

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
April 9, 2026

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Colonel Mike Hagar	Lt. Colonel Jason Aaron
Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy	Major Philip Hydron
Major Stacie Rhoads	Major Mike Moyer
Captain Randall Murphy	Major Jeff Drew
Sherry Woods	Kalika Rogers
Dan Mack	Captain Joe Carter
Major Roby Rhoads	Captain John Carter
Captain Rick Neill	Sergeant Todd Harris
Jenna Castleberry	Ariel Hooper
Captain Seth Pinner	Sergeant Nathan Williams
Corporal Ben Ibarra	Eric Wacaster
Captain Marcus Daniels	Susan Tedford
Caitlin Teague	Rindi Snow
Captain Kyle Drown	Captain Jeff Plouch
Lieutenant Bobby Brown	Captain Craig Teague
Captain Chris Goodman	Trooper Nathan Jynes
Ashley Easterly	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tawnie Hughes, AG's Office	Luke Woolman, AG's Office
Family of Trooper Nathan Jynes	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated join me in the pledge of allegiance, please.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated thank you, you may be seated and we will call the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated an item I want to cover is, there are numerous comments made on social media about how much help our employees have been to people in the field, when they were broken down, when they had a flat on 100 degree day, here some trooper is out here on the side of the road changing a tire for a lady. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated if you will allow me to, I would like to read this encouraging post.

My name is Coty DeWitt; I am stationed at Fort Rucker Alabama. My wife was traveling back to Neosho, MO to visit family before we move to Germany. While driving on I-40 westbound she called and informed me the truck was overheating. She tried to turn around and head toward Forrest City to get our vehicle looked at, but it began overheating too quickly. She called 911 and Trooper Medley responded. Upon arrival not only did he ask to call a tow truck, which is all he really needed to do, but he had her pop the hood and helped diagnose the issue. He used his own drinking water to add to our coolant reservoir and followed my wife to the Palestine exit. The temperature held where it should have been during the short 3-mile drive. Not only did he ensure she got off the side of the road, but upon arrival he helped the mechanic at the gas station find where my coolant was leaking from, so he could fix our vehicle promptly. Only after knowing that she and my kids were in good hands, did he wish her a blessed day and proceeded with his duties protecting and serving Arkansas. My wife told me he was an Angel and I believe it as well. Trooper Medley went above and beyond to ensure my wife and kids were taken care of in an extremely stressful situation. I was useless, being over 7 hours away. He stepped up and represented

D Troop with the utmost professionalism and compassion. They are happily on their way to visit family. Thank you Arkansas State Police, Troop D, and Trooper Medley for what you do. I am forever grateful. Cody DeWitt.

Commission Chairman Hinke stated that is only one example of many, many things that we hear at State Police and one reason that I wanted to read this today, hopefully it will be in the minutes, Ashley. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated there are comments from every division, every person that works for Arkansas State Police, whether it be a driver's license examiner, or whoever, of what a great job you people in this room are doing and I want it entered into the minutes, thank you friend for allowing me to do that this morning.

Commissioner Reeves stated that raises a question in my mind, when we get messages like that does that go into the troopers personnel file? Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I don't know on social media if it does or not. Colonel Hagar stated usually yes, it goes to their supervisors file not their actual personnel file.

Commissioner Reeves stated I think it would be appropriate to do so. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I think the day that this happened, I called and asked for a copy and I think there was two more that same day, it is just unbelievable the job you people in this room are doing whether it is CID or Crimes Against Children or whoever it is, it is outstanding and we just want ya'll to know, we sincerely appreciate it, it is not taken for granted.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on March 31, 2026.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated if you have had a chance to look at the minutes, I would entertain a motion to approve or to modify the minutes. Commissioner Teague stated I move that we approve the minutes of March 12, 2026, regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Reeves seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and second, any discussion or questions, all in favor say aye, all those opposed, so ordered.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have an official commendation presentation for Trooper Nathan Jynes with the overview by Sergeant Todd Harris.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Sergeant Todd Harris stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Hagar, and Command Staff good morning, before I give you the events of this, I just need to say a couple of things about Trooper Jynes, if I were to present him an award for every time he did an outstanding job we would be in session three days a week for the next 6 years. This is one of the troopers you are going to see over and over and over and over because of his dedication, because of his ability and his desire to work, Trooper Jynes exemplifies what a State Trooper should look like and act like. This is a wonderful young trooper, and I see a bright, bright future in him. Sergeant Harris stated on July 3, 2025, Troop E Dispatch received radio communication indicating the White Hall Police Department was actively engaged in a vehicle pursuit on W. Holland Avenue near Interstate 530. While troopers in the area were responding to assist, Trooper Nathan Jynes, who was off duty at the time and operating his personally owned vehicle (POV) was unaware of the ongoing pursuit. By chance, Trooper Jynes was in the area of the pursuit on personal business, unknowingly placing his vehicle directly in front of the suspect vehicle when he observed it abruptly stop with units close behind, and then observed the driver flee on foot. Without hesitation and recognizing the seriousness of the unfolding event, Trooper Jynes quickly assessed the situation and acted decisively. He stopped his vehicle to intercept the fleeing suspect. As he exited his vehicle to engage the suspect, the suspect mistakenly interpreted the action, ran to Trooper Jynes' vehicle opened the passenger door, apparently believing it was a means to flee the area. Trooper Jynes immediately identified himself and challenged the suspect, who then fled again on foot into a nearby wooded area. Trooper Jynes maintained a visual on the suspect to assess a possible route of travel until the suspect was hidden by the surrounding brush. Trooper Jynes repositioned his vehicle to the next cross street, parked behind roadside vegetation, and

waited for the suspect to emerge. Due to the uncertainty of weapons involved or the mental state of the fleeing suspect, Trooper Jynes placed himself at a position of cover while maintaining a clear visual of the area. When the suspect exited the woods and continued to flee across the road, Trooper Jynes again identified himself and challenged the suspect a second time. The suspect complied with verbal commands and was taken into custody without incident. Assisting units arrived to take the suspect into custody and transport. Because of Trooper Jynes' quick thinking, situational awareness, decisive action and lack of hesitation, even while off duty, reflect extremely well on him and the Arkansas State Police. As a result of Trooper Jynes' actions, felony charges were filed against the suspect for Violation of the Machine Gun Act, Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver, and Possession of Firearms by Certain Persons as well as several misdemeanor charges. Trooper Jynes' actions during this incident were exemplary and are a genuine reflection of his day-to-day work ethic and continued dedication to the safety of his community, his troop, and his state.

Colonel Hagar presented Trooper Nathan Jynes with an Official Commendation Award.

Colonel Hagar stated next Sergeant Nathan Williams will read the overview for Corporal Ben Ibarra.

Sergeant Nathan Williams stated good morning, Colonel, Mr. Chairman, and Commissioners, I am here today to recognize Corporal Ben Ibarra for his work following a pursuit in October of last year. Sergeant Nathan Williams stated on October 29, 2025, at approximately 10:11 p.m., Corporal Ben Ibarra initiated a traffic stop on an Infiniti passenger car observed traveling eastbound on I-30 near mile marker 133 at excessive speed. Immediately upon activation of his emergency lights, the suspect vehicle fled recklessly at high speeds. During the pursuit, the fleeing vehicle sideswiped another motorist, overturned, penetrated a chain link fence, and ultimately struck heavy equipment on the property of a local equipment dealership. The driver was ejected in the crash, and the vehicle began to catch fire. Corporal Ibarra acted without hesitation, quickly gathered tools to access the fenced area, continued to provide critical radio updates to dispatch, and moved to assess the occupants of the wrecked vehicle. He located two passengers still inside, one of which appeared to be deceased. Corporal Ibarra, along with other troopers and emergency personnel, removed the second passenger and attempted lifesaving measures, which unfortunately were unsuccessful. In the days following the incident, investigators learned that all three occupants were of Hispanic descent, and their identities were not immediately known. Corporal Ibarra took it upon himself to use his Spanish language proficiency to assist in identifying the two deceased teenage passengers. Throughout the following week, Corporal Ibarra conducted numerous phone calls and in person visits, many occurring outside of his normal duty hours, to make contact with potential family members. He also supported Company A CID by meeting during off hours and accompanying investigators to the hospital to speak with the surviving driver. Corporal Ibarra further demonstrated compassion and professionalism by meeting with multiple family members at the Medical Examiner's Office to assist with next of kin notifications and answer their questions in a manner they could clearly understand. While initiating the pursuit itself was a routine duty expected of every trooper, Corporal Ibarra's actions after the incident were far beyond what is required. His diligence, language skills, and commitment to assisting both the investigation and the affected families were instrumental in identifying the individuals involved and in ensuring that the families received accurate and timely communication. Corporal Ibarra's conduct exemplifies the highest standards of the Arkansas State Police and his dedication, professionalism and willingness to serve, even while off duty, make him truly deserving of this Official Commendation.

Colonel Hagar presented Corporal Ben Ibarra with an Official Commendation Award.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated division reports, Fiscal Report, Ms. Jenna Castleberry.

Jenna Castleberry stated good morning, Colonel, Mr. Chair and Commissioners, your reports record three quarters of the fiscal year. Ms. Castleberry stated things of note, the Fiscal Session just started yesterday, so we will be monitoring our appropriation bill as it moves through that. Ms. Castleberry stated our biggest activity for the month is just budget preparation, we will be completing inner operation planning, usually in May, so we are prepping for that.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I think probably the reason we don't have any questions, is everybody knows where we are on budget right now, we are not going to know anything for a while.

Commissioner Edwards asked what are the fuel prices doing to our budget? Ms. Castleberry stated it is going up, so at the tank, commercial tanks, we are paying about \$2.97 a gallon. Commissioner Teague stated so the revenue versus expenses looks like my checking account for March, kind of out of whack, is that front end loaded for expenditures in March? Ms. Castleberry stated some of our revenues are quarterly and one of our big quarterly revenues will be coming up in April and that will correct some of those percentages then. Commissioner Teague stated okay, thank you.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Roby Rhoads.

Major Roby Rhoads stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Hagar good morning, for March, we had four military deployments.

Major Roby Rhoads stated the POLAR Team assisted 51 individuals and made 15 follow-up visits.

Major Roby Rhoads stated we started our two-day in-service training last month and that includes EVOC, Active Shooter, and Defensive Tactics.

Major Roby Rhoads stated the Health Plan; we received \$372,850.00 in drug rebates and we had contractual savings of over \$1.7 million. Major Roby Rhoads stated the fund balance increased by \$432,000 which is good.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Crimes Against Children, Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron.

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron stated good morning, Colonel, Chairman, and Commissioners, the Hotline received 6,321 contacts for the month of March of which, 2,716 were phone calls and 3,605 came in through the online portal. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated that is about a 575 more than last month. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated 3,557 of those contacts were accepted at a rate of 56%, of those 3,557, 648 were accepted, routed through the maltreatment, and assigned to CACD Investigators. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated for the month of March that CACD closed 506 cases with 157 being found as true, which gave us a substantiation rate of 31%, which is average.

Commissioner Reeves stated that is better than a 10% increase in the contacts, is there an explanation? Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated that the month of March had three more days in it compared to February. Commissioner Reeves stated I was comparing it to March of last year, contacts in March 2026 was 6,321 and in March of last year was 5,700 so it is a little better than 10% increase year over year. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated, I think overall our numbers increase each year. Commissioner Reeves stated the public is becoming more aware of how to report stuff. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron yes more aware of how to report it.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I don't see the number going up as bad, it may be in fact good that we are finding out that there is more problems out there that need addressing. Commissioner Reeves stated that's a good point.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Stacie Rhoads.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated Mr. Chairman, Colonel, Commissioners good morning for the month of March we initiated 153 criminal cases, three of those were officer involved shootings, we worked one primary homicide and 22 total death investigations. We had 69 felony arrests, we conducted 72 crime scene searches, we conducted 259 interviews, executed 53 search warrants, had 30 court appearances and we had three FARO scans using our crime scene scanner.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated I want to highlight two things that we are really proud of in CID. One, our Human Trafficking Unit was recently recognized at the Child Protection Award Luncheon, it is called the Percy Malone Child Protection Award, and it is given to those who

show outstanding work in the area of child protection. Our Human Trafficking Unit was instrumental and involved in the rescue of over 200 children just for the year 2025, so they were recognized. Major Stacie Rhoads stated it was a really compelling moment, and so glad people are recognizing the work that our Human Trafficking Unit is doing, yeah, we are three years into it. Major Stacie Rhoads stated the other thing I want to highlight is a recent arrest that we had just a few days ago and it was a case that we actually initiated last fall, and it was a burglary and rape investigation of a twenty-year-old female in Warren. Major Stacie Rhoads stated it was one of those horrific cases, someone broke into her home, raped her, tied her up, choked her with a belt, all of those horrific things you do not want to think about, and she didn't know the person. Our guys dug in and they rapidly identified a suspect and with our connections with the crime lab, immediately sent the DNA that was collected during the crime scene search and got a hit on a suspect and had him in custody in just a matter of days. Major Stacie Rhoads stated just day before yesterday they went to a jury trial, and he was convicted and received four life sentences plus 60 years. Major Stacie Rhoads stated so just some outstanding work by our folks down there, particularly Special Agents Grant Evans and David Tumey, so I just wanted to let you all know that is a good sentencing.

Commissioner Allison asked Major Stacie Rhoads, so you are working on a bunch of, didn't I read about a cold case, are ya'll going out and looking through cold cases and solving some of those? Major Stacie Rhoads stated yes, what we have really been focusing on here recently is there are so many unidentified human remains that we have, cases we have never known who they were, bones that were found or remains that were found. Major Stacie Rhoads stated we have been working through the crime lab to get these folks identified and what we are finding out is a lot of these people, based on their lifestyle, were never reported missing, so it is hard to match up those. Major Stacie Rhoads stated we have been working with Othram, a lab down in Texas that does forensic genealogy testing, and we have been able to locate family members and actually now we can start an actual investigation, now that we know who they are, it is really fantastic and we have actually been helping other states, we have helped Alaska solve two of theirs by pulling DNA and stuff. Major Stacie Rhoads stated we have retired part-time police officers that are helping with that.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Philip Hydron.

Major Philip Hydron stated Colonel Hagar, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners good morning the Highway Patrol Division answered 32,327 calls for service during the month of March. Major Hydron stated we made 2,232 criminal arrests, 458 of those being were for felony offenses. Major Hydron stated we had 273 DWI arrests, issued 17,069 citations, 7,112 were for hazardous violations, 20,393 warnings were issued, and we conducted 3,228 motorists assists. Major Hydron stated we had 30 vehicle pursuits for the month of March, we completed 1,007 crash investigations, unfortunately 25 resulted in fatal injuries. Major Hydron stated our DL/CDL personnel tested 21,724 individuals. Major Hydron stated our ICP team seized 1,251 pounds of marijuana, 22 pounds of cocaine, and quantities of valium, fentanyl, gabapentin, and THC vapes and edibles. Major Hydron stated our SWAT Team conducted 24 missions, and our Aircraft Section flew 18 missions.

Commissioner Reeves stated over 3,000 service to motorists? Major Hydron stated yes sir, 3,228. Commissioner Reeves asked what is included in that, we always hear about helping change a flat and all, but I am sure there are other things, what else is included in that? Major Hydron stated yes sir, so if somebody has vehicle problems, we will go out there. Major Hydron stated a lot of times we can't fix the problem on the side of the road, so we will call for assistance, whether that be a wrecker, family members to come get them or something like that. Major Hydron stated a lot of times if they have got children with them, we will take the family and the children to a local motel until their family members can get there to be with them. Major Hydron stated it is just a variety of things, flat tires, vehicle problems. Commissioner Reeves stated primarily vehicle issues. Major Hydron stated yes sir.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Mike Moyer.

Major Mike Moyer stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, and Colonel Hagar good morning, during the month of March, the Identification Bureau processed 23,350 civil background checks and 9,360 criminal fingerprint submissions. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 331 dealer applications, and the PI Security Section processed 596 applications.

Our Fire Investigators conducted three origin and cause investigations, and the Bomb Squad handled four explosive calls.

Major Moyer stated an update on the barracks, they are about 95% complete, they actually started paving this week, towards the end of this month they will be working through the punch list to try to get all the little things touched up and completed so we are getting real close to finalizing that project.

Commission Chairman Hinkle asked do you think the month of June Commission Meeting would be reasonable to try to schedule it for out there or do we need to delay it for another month. Major Moyer stated I would probably say July just to be safe. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I expected that answer.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we will try to at least for now work toward a July meeting out there, Colonel, if that is okay.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I have noticed since I have been on here, we have had trouble with that microphone over and over. I know that handheld that Ashley picked up a while ago for Major Stacie Rhoads, they make a mic holder that will hold that, that doesn't seem to be a problem every time we use it, we can hear well, could we look into possibly getting a holder? Commissioner Reeves said or replacing the one that quits every month. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated it is not so bad on us as it is on you people out there that are trying to utilize it, that's who I am worried about. We are sitting here where we can hear you even if you are not using it, but the people out there cannot, so let's see if we can work toward a solution.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated new business, I understand we have some promotions to take a look at. Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, I would ask that we move to Executive Session to consider personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Reeves stated I move that we retire into Executive Session to consider personnel matters. Commissioner Basore seconded. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I have a motion and a second, all in favor say aye, all of those opposed. The Commission went into the Executive Session at 10:33 a.m.

At 11:13 a.m., Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I will call the meeting back to order, thank ya'll for waiting on us. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Colonel Hagar, I believe we have recommendations from you reference personnel.

Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, first we have a Sergeant promotion in Company D, and that is going to be a lateral transfer of Sergeant Aaron Keith, so there is no action by the Commission required.

Colonel Hagar stated next is Sergeant, Troop C, and the recommendation is Corporal Tommy Fitzgerald. Commissioner Edwards made a motion that Corporal Tommy Fitzgerald be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop C. Commissioner Teague seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I have a motion, and a second, any discussion, all in favor say, aye, all those opposed, so ordered.

Colone Hagar stated and next is Sergeant is in Troop H Highway Patrol and the recommendation is TFC Tyler Nelson. Commissioner Akin made a motion that TFC Tyler Nelson be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H. Commissioner Reeves seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I have a motion, and a second, any discussion, all in favor say, aye, all of those opposed, so ordered.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated the next regular scheduled meeting will be held on May 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated thank ya'll for your attendance and your patience, I appreciate ya'll coming today.

Commissioner Edwards stated I motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Akin seconded. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and second, we are adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary