

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
September 12, 2024

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at the Arkansas State Police Troop L Headquarters, Lowell, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Teague called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBER ON CONFERENCE CALL:

Commissioner John Allison, Vice-Chairman

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Colonel Mike Hagar	Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy
Lt. Colonel Jason Aaron	Major Stacie Rhoads
Major Jeff Drew	Captain Jeff Plouch
Sergeant Eric Lee	Lieutenant Phillip Pierce
Corporal Josh Arnold	Corporal Desmond Benton
Sergeant Aaron Keith	Lieutenant Jay McAllister
Lieutenant Matt Toon	Lieutenant Seth Pinner
Lieutenant Michael Bain	Captain Craig Teague
Captain Brad Lann	Karen Perry
Cindy Murphy	Jonathan Nettles
Phillip Warriner	Donna Humphries

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bill Carver – ASP Retired Captain	Doug Elms, SafeHaven Security
Patti Cannon, ASPF	Linda Craig, COPS

Commission Chairman Teague stated welcome everybody to our September Commission meeting, I appreciate everyone being here. This is our first of probably several meetings that we will be in time trying to get to the troops throughout the state. It will happen over many months and probably a few years, but we are trying to connect with the troops and get out so we can get to meet everybody at the different troop levels, so thank you for being here. I appreciate Captain Plouch and his staff for providing for us and getting everything set up.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Teague led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on August 30, 2024.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairman Teague stated you have in your packet the minutes of the August 8 meeting, what is your pleasure. Commissioner Reeves stated I make a motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2024, regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Basore seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, I, any opposed and the motion passed.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next, we have Weapon Resolutions by Captain Brad Lann.

WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:

Captain Brad Lann presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Kurt Ziegenhorn efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of fourteen years, eleven months, and eight days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Kurt Ziegenhorn retired from this department July 31, 2024;

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: Corporal Kurt Ziegenhorn 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, Troop L Headquarters in Lowell, Arkansas on Thursday, September 12, 2024, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA240, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

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

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Kurt Ziegenhorn efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of fourteen years, eleven months, and eight days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Kurt Ziegenhorn retired from this department July 31, 2024;

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: Corporal Kurt Ziegenhorn 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, Troop L Headquarters in Lowell, Arkansas on Thursday, September 12, 2024, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D517679M, that Corporal Kurt Ziegenhorn has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Kurt Ziegenhorn be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

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

Commission Chairman Teague stated that brings us to our division reports and first is Karen Perry on the Fiscal Report.

Fiscal Section – Karen Perry

Karen Perry stated good morning, Colonel, Commissioners, for August we went to PEER and received \$2.4 million for vehicles. Our Legislative Audit is almost complete, the auditor has moved out, we are just waiting on the final paperwork from supervisors, so we will know what will come of that next month. Next week we are going and asking for the \$3.2 million for Troop School.

Commission Chairman Teague asked what is the latest on the vehicles, as far as, were they going to discontinue the Chargers, or do you know? Colonel Hagar stated Lt. Colonel Mike

Kennedy could probably speak to that better than anyone. Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy stated yes, we have about 70 or so Dodge Chargers still on hand, so we are good to get us through the first of next year. Lieutenant Jeff Whitlock identified a source down in Mississippi this past week, it is a fleet guy down there who has 20 brand new Dodge Chargers setting on the lot, he is willing to sell us at the same rate we are paying for the Arkansas contract price. That is probably what we will end of doing with that \$3.2 million we got for Troop School is buying some more Dodge Chargers. We are set on chargers at least until they come out with the new Dodge Charger, whenever that will be. Commission Chairman Teague asked they are coming out with a new one? Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy stated they told us originally it would be December, but they are getting kind of gray on that, so I have a feeling they are going to push that back to February or March.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Administrative Services, Captain Craig Teague.

Administrative Services – Captain Craig Teague

Captain Craig Teague stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, and Colonel Hagar good morning, the Administrative Services report for August includes the following personnel transactions. For the uniformed noncommissioned we had four new hires, one voluntary resignation and one rehire. The commissioned transactions included one retirement, one disciplinary termination, four transfers, and one voluntary demotion. We currently have three military deployments.

Captain Teague stated right now we are still in the hiring process for Troop School, we have 59 applicants that have gone through the psychological and medical screening for the 2024B Troop School. That is to begin October 13, 2024, and they will graduate March 27, 2025.

Captain Teague stated for the Wellness Unit they assisted 29 individuals and did three follow-up visits, they spoke at two events, and had one debrief. Baptist Health Nurses helped 24 patients, and the nurse practitioner saw 77 patients.

Captain Teague stated regarding the ASP Health Plan, the August paid claims were \$1.4 million, that is an increase of \$64,695.00 from last month. Our fund balance is \$102,181.97 higher than last month for a total fund balance of \$14.3 million. The savings discount for July was 68.6%.

Commissioner Edwards stated that is a pretty good school. Captain Teague stated yes, we are excited about it.

Commission Chairman Teague asked so right now you are going through the psychological evaluations. Captain Teague stated yes sir, we are about halfway through the applicants right now and we have orientation 7th of October. Commission Chairman Teague asked typically what is the fall out? Captain Teague stated from the psychological, it is not too bad, usually around two or three applicants per 50, but actually right now we are halfway through, and we do not have any and we are pretty happy about that.

Commission Chairman Teague stated Major Drew Crimes Against Children.

Major Jeff Drew stated good morning, Colonel, Chair, and Commissioners, the CACD Hotline received 5,458 calls in August, with 2,367 of those being accepted for investigation. Major Drew stated there were thirteen child deaths for the reporting time period, five were investigated, seven assessed, and just one documented. Major Drew stated the investigations had 565 new cases and closed 506 cases, with 161 of those being found true which gave us a substantiation rate of 32%.

Commission Chairman Teague stated next is Criminal Investigations.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated so for the month of August, we initiated 138 Criminal Investigations, twenty-seven of those were death investigations, four of those were primary homicide investigations. We worked two officer involved shootings and initiated four misconduct investigations involving police officers. Major Rhoads stated one of the things that I want you to know, I know I get up here every month and talk about generally we work over 100, close to 100 to 140 cases every month, and I only tell you about the significant ones that we work on. I don't tell you about all of the thefts, all of the furnishing cases, that we

deploy to ADC to work. We work a lot of this, but what I want to point out this month, we had a significant number of arrests this month, it was well over 100 and a lot of that is we work these cases and all of those come to fruition typically with an arrest and we have a really high number of those. A lot of those were related to Internet Crimes Against Children and some of those homicide investigations that I talked to ya'll about every month. Just last week at Company E on one day, we responded and arrested a person that had made threats against the Attorney General. We were working a missing person case, who had been missing for over a year and a half, we dug him up out of a field there in Van Buren County, and then we responded to Searcy County to a women who had been dismembered. I don't tell ya'll all of the little stuff, typically I tell you about a lot of the big stuff but all that little stuff matters. Some of our representation here in Company D is a vital part of that.

Commission Chairman Teague stated Highway Patrol Division, Captain Brad Lann.

Captain Brad Lann stated for the Highway Patrol Division for the month of August, there were 3,274 criminal arrests, and 2,139 persons arrested. There were 370 DWI arrests, eight DUI arrests, total hazardous arrests were 9,852, the total number of nonhazardous and hazardous was 24,225. There were eleven aircraft missions for the month of August, and there were 57 vehicle pursuits. Troopers investigated 1,311 traffic crashes, 44 of those being fatal. They recovered 16 stolen vehicles at an estimated value of \$265,700.00. Troopers drove 943,274 miles, seized 385 pounds of marijuana, 102.88 pounds of methamphetamine, 40.39 pounds of cocaine, 291 various pills, 9 pounds of other various drugs, and seized a total of \$54,117.00 in drug currency. On the DL/CDL side they gave 24,146 total tests. Dispatch had 34,371 calls for service. Captain Lann stated one thing that we just recently wrapped up as of last week was Operation North Star with the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force. We have been doing this since the spring, a couple days a week, we had troopers going after fugitives that have been on the run for a long time for violent crimes such as murder, rape, sexual assaults, felony battery and they were making 12, 14, 15 arrests a day and that wrapped up last week. I do not have all of the totals, waiting on the US Marshals to get that to us.

Commission Chairman Teague stated I will say this, I looked at the video, I think it was on I-55 in Northeast Arkansas, the guy that was evading, got on the interstate going the wrong way and the trooper engaged him pretty quickly going the wrong way and pitted him and I think it happened pretty quick. I was impressed with how quickly the trooper engaged him and got him off of the freeway, that was pretty impressive. Our troopers do a really good job out there.

Commission Chairman Teague stated and last is Lieutenant Jay McAllister, Regulatory and Building Operations Division.

Lieutenant Jay McAllister stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Hagar during the month of August, the Identification Bureau and AFIS Section processed 29,358 civil background checks and 9,677 criminal fingerprint submissions. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 215 dealer applications. The PI Security Section processed 666 applications. The ASP Bomb Squad handled twelve explosive calls, two of those calls were interesting, they occurred in Saline County and Monroe County. The Saline County call involved Arkansas' first homemade explosives lab, and the Monroe County call involved 48 military rockets that were damaged in a crash along I-40. The bomb squad assisted Air Force EOD in checking those rockets to make sure they were safe. The incident in Saline County resulted in the arrest of a man, and both of his parents, numerous weapons along with homemade explosives were discovered. FBI, ATF, Little Rock Fire Department, Pulaski County Haz Mat, Benton Police Department and Bomb Squad responded to that call and that case is still ongoing. The fire investigators conducted 4 origin and cause investigations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Teague asked do we have any new business? Commission Chairman Teague stated we need to discuss and approve the Troop School Eligibility list, and I think we need to go into executive session. Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, I would ask that we go into executive session. Commission Chairman Teague stated we need a motion to go into executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Reeves stated I make a motion that we retire into Executive Session to consider personnel matters. Commissioner Akin 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 10:17 a.m.

Commission Chairman Teague called the meeting back to order at 11:32 a.m. and stated I think Colonel Mike Hagar has some recommendations. Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, two recommendations, one for the class of 2024B, I recommend the hiring list be approved by the commission.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the eligibility list of 59 recruits. Commissioner Basore seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion, and a second, any further discussion on the 2024B recruit applicant list. All in favor, I, any opposition? Commission Chairman Teague stated so ordered, and the below list of applicants was approved.

Nicholas Ade	Jace Bailey	Christopher Belt
Katorious Bluford	Timothy Brown II	Roman Charmello
Kolton Deblieux	Jayvean Dyer-Jones	Joshua Fitzgerald
Benjamin Floyd	Terrance Foy	Anthony Freeman
Noah Fricke	Jacob Garcia	Rafael Garcia
Ethan Hiland	Hunter Hill	James Hobson
Hunter Hoffman	Devin Holt	Jordan Horton
Derrick Jacobs	Justin Jarvi	Jonathan Johnson
Joshua Jones	Damian Jurisic	Logan Loftis
Brandon Loy	Ty Lynch	Ke'von Medley
Trevor Monk	Jacob Moody	Connor Nash
Sean Palmer	Michael Parks	Sheldon Phipps
Steven Plyler	Damion Potts	Billy Puckett
Angel Ramos	William Roark	Keegan Roberts
Keashawn Robinson	Zane Rogers	Holly Romero
Zachary Roy	Gage Sanders	John Schumann
Hunter Schwantz	Joshua Smeltzer	Austin Taylor
Eli Thomas	Jeffery Walker	Tristan Wamsley
Jimmy Watson	Ronald Weast, Jr.	Jackson Webb
Trey Williams	Stephen Williford	

Colonel Hagar stated the second recommendation is a position for Troop H Highway Patrol Sergeant, my recommendation is Corporal Joshua Elmore. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Corporal Joshua Elmore be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H. Commissioner Reeves seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Teague stated we have a motion to approve, and a second, all in favor, I, and the motion passed.

Commission Chairman Teague stated again, I want to thank Troop L for hosting the meeting today. I appreciate the Captain, and everyone involved in setting up for the meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Teague stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Teague stated that is all I have, is there was anything else we need to report? Commissioner Hinkle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Reeves seconded and the motion passed. Commission Chairman Teague adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary