

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
March 12, 2026

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Hinkle called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., thank you for your attendance here today, we have a room full of folks and that's very pleasant to see sitting up here. Glad ya'll are here today.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBER ABSENT:

Commissioner John Allison

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Lt. Colonel Jason Aaron	Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy
Major Philip Hydron	Major Stacie Rhoads
Major Mike Moyer	Captain Randall Murphy
Sherry Woods	Captain Coty Williams
Lieutenant Greg McNeese	Sergeant Josh Berry
Sergeant Brandon Love	Kalika Rogers
Dan Mack	Teresa Hardy
Haley Eby	Sergeant Chuck Lewis
Sergeant Christiana McKibben	Major Roby Rhoads
Eric Wacaster	Lieutenant Bobby Brown
Captain Rick Neill	Captain Scott Joe
Captain John D. Carter	Lieutenant Jeff Whitlock
Captain Seth Pinner	Captain Jeff Plouch
Shelly Cantrell	Lieutenant Matt Toon
Alexis Winters	Rindi Snow
Lieutenant Jamie E. Gravier	Jenna Castleberry
TFC Ethan Carlton	Captain Brady Gore
Captain Brad Lann	Captain Dustin Morgan
Corporal Trey Keller	Captain Wesley Smithee
Karen Perry	Sergeant Mike Dawson
Bridget White	Nick Genty
Lieutenant Jason Martin	Captain David Williams
Captain Jeff Sheeler	Captain Todd Shaw
Lieutenant Darren Austin	Scarlett Taylor
Captain Marcus Daniels	Donna Humphries

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michael L. Koets, AG's Office	Nakosha McNeese
Tyler Berry	Fern Leslie
Shelia Berry	Bob Berry
Dalton Warner	Joy Love
Mia Love	Brayan Love
Austin Coleman, Senator Cotton's Office	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on February 2, 2026. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I see Donna where the press has been notified. Donna stated yes sir.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I need to ask for a motion on the minutes. Commissioner Reeves stated I move that we approve the minutes of February 12, 2026, regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioners Teague/Basore 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 next, we have weapons resolutions by Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron.

WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Major Ron Casey efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty-three years, two months, and twenty-three days;

WHEREAS: Major Ron Casey retired from this department January 31, 2026;

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: Major Ron Casey 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, March 12, 2026, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 awards him, his Glock Model 19, Serial Number BMFZ817, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Teague made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and a second, any discussion, all in favor say aye, all those opposed, so ordered.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Major Ron Casey efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty-three years, two months, and twenty-three days;

WHEREAS: Major Ron Casey retired from this department January 31, 2026;

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: Major Ron Casey 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, March 12, 2026, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number RS45043K, that Major Ron Casey has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Major Ron Casey be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Teague made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and a second, any discussion, all in favor say aye, all those opposed, so ordered.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I would be remiss if I didn't make this statement, our Colonel is out of state at a mandatory meeting, he could not be here with us today and we are pleased that Lieutenant Colonel Aaron is sitting in for him today, but he is available for call in if we need him anytime today.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Promotion Certificates, Lieutenant Colonel Aaron.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Gregory McNeese promoting him to Lieutenant in the Director's Office, Executive Protection.

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron presented a promotion certificate to Captain Marcus Daniels promoting him to Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop E.

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Brandon Love promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A.

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Josh Berry promoting him to Sergeant in the Regulatory and Building Operations Division, Bomb Squad.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated we have a couple of Official Commendations to present next. I would like to invite CACD Administrator Kalika Rogers to present the Official Commendation overview for CACD Investigator Haley Eby.

CACD Administrator Kalika Rogers stated good morning, Colonel, Chair, and Commissioners on July 15, 2025, at approximately 5:27 a.m., the Arkansas State Police CACD Child Abuse Hotline received a neglect call regarding a 7-year-old boy. It was stated that this child's lifeless, emaciated, 30-pound body was taken to the hospital emergency room. His ribs were protruding, his pupils were dilated, he was not responding to verbal commands and minimally responded to painful stimuli. He was considered to be a near fatality. Doctors determined that the boy was severely malnourished and dehydrated. He had to be given medication to keep his blood pressure up and raise his glucose levels prior to being transported to Arkansas Children's Hospital. His heart rate was low, and doctors had to sedate and intubate him. They believed he would perish in the ER. The history given was that he was fine and walking around before bedtime the night before. They stated he had only suffered some gastrointestinal issues previously but there were no formal diagnosis. CACD Investigator Haley Eby was assigned the accepted investigation and upon researching the family's history she immediately determined that this was not the first malnutrition report involving this child. She requested a Health and Safety Assessment from the Division of Children and Family Services, as well as contacting a detective with the Russellville Police Department, who initiated a search warrant for the family residence. Investigator Eby coordinated with DHS, Division of Children and Family Services and local law enforcement to obtain medical records, criminal history, and benefits history for the family. It was discovered that there were also two other children in the home subjected to abuse and neglect at the hands of their parents. Through a thorough investigation, it was discovered that the 7-year-old and his 5-year-old sibling had been locked in plastic totes and closets on multiple occasions for extended periods of time, often being bound by rope. They were left to defecate, urinate, and vomit on themselves in those totes. The 7-year-old was made to eat in the same plastic tote while his siblings ate at the table. Both boys were diagnosed by medical professionals as failure to thrive due to medical torture. The 7-year old's condition was so severe that he had to have all of his teeth surgically removed and he was placed in ICU on an

