looking at an older report where I went through and made question marks. You may know or someone can probably answer these for me.

When you say ASP Commissioned personnel, what is that? Major Hubbard stated that is the troopers, that is the ones that are certified law enforcement officers. We have the uniformed noncommissioned and that would be the driver's license examiners as well as the radio telecom operators. Commissioner Reeves stated so they are uniformed but that are not considered commissioned officers.

Commissioner Reeves asked what does EVOC stand for? Major Hubbard stated that is Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, that is what we do when we are training on the driving course at the driving track, that is a training operation procedure that we use, it is just abbreviated for emergency driving operations training. Commissioner Reeves in the Administrative Services Division report, it shows the receipts, and it looks like, do we get \$250,000.00 each month for driver's license fees. Major Hubbard stated Jenna could probably explain that a little better, but there is an amount that they even that off to. Jenna stated historically this revenue has brought in \$3 million a year, due to that change in driver's license fee schedule, it went from 4 years to 8 years and also doubled. There was a fluctuation in the amount that we were receiving each year, so we have seen a dip in that, but that was planned and so we have made that whole from a holding account from the fuller years. So, we are moving an even \$250,000.00 to bring us to that \$3 million that we historically made.

Commissioner Reeves stated so under Act 1500 these driver's license fees, some of that goes somewhere else, we don't get every penny of it or is this just kind of accruing \$250,000 a month and reconcile through the year. Jenna stated so the driver's license fees go, the first piece, that \$12.00 goes strictly to the Act 1500 for the health plan, it is solely for the health plan. The other portion of the driver's license fee goes to fund for the debt service for our construction projects. Commissioner Reeves stated so we get to keep it all. Jenna stated yes sir.

Commissioner Reeves stated then, our ending fund balance is \$7 plus million dollars, how is that invested and who manages that money? Major Hubbard stated a lot of that is administrative cost and then we pay for the claims. Commissioner Reeves stated no I am talking about at the end of the month of October, we had in our uniform health plan fund \$7.5

million, do we hire a firm to manage that money? Or do we do it ourselves? Jenna stated we manage it ourselves. Commissioner Reeves asked is it in CD's, mutual funds, how do we invest it. Major Hubbard stated \$3.5 million is in CD's, but the \$7.5 that you are referring to is just in the general fund for the health plan, so you can see the total under that which would include the CD's. Commissioner Reeves said OK, then on the contractual savings for medical, you know it shows the covered expenses, the amount allowed and the savings. Do our employees get billed for the part that is not covered or is there some kind of arrangement with the medical field that they get what we allow and then they don't bill our employees. Major Hubbard stated there is certain deductibles that the employee would have to meet and then they have a maximum out of pocket that they are allowed, and they would be responsible for that. There are some moving parts in there that we have in our health plan document that we work with, that 73% you are seeing is the savings that we have got, and we would not have got that if we would not have had Health Advantage to assist us in reaching out and getting those savings. Commissioner Reeves stated that is true with both in-network and out of network providers? Major Hubbard stated yes that is a combination of both.

Commissioner Reeves stated then on the dental vision for the employees, you have EE, ES, EC, and family. I guess EE is employee, ES is employee and spouse, EC is employee and children, and family is everybody. Major Hubbard stated yes sir.

Commissioner Reeves stated on the Crimes Against Children Division, it talks about the total calls received for the month, total cases assigned for investigation, but then it has a different number, like in October there is 2800 assigned for investigation, total reports assigned to CACD for investigation was just 604. I guess I am asking what is the difference in assigning a case for investigation and assigning one to CACD? Major Jeff Drew stated we maintain all calls coming into the State, some come here to ASP CACD and some of them go to DHS/DCFS. Commissioner Reeves stated okay, then the number of differential responses for the month is like 579, what is that? Major Drew stated that is handled at DCFS, instead of an active investigation taking place, it maybe something for services like something can come in for no food and no lights. That is handled different as opposed to being a regular complaint. Commissioner Reeves asked what is FASD? Major Drew stated that is fetal alcohol syndrome. Commissioner Reeves stated the last sheet on this Crimes Against Children is the CACD Hotline monthly report and there are several categories, ACC, DOC, DR, DA, FASD, all these names that are listed are all these different employees of ours who manage the phones and get the calls? Major Drew asked are you looking under the, I am trying to find the sheet that you are looking at. Commissioner Reeves stated I am looking at the last page of the report, CACD Hotline Monthly Report, there is like 25 or 30 people listed. Major Drew stated yes sir, those are the operators and if you look, it shows what shift they work and they are broken down into those shifts and then the calls they received.

Commissioner Edwards asked how many call people do we have employed? Major Drew stated right now we have a total of 35 slots, but we are down to 22 operators right now.

Commissioner Reeves stated on the CID, SIU is that special investigations? I guessed that one. What is Fusion? Colonel Bryant stated that is the Fusion Center. Commissioner Reeves asked what is that and Colonel Bryant stated it is the State of Arkansas Fusion Center, it is located in our building, it is kind of an intel sharing and they do threat assessments. It is mostly composed of ASP employees, but we do have other employees from other agencies that participate in the Fusion Center.

Commissioner Reeves stated on the Highway Patrol Division, it shows total criminal arrest 2200, then total persons arrested it shows 1400, I assume that is because some of them got charged with two or three difference offenses. Major Marks stated that is correct. Then DWI was 253 and DUIs was 2, I assume DUI is driving under the influence of drugs. Major Marks stated it is the underage, those under 21 arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Commissioner Reeves stated okay on the driver's license exam summary, we show the driver's license test and they run hundreds every month and then we show driver's license skill failed, driver's license skill passed, now that is actual driving, I guess. Major Marks stated correct. Commissioner Reeves asked do we not have people who fail the written test? Major Marks stated we do, actually we are probably at about over 50% fail rate on our written test. Commissioner Reeves stated really, wow. Major Marks stated yes about. Commission Reeves stated well that wasn't broken down and I was just curious.

Commissioner Reeves stated on the Concealed Handguns on that report, it is 2021 through October, it is probably a typo, but on the current number of valid licenses it shows 2,131,479. Captain Moyer stated that is an error, we found that there was, the formula that was put in, a couple of weeks ago we noticed this, was not calculating correctly. Commissioner Reeves stated so it is two hundred and something thousand probably then. Captain Moyer stated that sounds closer.

Commissioner Reeves stated on Crash Records, this is what I call accident reports, I assume. Captain Moyer stated yes sir. Commissioner Reeves stated it says reports received or processed was like for the year was 4300, walk ins was 15,977, what are walk ins? Captain Moyer stated that is where customers come in to purchase reports. Commissioner Reeves stated as opposed to lawyer type where you mail it to them or something? Captain Moyer stated well any report that is purchased is either a walk in or they mail in a request with the payment. Commissioner Reeves stated okay, so you have walk ins and reports mailed, so those two would be what you are talking about. Captain Moyer stated yes sir. When I walk in to headquarters here and pay for a police report or accident report or they mail me one. Captain Moyer stated that is correct.

Commissioner Reeves stated thank you very much, I appreciate you indulging me about it, it helps me understand these.

Commissioner Teague stated I have one question I would like to ask, on the ah, you had 55 applicants on the school and 44 you have pending final process, so I guess you had 11 that dropped out or failed or what? Major Hubbard stated yes, somewhere during that process. Commissioner Teague asked if there is a common reason that these men or women don't make it. Major Hubbard stated I don't know about a common reason, but at this point in the process it really boils down to something in the background or it could be something in the physical exam or the psychological exam. Commissioner Teague stated okay, thank you.

Commissioner Allison asked when do they get their polygraphs, at what stage? Major Hubbard stated they have already, it is toward the end, it would have been before the interview, just before the Colonel met with them, they would actually do the polygraph exam and it is part of the background process. Commissioner Basore stated before we get the list they have gone through polygraph and then the interview process and the only thing after we get the list is the psychological and physical exams. Major Hubbard stated that is it, waiting on the results of the medical and psychological. That is kind of where we are right now and then they may get their assignment, because we gave them their assignment when we reached out to them to let them know about their medical and psychological and some of them may not like their assignment. We didn't really have one this time, but in the past, we have seen some that when they heard their assignment they really did not want to go there, so they may not have taken the position at that point. We had one that was kind of on the fence but took the assignment, so really other than that, it was the 2 or 3, I guess 2 that we have lost at this point of where we are at in the process.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Basore asked Colonel Bryant do we have any new business? Colonel Bryant stated yes sir, we need to go into Executive Session to discuss a promotion.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of considering a promotion, Commissioner Hinkle seconded, and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:29 a.m.

Commission Chairman Basore called the meeting back to order at 11:52 a.m. and stated no action was taken during executive session.

Commission Chairman Basore stated we have scheduled the Misael Ramos Appeal Hearing for February, the regularly scheduled meeting date at 10:00 a.m. The commission will meet at 9:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Basore stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

With no further business, Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Allison seconded, and Commission Chairman Basore adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

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Commission Chairman

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Commission Secretary