

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
February 08, 2024

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, February 08, 2024, at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jeffery Teague, Chairman
Commissioner John Allison, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Jim Hinkle, Secretary
Commissioner Ken Reeves
Commissioner Neff Basore
Commissioner Mike Akin
Commissioner Steve Edwards

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Colonel Mike Hagar	Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy
Major Roby Rhoads	Major Jeff Drew
Major Ron Casey	Major Stacie Rhoads
Captain Philip Hydron	Captain Rick Neill
Dan Mack	Kalika Rogers
Captain Todd Shaw	Lieutenant Alex Krneta
Lieutenant Aaron Easley	Sergeant Bryson Schulz
Jenna Castleberry	Sherry Woods
Karen Perry	Sergeant Ryan Jacks
Captain Brady Gore	Captain John Carter
Captain Chris Goodman	Lieutenant Jeff Plouch
Lieutenant Seth Pinner	Bridget White
Captain David Williams	Corporal Christianna McKibben
Sergeant Tom Sweeney	Sergeant Alex Bray
Lieutenant Frank McMillion	Lieutenant Robert Middleton
Captain Kyle Drown	Captain Jeff Sheeler
Captain Brad Lann	Captain Dustin Morgan
Lieutenant Marcus Daniels	Chris Clem
Nick Genty	Lacey Kanipe
Cindy Murphy	Phillip Warriner
Donna Humphries	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hugh Finkelstein, DPS	Joan Shipley, DPS
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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Teague led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on January 31, 2024.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairman Teague stated the next thing on the agenda is the approval of the minutes, any questions on that?

Commissioner Reeves made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024, regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Allison seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Captain Philip Hydron promoting him to Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Franklin McMillion promoting him to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Alex Bray promoting him to Sergeant in the Administrative Services Division, Armory.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Thomas Sweeney promoting him to Sergeant in the Director’s Office, Executive Protection.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Bryson Schulz promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop B.

WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:

Major Ron Casey presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

- WHEREAS: Captain David W. Moore efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-eight years, eleven months, and twenty-eight days;
- WHEREAS: Captain David W. Moore retired from this department December 31, 2023;
- WHEREAS: His departure creates a vacancy that will be most difficult to fill, which is recognized by each and every member of the Arkansas State Police Commission;
- WHEREAS: Captain David W. Moore has made formal request that his service weapon be retired with him and remain in his possession;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Arkansas State Police Commission, in its regular meeting at Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas on Thursday, February 08, 2024, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA072, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Allison made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Basore seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

- WHEREAS: Captain David W. Moore efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-eight years, eleven months, and twenty-eight days;
- WHEREAS: Captain David W. Moore retired from this department December 31, 2023;
- WHEREAS: His departure creates a vacancy that will be most difficult to fill, which is recognized by each and every member of the Arkansas State Police Commission;
- WHEREAS: Captain David W. Moore has made formal request that his shotgun be retired with him and remain in his possession;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Arkansas State Police Commission, in its regular meeting at Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas on Thursday, February 08, 2024 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number PC541312, that Captain David W. Moore has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Captain David W. Moore be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

Commissioner Allison made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Basore seconded the motion. Commission Chairman

Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

Commission Chairman Teague stated now we have the division reports and first is the Fiscal Section Report by Ms. Karen Perry.

Fiscal Section – Karen Perry

Karen Perry stated Good Morning, Colonel, and Commissioners you have the January report in front of you. We have a positive highlight, we were able to increase our GS01 to GS05 salaries to midpoint, that effected 59 employees for a total of about \$250,000. We have our contract with Witsell, Evans, and Rasco as the architect for the new barracks facility and that contract is a little over \$900,000. Our fuel cost for the month of January, we averaged \$2.50 a gallon and so for the year that is about \$2.99 average. Commissioner Edwards stated so you have \$4.00 budgeted for fuel, is that right. Ms. Perry stated yes sir. Commissioner Edwards asked what happens to that at the end of the year? Ms. Perry stated we can spend it for agency operations for things that we are not able to do during the year that we hold on to, we can use it to purchase those things.

Administrative Services – Major Roby Rhoads

Major Roby Rhoads stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, and Colonel Hagar good morning, the Administrative Services report for January includes the following personnel transactions, on the uniformed noncommissioned side we had two new hires, one promotion, two terminations, one demotion and one transfer. The commissioned transactions included five new hires which were the reinstatements, two terminations, fifty-seven transfers, two promotions and one disciplinary. We currently have five military deployments.

Major Roby Rhoads stated we have thirty applicants that are supposed to start the 2024-A Troop School on Sunday, February 18. Our orientation for that Troop School is Monday, February 12, and graduation for the school will be April 25.

Major Roby Rhoads stated for our Wellness Unit, we had thirty-seven visits last month, so that is a lot of work for the people who are working back there. They are doing a great job.

Major Roby Rhoads stated for the ASP Health Plan, we had a decrease last month of over a half million dollars. The January paid claims were \$1,118,000.00 which is good, and our fund balance is \$115,000 and some change higher than last month, so it was a good month. Commissioner Allison stated how many did we have in the last Troop School? Major Roby Rhoads stated we started off with sixty-seven. Commissioner Allison stated and we graduated fiftyish. Major Rhoads stated we graduated 50ish, yes sir. Commissioner Allison stated and we are doing thirty this time, is it money that is keeping us from doing more? Major Roby Rhoads stated it was certified schools, we did two back-to-back certified schools so some of these were left over from the last class, we just couldn't bring that many people in and then we have some additional that we have added in here. Commissioner Allison asked why not fifty this time, I guess is my point? Major Roby Rhoads stated it is not always easy to find certified guys that want to come in. Colonel Hagar stated we have fished that pond dry so to speak.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next, Crimes Against Children, Major Jeff Drew.

Major Jeff Drew stated good morning, Colonel, Chairman, and Commissioners, CACD Hotline received 4,948 calls in January, with 2,088 of those being accepted for investigation. There were 16 child deaths reported, four of those were investigated, and twelve were assessed. Our investigations accepted 472 new cases and closed 493 cases, with 135 of those being found true, for a substantiation rate of 27%. Commissioner Hinkle asked, does your division do the initial investigation or is it turned over to CID when it is found out that it may be necessary? Major Drew stated what takes place once we get the call, we make contact with law enforcement, and it is a joint investigation. What we will do, we mainly handle the child part of it, make sure we get that taken care of and law enforcement does the offender if we are looking at criminal charges with it. Then all of it is compiled and presented to the prosecutor to decide if they want to go with criminal charges. But it is a joint investigation. Commissioner Hinkle stated it just goes the regular way after that? Major Drew stated yes sir.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Major Stacie Rhoads, Criminal Investigations.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated good morning, Colonel, Chairman, Commissioners. For the month of January, we initiated one hundred and twenty-four investigations, two of those were homicides and five of those were officer involved shootings. We initiated two in custody deaths at our local jail facilities, and we opened three criminal misconduct investigations against law enforcement officers. Major Stacie Rhoads stated I actually have two things that I want to highlight today. As you may recall from the last Troop School, we were able to hire seven investigators directly into CID. With the increased number of troopers that we are hiring, you know our troop commanders I noticed a lot of them are in the room today, we have been able to increase our numbers in CID. Over the past two weeks you probably would guess, it is a little bit of a transition going from Highway Patrol work into Criminal Investigation work, so for the past two weeks we have been able to put twenty-three people into a new agent school. With that they learn things like blood pattern analysis, court room testimony, working those crimes against children investigations, that finishes up today with a practical exercise of doing an officer involved shooting, which is obviously one of the most critical investigations that we conduct. The other thing that I want to highlight is you probably heard me mention about the criminal misconduct on police officers. I want to highlight our Special Investigations Unit. I generally, they don't like this term, but I generally call them our shadow agents. Most of our agents out in the field are imbedded in the local agencies there and get called routinely to assist with investigations. These special investigators are the ones that get tapped to do those very sensitive investigations involving law enforcement, judges, and stuff like that. So typically, we only call them out of the shadows when it is a pretty difficult case to work. Just this past week, Special Agent McNeill was tasked with working two very difficult cases and this past week unfortunately he had to arrest a police chief and an officer for criminal misconduct. Those are difficult and it puts a stain on all of us, but we have that Special Investigations Unit they are willing to do that work because they understand the importance of it. So, I just wanted you all to know that aspect of what we do.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Regulatory and Building Operations Division, Captain Dustin Morgan.

Captain Morgan stated good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Hagar during the month of January the ID Bureau and AFIS Section processed 22,619 civil background checks and 8,401 criminal fingerprint submissions. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 272 dealer applications and one complaint was investigated. The PI Security section processed 463 applications, our ASP Bomb Squad handled five separate explosive calls, and Fire Investigators conducted two origin and cause investigations. Commissioner Basore asked how are the concealed carry permits these days? Captain Morgan asked in terms of numbers. Commissioner Basore stated numbers and any controversy with ATF and those issues that came up earlier, is anybody working on that? Captain Morgan stated in terms of ATF, since we responded, we have not heard back. Captain Morgan stated in terms of numbers, we had in the month of January, 196 new applications, so we are down.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Highway Patrol Division, Major Ron Casey.

Major Ron Casey stated for the month of January, Troopers arrested 1,346 people for criminal arrests that is 2,141 charges. The DWI arrests were 220 by Troopers in January and 6 DUIs for underage. A total of 5,012 hazardous arrests including speeding, reckless driving and so forth. Troopers actually arrested 509 people under those violations, physical arrests. They wrote 12,864 citations in the month of January. Aircraft had 6 missions. There were 39 pursuits in the state. Troopers investigated 1,356 crashes with 19 of those being fatalities, and they drove 853,987 miles. There were 14,009 DL/CDL tests given. I am going to add a category that we should have been doing a long time ago, is our Telecom. For last year they took 291,943 calls in to their dispatch that is statewide. For the month of January, there has been 23,337 calls, so those dispatchers get slammed every month and I would like to start acknowledging them every month. Total on the criminal side of it as far as drugs and money seizures, there was 718 pounds of marijuana, 5.63 pounds of methamphetamine, 2.26 pounds of cocaine, 32 pounds of other illicit drugs, and troopers confiscated \$102,056.00 for the month of January. Major Casey stated I want to give a heartfelt appreciation to the troopers, in Troop A alone, and Major Stacie Rhoads alluded to this, we had officer involved shootings. One of the troopers took a round that hit his spotlight as he was exiting the vehicle after he performed a PIT; I mean that is that close to him getting hit. They did eliminate the threat.

Second incident two troopers were involved in a shooting, one of the troopers was inside the car with his hand on the suspects pistol when it went off and both troopers did an outstanding job of eliminating the threat, but it was that close. Two of them up close and personal. Major Casey stated I don't want to be too gory but one of the troopers that was inside the vehicle actually got matter from the suspect on him in his face. Very close and I just can't say enough about what they go through. Major Casey stated last night, I could tell this next month, yesterday or last night Troopers answered call to two different jumpers across the state, one was on the Mississippi River bridge at West Memphis. One of the troopers, Trooper Billy Martin, he got a rapport with the person that was wanting to commit suicide and actually talked him down and they got the person off the bridge. Another incident Trooper Moya Hawkins in Troop E at the Black River bridge after a pursuit that the county was in. That guy, the suspect, was wanting to jump but Trooper Hawkins he got a relationship with that guy and saved his life and got him off the bridge. These were just yesterday, so outstanding work by these guys every day. Commissioner Allison stated he would just like to congratulate you and your team on the amount of drugs you are getting off the road, off the street, it is an outstanding job. Major Casey stated I think I told you this last month, but our ICP Team is now a standalone team that starts officially on Sunday, February 11. Those guys will report to Highway Patrol Admin, there will be a Lieutenant and Sergeant that is over that team and right now we have twelve, we hope to add to that team in the future. That is their sole purpose, I am not saying they won't answer calls when the troops are short, but we don't want them tied up with major crashes and minor calls for service if you want to say minor, they are going to be focused on interdiction.

Commissioner Edwards stated Major that email you sent out with all those pictures of the drug seizures, that was incredible, and I got to think that is 5% of what is really going through, if we are lucky. Major Casey stated yes sir. Commissioner Basore stated based on those numbers, there is enough fentanyl alone to kill 755,000 people.

Commission Chairman Teague asked how many pursuits did you say you had? Major Casey stated we had 39 in January. Commission Chairman Teague stated of those pursuits, how many of those did you have to do the PIT? Major Casey stated Mr. Chairman I don't have those numbers, but it is probably going to be quite a few of those, probably a majority of them. Commission Chairman Teague asked do you still see that as being, are people still avoiding stopping when troopers, is that still a problem? Major Casey stated yes sir, it is a big problem, we probably have average of one a day somewhere. Major Casey stated a few get away, not very often. One of the troopers yesterday in Troop A used very good judgment because the traffic was so thick, he discontinued. I think that is a misconception to a lot of people, that we will just go until we hurt or kill somebody, or we tear up everything, but troopers really back off and they know when to discontinue for the safety of the public. Commission Chairman Teague stated well you guys are doing a good job out there, in all departments, but Highway Patrol is particularly active in what you do. Commissioner Allison stated I have to believe that number is going to go down, the number of chases, I have to believe with penalties, to me that has to go down. Major Casey stated we are hoping so and that was the purpose of legislation to get that to go down, but to be quite honest these people that are running they could care less about going to prison. Major Casey stated that is the sad part about it, you are looking at felony charges and going to prison, but we have to have buy in from the courts and prosecutors too, probation is not doing the job. Commission Chairman Teague asked do you have buy in from the courts or prosecutors. Major Casey stated we are pretty good, but we are still pretty fresh into this. Commissioner Reeves stated it is too early to tell. Commissioner Reeves stated one thought that occurred to me after reading the stuff from this month, the fact that it is now a felony may not deter them at first, but it could certainly enhance what sentence they get because they kill someone in the course of committing a felony and if they don't learn something from it, at least they will be spending a whole lot more time in the slammer.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Teague asked do we have any new business?

Colonel Mike Hagar stated Mr. Chairman I ask that we go into Executive Session to consider personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Reeves made a motion to go into Executive Session to consider personnel matters. Commissioner Hinkle seconded, and the motion passed. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:29 a.m.

Commission Chairman Teague called the meeting back to order at 11:33 a.m. and stated I think Colonel Hagar, you have some recommendations to make.

Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, we have two promotions to consider. The first one is Captain in the Criminal Investigation Division, Administration, my recommendation is Lieutenant Randall Murphy. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Lieutenant Randall Murphy be promoted to Captain in the Criminal Investigation Division, Administration. Commissioner Allison seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

The second one is Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A, my recommendation is Corporal Gabriel Monroe. Commissioner Akin made a motion that Corporal Gabriel Monroe be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A. Commissioner Reeves seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

Colonel Hagar stated that is all I have Mr. Chairman. Commission Chairman Teague stated I think that concludes our commission meeting today.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Teague stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Chairman Teague stated I don't have anything else on the agenda. Colonel Hagar, do you have anything else? With no more business, Commissioner Reeves made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Akin seconded and the motion passed.

Commission Chairman Teague adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary