

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
April 14, 2022

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Edwards called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBER ON CONFERENCE CALL:

Commissioner John Allison

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Major Forrest Marks
Major Charles Hubbard	Major Jeff Drew
Major Jason Aaron	Major Lindsey Williams
Sherry Woods	Gary Glisson
Captain Mike Moyer	Captain Scott Russell
Captain John Carter	Captain Scott Woodward
Lieutenant Scott Joe	Sergeant Corey Ray
TFC Darryle Hinton	Captain David Moore
TFC Caleb Landreth	Captain Wesley Smithee
Lieutenant Matt Miller	Corporal J. Todd Harris
Sergeant Steve Roberts	Dan Mack
Sergeant Kevin Steed	Corporal Michael Reed
Captain David Williams	Lieutenant Jeff Sheeler
Captain Todd Shaw	Captain Mike Hager
Captain Mike Kennedy	Bill Sadler
Corporal Donnie Crow	Corporal Sor Lee
Sergeant Eric Lee	Corporal Dean Pitchford
Lieutenant Bobby Brown	Captain Chris Goodman
Jonathan Nettles	Donna Humphries

OTHERS PRESENT:

J. R. Hankins, DPS	Jackie Baker, DPS
Sara Farris, Attorney General's Office	Carla Roberts
Daniel Faulkner, Attorney General's Office	John Smith, DPS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Edwards led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on April 12, 2022.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Teague made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2022 regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Reeves seconded, and the motion passed.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATE:

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Eric Lee promoting him to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company D, Benton, Carroll, Madison, and Washington Counties.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Steven Roberts promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D, Crittenden County.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Captain Scott Russell gave an overview of the nomination of TFC Sor Lee for an Official Commendation. Captain Russell stated on Sunday, October 17, 2021, the Bentonville Police Department and the Rogers Police Department responded to multiple calls of shots fired. They went to three different places where there had been a drive-by shooting into structures. The Bentonville Police Department actually developed a suspect and vehicle and they got behind the vehicle and the guy turned on the interstate, they had a very short pursuit and Bentonville elected to terminate the pursuit when it reached the interstate. TFC Sor Lee was in the area and monitoring the radio traffic. TFC Lee got on Interstate 49 south of where he anticipated the pursuit to go, he sat in the dark and waited and just a little bit of time goes by and here comes the truck. TFC Lee falls in behind the truck, positively identifies it to make sure it is the right vehicle, follows it and radios for assistance. Another trooper a little bit farther south down around the Washington - Benton County lines pulled over and waited. TFC Lee waited until he got to his backup and then he turned on his emergency lights and siren and the driver took off. A pursuit ensued, TFC Lee remained calm, gave clear radio communications and kind of had an idea where the driver was probably going, headed right to Fayetteville. TFC Lee instructed the other trooper that he was getting ready to perform a PIT maneuver and he asked the trooper to slow all of the traffic behind him and the trooper began moving across the three southbound lanes and slowed traffic down to a safe distance. TFC Lee as the suspect driver was taking exit 67 A/B, which goes right into the heart of Fayetteville, performed a perfect PIT maneuver. It was on the right side, the suspect vehicle spun out and entered the ditch. TFC Lee circled around, and the other trooper pulled in and they boxed the suspect in where he could not get back out. TFC Lee and the other trooper then took a position of advantage and cover, they maintained their position and they were shouting commands over a PA and verbally to the suspect for about six minutes and he never responded, never made any gestures. They maintained their cover, followed their training, they did not break cover, and they kept communicating with him. Eventually the suspect put both hands out of the window, opened the door and followed commands and they took him into custody without further incident. Then as the troopers inspected the vehicle, they found something pretty shocking, he had two fully loaded AR-15s in the seat right beside him, numerous 30 round magazines loaded and ready to go, and roughly thousands of rounds of .223 ammunition. He had obviously already committed three drive-bys and was headed somewhere to do something else and I feel like he may have been waiting on our troopers in this situation too. TFC Lee remained calm, he made great command decisions and through his training and experience, he was able to take this guy off the road with no one getting hurt and no damage to our vehicle and no damage to the other vehicle.

Colonel Bryant presented the Official Commendation to TFC Sor Lee.

Sergeant Kevin Steed gave an overview of the nomination of Corporal Michael Reed for an Official Commendation. Sergeant Steed stated I put Corporal Reed in for an Official Commendation, just from one single accident, he recovered over \$400,000.00 in stolen equipment and vehicles. He went out of the scope of his duty, we work 5-800 accidents a year depending on traffic in Garland County, so he took it upon himself to go outside that scope and recovered all this stolen property. On October 14, 2021, Corporal Michael Reed was dispatched to an accident in the 2500 block of State Highway 298. It was determined that the driver left the scene, and a 2017 Ford F-350 King Ranch pickup truck was left on scene. Corporal Reed received information that the Ford pickup belonged to a Rodney Johnson. A check of the Ford's VIN# through ACIC returned the vehicle to be stolen out of the Arkadelphia Police Department in April 2018. Inventorying the Ford F-350 resulted in locating a wallet in the center console and an Arkansas photo identification card of Rodney Johnson, also located were several pieces of mail and prescriptions labeled with the name Rodney Johnson. Rodney Johnson was unable to be located at the scene that night. Corporal Reed spoke with an investigator with the Arkadelphia Police Department, he advised the F-350 was stolen on April 17, 2018, from Southwest Auto Collection located in Arkadelphia. The investigator stated a white male identifying himself as Nick Griffin test drove the Ford pickup, later returned the truck, not purchasing it, but handed a fake key fob back, so he was a career criminal. He handed them a fake key fob, left then returned later that evening and stole the 2017 F350 Ford King Ranch which was valued at \$68,718.00. On October 15, 2021, Corporal Reed received information from a family member of Rodney Johnson's that they wanted to speak with him regarding the accident. They stated that Rodney Johnson had a brand-new Ford Expedition in his driveway at that time. Corporal Reed responded to the address found the Expedition and later the VIN was ran and it was reported stolen, and it was in the \$60,000.00 range as well. On October 16, 2021, Corporal Reed obtained an arrest

warrant for Rodney Johnson, once again keeping in mind that we work the highway, we work accidents, and he is doing this on his own without involving anybody else. At this time, he has just taken it upon himself to contact the Judge and Prosecutors and get these warrants. The arrest warrants were served at the residence, and he took Rodney Johnson into custody without incident. The VIN number was checked, and it showed that the 2021 Ford Expedition that was maroon in color was showing stolen through ACIC by the Searcy Police Department. ACIC showed the vehicle was stolen on June 14, 2021. Corporal Reed then followed up with an investigator from the Searcy Police Department who advised it was stolen from a lot there using the same key fob, he walked up was given a key fob put it in his pocket and gave them a fake key fob back then showed up later that night and stole the expedition. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, Corporal Reed took it upon himself to obtain a search warrant for a 40-acre tract that was owned by Rodney Johnson. He located a Case Backhoe, a 20' Performance trailer, a Mahindra tractor, and a bunch of other farm implements there, that was way up in the \$200,000.00 range. So, all together he took it upon himself and collected \$416,962.58 worth of stolen equipment. He also got the Feds involved, the Secret Service and now they have federal felony charges on Rodney Johnson. He is on the run now, but they will catch him. Sergeant Steed stated I put him in for an Official Commendation for taking all of those steps.

Colonel Bryant presented the Official Commendation to Corporal Michael Reed.

#### NALOXONE AWARDS:

Captain John Carter stated on February 14, 2019 at approximately 10:40 a.m. the Jonesboro Police Department dispatch center advised of an unresponsive female sitting in her parked car at a local business. The dispatch center also advised the female had attempted suicide and she was still breathing. Trooper First Class Caleb Landreth was close to the location and responded. Upon his arrival he found the female still unresponsive sitting in the driver seat of her vehicle. Trooper First Class Landreth attempted to get the female to respond by rubbing her sternum which did not work. Trooper First Class Landreth could feel a pulse, but her breathing was weak. Trooper First Class Landreth administered one dose of Narcan to the female with no change in her condition, he immediately then administered a second dose of Narcan with no improvement in her condition. Trooper First Class Landreth continued performing the sternum rub with no response. A Jonesboro police officer arrived, and Trooper First Class Landreth asked for his Narcan and administered two doses, one to each nostril with still no response. The Jonesboro Fire Department arrived, and Trooper First Class Landreth advised them of the Narcan he had administered to the female. They applied a breathing bag to the female and began resuscitating her, a short time later the female opened her eyes and set up. She became responsive and stated that she had taken some pills.

Colonel Bryant presented a Naloxone Lifesaving Award to TFC Caleb Landreth.

Captain John Carter stated on September 29, 2019 at approximately 9:51 p.m. the Paragould Police were dispatched to a possible overdose at a residence in their city. Corporal Todd Harris was close to the location and stopped to assist. Upon his arrival, Corporal Harris found two officers in the bedroom of the residence with a male laying on the floor struggling to breath. The officers rolled the subject on his side to possibly clear the airway of the subject. The subject's brother stated a lady had given his brother some pills and he had also been drinking alcohol. The brother could not describe the pills or how many his brother had consumed. Corporal Harris opened his Narcan and was attempting to administer the spray when EMS entered the room. Corporal Harris moved away from the male and gave his container of Narcan to the medic who administered it. The application of Narcan did not have an immediate effect, the male was given oxygen through a facemask and his condition immediately improved and he was able to recover.

Colonel Bryant presented a Naloxone Lifesaving Award to Corporal Todd Harris.

Captain David Williams stated on February 16, 2021 Trooper First Class Darryle Hinton responded to assist a single vehicle accident on Interstate 530 in Jefferson County. Prior to his arrival, two troopers had already arrived on scene, and they discovered a vehicle that was off in the ditch but there weren't any obvious damages severe enough to cause a fatality or extreme injury accident, but they had told him that the driver was unresponsive, and they had to make forced entry into the vehicle. So once Trooper First Class Hinton heard that he immediately went to the scene, he ran up to the troopers and they had the driver out on the ground, and he was unresponsive. At that time, Trooper First Class Hinton asked the troopers

have you administered Narcan, he could possibly be having an opioid overdose? Both troopers said no, at that point Trooper First Class Hinton ran back to the vehicle grabbed his Narcan, ran back up to the individual and was able to administer two doses of Narcan to the subject and soon after he did that, they were able to locate a faint pulse. They kept rendering aid to the subject until the EMS arrived on scene. So due to his keen observation skills and quick action while under pressure, Trooper First Class Hinton was able to effectively administer his issued Narcan and prolong the operator's life until the medical professionals could arrive at the scene.

Colonel Bryant presented a Naloxone Lifesaving Award to TFC Darryle Hinton.

#### DEATH BENEFIT RESOLUTION:

Major Forrest Marks presented the below resolution for consideration by the ASP Commission.

#### R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: For 33 years, Corporal Michael Springer gave the last full measure of devotion to his chosen profession, having lost his life in the course of employment as a Trooper;

WHEREAS: This Commission extends its sympathies for the loss suffered by his family, friends, and fellow officers who in his absence must carry on;

WHEREAS: The Arkansas State Police Commission recognizes that Corporal Michael Springer comported himself in accordance with the time-honored traditions of this Department and exemplified himself as an officer, husband, father, son, brother, and citizen above reproach.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That in accordance with Arkansas Statute 12-8-212, the Arkansas State Police Commission does hereby award the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to his wife, Rhonda Springer, as one small gesture for a loss that cannot be measured.

Commissioner Teague made a motion to approve the above resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Hinkle seconded, and the motion passed.

#### Fiscal Section – John Smith

John Smith presented an oral summary of the written report distributed to the Commission. Mr. Smith stated we paid certificate pay at the end of March to all of the troopers who qualified for it, that is a little earlier than we normally pay it, but we wanted to get that out of the way. That cost about \$502,000.00 and we were able to pay this with current funding levels. The other thing we are working on, we are starting right now to set our budgets for FY23 and the deadline is May the 11, so if we don't show up for your next commission meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> that means we are still working on the budget. We are looking at fuel really closely, I know you all have been asking and have concerns about that. We loaded the fuel cost at \$2.85 for this current fiscal year which ends June 30. We are up to an average of \$2.91 so we are spending more than we loaded, we don't anticipate a problem this fiscal year, but we are really studying it and trying to figure out how we are going to handle next year with what may happen. We are working with State Procurement on the cooperative agreement to see if there is any flexibility or ways we can save to help in the future. So far this year we have spent close to \$2.2 million on fuel and last year we only spent \$2 million so it does show a little bit of an increase, but we feel comfortable we can hang on for at least the rest of this year.

#### 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 five new hires, one promotion, and one termination. The commissioned transactions include two terminations, one transfer and nineteen promotions, eighteen of those were to the rank of Corporal. Currently we have three military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, March paid claims were \$1,387,553.00 which was an increase of \$340,113.00 from last month. The fund balance is \$306,227.00 lower than last month for a total fund balance of \$11,260,775.00. The average discount savings for the month of February was 61.6%.

A quick update on our current Troop School we are in week 12, they are out at the driving track this week for their third week of crash investigation. They are progressing really well; I stopped by out there yesterday to check on them. They have a great attitude, and they seem to be excited as to where they are at in the program. I think the practical exercises that they are taking part in right now seem to really boost their motivation a little bit. This is a good part of troop school.

Commissioner Hinkle asked Major Hubbard what is the formula for paying an employee that is on Military duty, is it a percentage, is it full, what? Excuse me, maybe I should know this, but I don't. Major Hubbard stated I will let John Smith answer that, I am not involved in payroll. John Smith stated I do not know the answer to that question, but I can find out. Colonel Bryant stated I think what we do is they have military leave that they are allotted and once they use their military leave the pay stops or they can use their annual leave, but they do have so much per year military leave.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Edwards asked do we have any new business. Colonel Bryant stated Mr. Chairman we have some promotions to consider today.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Reeves made a motion to go into Executive Session to consider a promotion to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop I Baxter and Marion Counties, a promotion to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop B and to untable and consider the promotion to Major of the Criminal Investigation Division, Administration in Little Rock. Commissioner Hinkle seconded, and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:31 a.m.

Commission Chairman Edwards called the meeting back to order at 11:40 a.m. and stated we have some promotions to discuss Colonel.

Colonel Bryant stated thank you Mr. Chairman, the first one will be the ASP Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop B, my recommendation to the commission would be Sergeant Aaron Easley. Commissioner Hinkle made a motion to approve Sergeant Aaron Easley be promoted to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop B. Commissioner Reeves seconded, and the motion passed.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated Sergeant Aaron Easley will now be Lieutenant Aaron Easley.

Colonel Bryant stated the next promotion is ASP Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop I, Baxter and Marion Counties, my recommendation to the commission will be Corporal Jackie Stinnett. Commissioner Reeves made a motion to approve Corporal Jackie Stinnett be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop I, Baxter and Marion Counties. Commissioner Hinkle seconded, and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the last position is ASP Major in the Criminal Investigation Division, Administration, my recommendation to the commission will be Captain Paulette Ward. Chairman Edwards asked any action on that? There is no motion so the recommendation will not move forward. Commissioner Hinkle asked do we go back into Executive Session or not? Commissioner Reeves stated no. Commissioner Allison stated Mr. Chairman, I would like to nominate Stacie Rhoads for Major in the Criminal Investigation Division, Commissioner Teague seconded. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a nomination for Stacie Rhoads for Major, CID, Commissioner Teague seconded. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor? The commissioners voted aye. Commission Chairman Edwards stated opposed? Commissioner Basore voted no. Commission Chairman Edwards stated the ayes have it and Stacie Rhoads will be the new Major in CID.

Commission Chairman Edwards asked if there was any other business. Colonel Bryant stated yes, Mr. Chairman, trying to find the exact date. We are going to have a memorial service, I believe it is going to be May 10, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. here at the ASP Hall of Honor to recognize our nineteen fallen heroes and we will have some of the survivor families there so if you want to get that on your calendar. Also, on May 25, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. the awards banquet out at Camp Robinson, I think the doors open at 11:00 a.m. and they are going to serve fish at 11:30 a.m. and then the official ceremony will start at noon.

Commissioner Basore asked what was the day of the memorial ceremony and Commissioner Teague asked at what time. Colonel Bryant stated May 10, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Teague asked what was the second one, Colonel Bryant stated May 25 the awards banquet at Camp Robinson.

Donna Humphries stated she would send an email out to the commissioners with the dates and times.

Commissioner Basore asked did we change the June meeting? Colonel Bryant stated we did, we moved it up and I think we will have an appeal hearing that date after the commission meeting.

Commissioner Reeves asked what is the date? Commissioner Basore stated June 2. Commission Chairman Edwards stated meeting at 9:00 a.m. and hearing at 10:00 a.m. on June 2.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Edwards stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Chairman Edwards asked if there was any more business to come before the commission? With no more business brought up, Commission Chairman Edwards asked for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Hinkle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Reeves seconded, and Commission Chairman Edwards adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

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Commission Chairman

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Commission Secretary