ECMO machine due to the effects of the abuse and neglect on his body. In a statement provided by Russellville Police Department, a Lieutenant wrote “Investigator Eby’s efforts have helped discover new leads and develop probable cause for arrests, which may have never been discovered if not for her.” In this case in particular the Lieutenant stated, “her efforts led us detectives to physical evidence and the information she provided led to admissions of guilt.” CACD has substantiated its investigation with true findings of mental injury, extreme/repeated cruelty, non-accidental physical injury, threat of harm, and failure to provide food, medical and care. The Department of Children and Family Services removed the children from the home and are seeking termination of parental rights. Both parents were arrested by Russellville Police Department and were initially charged with Domestic Battery 1st Degree and Felony Endangering the Welfare of a Minor. After continued investigation, as of now they have also been charged with Attempted Capital Murder, Tampering with Evidence, and Kidnapping. Due to Investigator Eby’s hard work and dedication to protecting the children in the State of Arkansas, these children amongst other children in other cases are no longer being abused and neglected at the hands of their offenders. This 7-year-old who is now in stable condition, will have significant physical complications for the rest of his life. All three children are suspected to go on to have significant mental impacts for the rest of their lives. Due to CACD’s involvement and Investigator Eby’s coordination with partnering agencies, the children will have access to the future services they need. Investigator Eby worked long hours and collaborated well to ensure the best outcome possible for these children as she does with all of her investigations. She is a great example of what CACD does and stands for. She represents the agency well and should therefore be commended for her selfless service that emanates the Mission of the Arkansas State Police and that is to protect human life by providing the highest quality of law enforcement services to the public. Kalika Rogers stated and because of her great investigative efforts she also has just been promoted to supervisor.

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron presented Haley Eby with an Official Commendation Award.

Commissioner Teague stated Mr. Chairman can I make a comment real quick. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated sure. Commissioner Teague stated I know that a lot of our ASP personnel deal with issues like this on a habitual basis and to some extent they are not particularly surprised at what they find because they know this is out there. As a commissioner when I sit here and hear about how adults abuse children, I can’t wrap my mind around what kind of person can abuse a helpless child. It is unfathomable to me how a person like that thinks, a defenseless child that can’t help themselves and so when I see our people and in this particular case identify and save a child from a situation like that, it is very gratifying to me to know that we are addressing and helping save children in unfortunate situations. But the distressing part of it is that we don’t know how many more are out there and there are more that are out there. All we can do is just keep fighting the fight, but I sure appreciate the work that we do and thank you guys so much for that. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated thanks commissioner.

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated Sergeant Josh Berry will read the overview for TFC Ethan Carlton.

Sergeant Josh Berry stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Aaron on August 4, 2025, the Arkansas State Police (ASP) SWAT Team was requested to respond to a barricaded suspect in Stephens, Arkansas. During the encounter, the suspect fired multiple rounds at ASP SWAT armored vehicles with what was believed to be armor-piercing ammunition. This created an extremely dangerous environment, significantly reducing the effectiveness of armored protection and preventing SWAT members from obtaining a safe visual of the suspect. As part of a full deployment, the ASP Bomb Squad responded alongside SWAT and deployed “Buford” a Boston Dynamics robot dog purchased in early 2025. This marked the first operational use of Buford in a SWAT deployment. TFC Ethan Carlton served as the robot’s operator. TFC Carlton skillfully maneuvered Buford to deliver a communication device used by ASP negotiators in an effort to establish contact with the suspect. He then expertly navigated the robot through the interior of the residence which was cluttered with furniture, debris, and other obstacles, successfully clearing rooms and gathering critical information without placing troopers in harm’s way. Ultimately, TFC Carlton utilizing Buford located the barricaded suspect inside a bedroom which allowed negotiators to maintain direct communication and provided SWAT with real-time situational awareness.

The incident concluded when the suspect was incapacitated and taken into custody by ASP SWAT. The decisive deployment of Buford under the expert operation of TFC Carlton was instrumental in protecting the lives of fellow troopers and bringing this dangerous event to a safe resolution. For his professionalism, technical expertise, and decisive actions under extremely hazardous conditions, TFC Ethan Carlton's action exemplify the highest standards of the ASP and reflect great credit upon himself, the Bomb Squad and this department.

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron presented TFC Ethan Carlton with an Official Commendation Award.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated thanks to all of ya'll that were recognized today and thanks to everybody really for the outstanding job and dedication that you have to protect our public.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Fiscal report, Ms. Perry. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I bet we have an outstanding report today.

Karen Perry stated we do, you have the February report in front of you, February was a good month we had plenty of money to make payroll and to pay all of our bills. Ms. Perry stated last week we went to the legislature, and they presented our budget and it was passed, our operating budget for general revenue is going to be \$97 million for next fiscal year. Ms. Perry stated today we are going to go to the legislative audit committee for our audit finding for the under lateralization from 2024.

Commissioner Edwards asked what was the budget for the previous year? Ms. Perry stated our general revenue right now is \$94 million.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Roby Rhoads.

Major Roby Rhoads stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Lieutenant Colonel good morning, our report for last month, we have four military deployments.

Major Roby Rhoads stated our POLAR Team assisted 60 individuals, had 13 follow-up visits and had one debrief with 37 participants and also taught one class at ALETA, and did troop visits in Troop E and Troop L.

Major Roby Rhoads stated in our Health Plan; we had over a half million dollars roll over from the previous month, but our medical claims still only totaled \$1.56 million. Major Roby Rhoads stated so much better than what we have had recently.

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

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Aaron stated good morning, Chairman, and Commissioners, the Hotline received 5,746 contacts, 2,338 of those were calls and 3,408 were online reports for the month of February. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated that is about a 940 increase from last month. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated 2,587 of those contacts were accepted, of those 2,587 that were accepted, 577 were designated as severe maltreatment and were assigned to CACD Investigators. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated for the month of February CACD closed 547 cases with 155 being found as true, which gave us a substantiation rate is 28%.

Commissioner Reeves stated when you have these true cases, 155, do those people end up with charges filed against them or are they referred to DHS, what happens to those true cases. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated I am probably going to have Kalika stand up here and address some of that, some of them will be filed as charges and some of them will not have, it did not meet the criminal threshold for prosecution. Commissioner Reeves asked what it means then, that they are found true. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated that the severe maltreatment allegation was found as true. Commissioner Reeves stated but it may not rise to the level of being a criminal, Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated that is correct. Commissioner Reeves stated well then, does DHS or someone follow-up on that, if we know it is a true case and we know they have been mistreated what happens next. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated I will let Kalika answer that. Kalika Rogers stated yes sir, when we

close our investigation as true, they automatically go to Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for DCFS to determine if they need services or follow-up, so all of them go but it is up to DCFS to determine if a family may need any services after that, they may or may not. Commissioner Reeves stated that is a division of DHS if I remember correctly, so they investigate it further and maybe go to the home and interview everybody. Kalika stated yes sir and Commissioner Reeves stated sometimes it results in children being removed for foster care, sometimes not. Kalika Rogers stated correct if there is safety issues then they will either put a safety plan in place or do whatever is necessary to keep the child safe. Commissioner Reeves stated thank you.

Commissioner Edwards asked on the case we just talked about, were they already in the system and allegations made against them, for the award a while ago. Kalika Rogers stated I don't know the history specifically, but there was previous history with this family.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Stacie Rhoads.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated good morning for the month of February we initiated 150 criminal cases, six of those were homicides, 11 total deaths, we had 108 felony arrests, and we had two misdemeanor arrests. Major Stacie Rhoads stated we conducted 54 crime scene searches, we conducted 298 interviews, we executed 67 search warrants, we had 31 court appearances, and we had five FARO scans with our crime scene scanners.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated I had kind of prepared some remarks for this morning, but I am going to kind of go a little off script because I noticed that we have the majority of our Troop Commanders in here. Major Stacie Rhoads stated I just want to take a minute because I know that I learned a long time ago the higher you go in rank, the smaller your cheering section becomes and I know that once you reach the rank of Captain very few people are, they are more than likely to boo you than applause for you. Major Stacie Rhoads stated I know the work that our Troop Captains do is extremely difficult, you know keeping our streets safe, keeping fatalities down, making sure that criminals are arrested, and just having that presence out there on the road and making sure that our citizens feel safe with that presence. Major Stacie Rhoads stated that demands a lot of personnel to make sure the mission is accomplished, so when we come knocking for personnel, I know that it is a real burden on our troops and also our troop commanders in making sure that their shifts are filled and stuff like at. Major Stacie Rhoads stated I just wanted to publicly thank them for the cooperation that they have given us in CID and you know just today, we have 20 agents graduating from new agent school and the majority of those were personnel that were pulled from troops and we certainly would not have those numbers if it wasn't for the cooperation that we have from the Troop Commanders, so just from me I wanted to give them a very public appreciation.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Philip Hydron.

Major Philip Hydron stated Colonel Aaron, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners good morning the Highway Patrol Division answered 29,943 calls for service during the month of February. Major Hydron stated we made 2,370 criminal arrests, 520 of those being for felony offenses and 1,549 persons arrested. Major Hydron stated we had 260 DWI arrests, with 5 DUI arrests, we issued 16,777 citations with 6,696 of those for hazardous violations, and 531 individuals were arrested for jailable offenses. Major Hydron stated we conducted 2,712 motorist assists and we engaged in 28 vehicle pursuits, completed 958 crash investigations, with 14 resulting in felony injuries. Major Hydron stated we did recover two stolen vehicles with a net worth of \$12,899.00. Major Hydron stated we drove 801,847 miles, and the DL/CDL examiners tested 18,294 individuals. Major Hydron stated ICP had another great month, they seized \$120,005.00 in U. S. Currency, 706 pounds of marijuana, 24.96 pounds of cocaine, and quantities of hydrocodone, oxycodone, ecstasy, promethazine, and a few THC Vapes and edibles products. Major Hydron stated that the Arkansas State Police SWAT Team conducted 12 missions across the State of Arkansas and the ASP Emergency Response Team conducted one mission in support of the SWAT Team. Major Hydron stated our Aircraft Section flew 14 missions.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Mike Moyer.

Major Mike Moyer stated good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, and Colonel Aaron, during the month of February, the Identification Bureau processed 27,714 civil background

checks and 8,448 criminal fingerprint submissions. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 346 dealer applications, and the PI Security Section processed 497 applications.

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

Major Moyer stated a quick update on the barracks, they are 95% complete, final inspections are scheduled for around April 20 and beginning March 30 they are going to start paving all of the roadways out there. They just have minor stuff left like landscaping, shower doors, and today they are actually installing all of the kitchen equipment in the cafeteria.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated thank you Major, it looks like we are on track to have one of our Commission Meetings out there, we have not set that yet, we will let the public and staff know as soon as we have that date worked out. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I think it will be a good opportunity for us to all see that facility and let some of the public see it too, that might want to come. We do plan on doing that in the very near future.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Colonel Aaron I see that we have some applications that we need to discuss under new business. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated yes sir, I ask that we go into 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 10:38 a.m.

At 11:16 a.m., Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I will call the meeting back to order, thank ya'll for your patience. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Colonel Aaron I think we have some recommendations for the Commission.

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated yes sir, for the Sergeant in ICAC, in Criminal Investigation, our recommendation is Corporal Scott Troy. Commissioner Edwards made a motion that Corporal Scott Troy be promoted to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, ICAC. Commissioner Reeves 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.

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated for Lieutenant on the SWAT Team, our recommendation is Sergeant Chad Staley. Commissioner Teague made a motion that Sergeant Chad Staley be promoted to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, SWAT. Commissioner Akin 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.

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated for Lieutenant in Troop D, our recommendation is Sergeant Brandon Bennett. Commissioner Edwards made a motion that Sergeant Brandon Bennett be promoted to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D. 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.

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated for Lieutenant in Troop H, our recommendation is Sergeant Derek Nietert. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Sergeant Derek Nietert be promoted to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H. Commissioner Akin 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.

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated our recommendation for Lieutenant in Troop L is Sergeant Eric Lee. Commissioner Teague made a motion that Sergeant Eric Lee be promoted to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L. 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.

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated for the position of Sergeant in Troop A, we are going to laterally transfer Sergeant Dean Pitchford.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated thank you very much Colonel Aaron for sitting in today in Colonel Hagar's absence.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated the next regular scheduled meeting will be held on April 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Chairman Hinkle asked if there was any discussion or any more new business, we have not previously covered, if not, thank you again for your presence here today, appreciate it very much and I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Reeves stated I motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Akin seconded. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and second, we are adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary