

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
May 14, 2026

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, May 14, 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
Captain Joe Carter	Sherry Woods
Dan Mack	Major Roby Rhoads
Captain Rick Neill	Lieutenant Bobby Brown
TFC Jacob Byrd	Sergeant Christopher Garner
Jesi Feld	Ryan Roach
Kerry Tabor	Rindi Snow
Susan Tedford	Laura Robbins
Eric Wacaster	Captain Chris Goodman
Captain Seth Pinner	Karen Perry
Lieutenant Eric Lee	Captain Jeff Sheeler
Captain David Williams	Jonathan Nettles
Joan Shipley	Cindy Murphy
Sergeant Chase Melder	Sergeant Christopher Short
Lieutenant Dennis Overton	Tess Bradford
Lieutenant Jason Martin	Lieutenant Derek Nietert
Phillip Warriner	Captain Jeffrey Plouch
Donna Humphries	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Luke Woolman, AG's Office Kierra Byrd

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I will call the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and will you join me in the pledge of allegiance, please.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Donna I see where the press has been notified. Donna Humphries answered yes sir.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on May 4, 2026.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairman Hinkle asked does anybody have any addition or corrections to the minutes from our last meeting, if not I will entertain a motion to approve as printed. Commissioner Teague stated motion to approve the minutes of April 9, 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.

Donna Humphries stated Mr. Chairman I forgot to add the minutes of the April 29, 2026, Special Conference Call Meeting to the agenda, those minutes also need to be approved. Commissioner Reeves made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2026, Special Conference Call Meeting. Commissioner Basore seconded the motion. Commission

Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and second, any discussion or questions, all in favor say aye, all opposed, so ordered.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated next, we have weapons resolutions by Major Philip Hydron.

WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:

Major Philip Hydron presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Sergeant Elvis Mull efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-eight years, and thirty days;

WHEREAS: Sergeant Elvis Mull retired from this department March 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: Sergeant Elvis Mull 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, May 14, 2026, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 awards him, his Glock Model 19, Serial Number BMSA291, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

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

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Sergeant Elvis Mull efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-eight years, and thirty days;

WHEREAS: Sergeant Elvis Mull retired from this department March 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: Sergeant Elvis Mull 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, May 14, 2026, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D606040M, that Sergeant Elvis Mull has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Sergeant Elvis Mull be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

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

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Antoine Williams efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-one years, five months, and thirteen days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Antoine Williams retired from this department March 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: Corporal Antoine Williams 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, May 14, 2026, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA243, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

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

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Antoine Williams efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-one years, five months, and thirteen days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Antoine Williams retired from this department March 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: Corporal Antoine Williams 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, May 14, 2026, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003 determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D026072M, that Corporal Antoine Williams has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Antoine Williams be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

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

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Colonel Hagar, we have some promotion certificates to present. Colonel Hagar stated yes sir.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Eric Lee promoting him to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L, Lowell.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Derek Nietert promoting him to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H, Fort Smith.

Colonel Hagar stated next, we have a couple of official commendation presentations, the first is for Corporal Christopher Short with the overview being provided by Sergeant Chase Melder.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Sergeant Chase Melder stated good morning, Colonel Hagar, Mr. Chairman, and Commissioners, I am honored to present the events and accomplishments that lead to Corporal Chris Short receiving this Official Commendation Award.

Sergeant Melder stated during calendar year 2025, Corporal Chris Short demonstrated excellent initiative and enforcement efforts that went far beyond day-to-day duties. His work produced outstanding results and strengthened the public image of the Arkansas State Police through his contributions to public safety. Sergeant Melder stated one of the key factors that sets Corporal Short apart was his focus effort on interdicting narcotics and drug proceeds being transported by commercial motor vehicles. Corporal Short identified a growing trend in which cartels and drug trafficking organizations are increasingly using commercial motor vehicles to move large quantities of narcotics and currency. Corporal Short also recognized that commercial motor vehicles are not receiving significant enforcement attention nationwide. Rather than simply identifying the problem, Corporal Short took the initiative to develop and maintain a focused enforcement effort targeting these operations. Through consistent proactive enforcement he achieved major interdiction results that reflects his hard work ethic and initiative. By aggressively pursuing interstate criminal patrol objectives, Corporal Short directly disrupted drug trafficking operations that utilize Arkansas highways and in doing so helped prevent dangerous drugs such as fentanyl from reaching communities not only in Arkansas but across the United States. As a direct result of Corporal Short's efforts, the following contraband and criminal proceeds were seized. In 2025 Corporal Short seized 1,443 pounds of marijuana, 400 pounds of cocaine, 41 pounds of THC wax, nearly 75 pounds of fentanyl, over \$1 million in drug proceeds, along with weapons, and 7 vehicles. The estimated total street value of these seizures was more than \$12.6 million. In addition, just a few weeks ago Corporal Short was recognized as the Gulf Coast HIDTA Interdiction Officer of the Year. Most importantly these accomplishments were not a single incident but represents sustained excellence and consistent performance over an entire year. Corporal Short's dedication, focus and commitment to proactive enforcement clearly exceed normal expectations and produced exceptional outcomes.

Colonel Hagar presented Corporal Christopher Short with an Official Commendation Award.

Colonel Hagar stated that next is TFC Jacob Byrd with the overview given by Sergeant Christopher Garner.

Sergeant Christopher Garner stated good morning, Colonel Hagar, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, and Command Staff on November 13, 2025, approximately 11:01 p.m., Troop A Communications put out a wrong way driver that was travelling down Interstate 40 in the westbound, traveling in the eastbound lanes. TFC Jacob Byrd took it upon himself and took the call, arrived, he seen the vehicle coming and he position himself to take that vehicle on head on. He struck it on the driver's side front left wheel, which disabled him and the driver that was driving. The driver ended up turning out to be a drunk driver and there was other vehicles present during the time. So, he put himself in danger to protect others.

Colonel Hagar presented TFC Jacob Byrd with an Official Commendation Award.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated thank you very much and thank you for the family members that came this morning, we are always happy to see family members come and support the people that are being honored.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Ms. Perry you are up this morning with the first division report.

Karen Perry stated good morning, Colonel, Commissioners, you have the April report, and we did pretty good for April. Ms. Perry stated we did receive our 287g money, the report showed that we received \$4.2 but we actually received another \$8.2 million last week so we have \$12.4 million that we received for the 287g program.

Commissioner Allison asked, “is that revenue over?” Ms. Perry stated yes.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated it’s all for the Fiscal year is that what you are saying. Ms. Perry asked you talking about the 287g, that is federal money that we received that is in addition to our state funds. Commissioner Allison stated I understand but is that over, is it continuing, is it going to continue. Ms. Perry stated every quarter we can submit a reimbursement, so it will continue, we think, until 2029.

Commissioner Reeves asked what period of time does this \$12 million cover? Ms. Perry stated the \$4 million covered October through December of 2025 and then the \$8 million is January through March of 2026, so in June we can submit another quarter, and it will be \$8.2 million each quarter. Commissioner Akin asked so it is anticipated to be \$8.2 million per quarter. Ms. Perry stated yes.

Commissioner Teague asked what caused the spike in salaries in October, do you know? Ms. Perry stated we probably paid some overtime or comp time.

Ms. Perry stated the only other thing that I wanted to mention is right now we are doing okay on fuel, our average for April was \$3.63, our highest was \$4.99 a gallon so we are watching it.

Commissioner Basore asked when the last Troop School started, if October, that would be 60 more personnel. Ms. Perry stated yes, but we also paid some comp time during that time too.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Roby Rhoads.

Major Roby Rhoads stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Colonel Hagar good morning, the Admin Services report for last month includes three military deployments. Our Polar Team assisted 57 individuals, made 24 follow-up visits and conducted debriefs for approximately 40 first responders.

Major Roby Rhoads stated we are currently recruiting and we already have 328 applicants and some of them are good applicants. Major Roby Rhoads stated that Lieutenant Hoyt, Sergeant Owen and Rindi have been really making their money the last couple of weeks, because it is constantly, we are getting more and more applications and then they have to reach out to these people so really appreciate their hard work.

Major Roby Rhoads stated last month’s medical; we had five weeks of claims, so it was a little bit higher, we are about \$1.68 million for last month and our contractual savings were over \$2.1 million.

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 7,049 contacts for the month of April, that was about 575 more than last month. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated 3,557 of those contacts were accepted, of those 3,557 that were accepted, 648 were severe maltreatment cases, which were assigned to CACD Investigators. Lieutenant Colonel Aaron stated for the month of April that CACD closed 506 cases with 157 being found as true, which gave us a substantiation rate of 31%.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Stacie Rhoads.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated Chairman, Colonel, Commissioners good morning for the month of April we initiated 160 investigations, 61 of those were primary. We conducted 15 death investigations, one homicide, three officer involved shootings, and we did not have any officer misconduct investigations. We had 116 felony arrests, we conducted 86 crime scene searches, we conducted 315 interviews, executed 187 search warrants, and we conducted five crime scene scans with our FARO scanners.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated so I know that several of you came to the Awards Banquet on Tuesday, and I have worked with the State Police for twenty-eight years, and I think this was

the first time for me to attend our awards banquet where I felt like CID really got seen. Major Stacie Rhoads stated I think the highlight of that was the beautiful message from the Brinks girls related to our Devils Den investigation. Major Stacie Rhoads stated I have got to tell you, awards are great and I am so glad that our agents were recognized for their work on that, but that message was so much better than any trophy that we could have ever received, just to hear and feel the resiliency of those two girls. Major Stacie Rhoads stated I know that we have focused so much on the Devils Den investigation but our agents deal with families like that every day and so I thought it was really beautiful the way that, I am certain that Cindy and her team and the Colonel really played a part in having that message played so we are extremely grateful and humbled that everybody got to share that with us.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major I totally agree and wish I had thought about it, it would have been great to have played that on the screen, I don't guess we have that on the spur of the moment, do we?

Commissioner Reeves stated I bet that means a lot to the CID people that were honored to see how happy those two children are. Major Stacie Rhoads stated absolutely wonderful just to hear their voices and know that there is no moving on from this, but just the fact that they are finding some peace and kids are so resilient ya'll and so it was just a really beautiful message.

Commissioner Teague stated Mr. Chairman why don't you put it on the agenda for next month. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated sure, can we show that next month? Major Stacie Rhoads stated absolutely, yes sir.

Commissioner Allison stated Chairman, I think our CID group does a great job and one of the things used to get the Major to move up to this job was her emotion and how involved she gets in it instead of being a negative, I think that is a plus. Major Stacie Rhoads stated thank you, I really appreciate that. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated good comment Commissioner.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated okay, Major Moyer, I bet you have some really exciting news for us.

Major Mike Moyer stated Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, and Colonel Hagar, during the month of April, the Identification Bureau processed 25,086 civil background checks and 9,321 criminal fingerprint submissions. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 345 dealer applications, and the PI Security Section processed 669 applications.

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

Major Moyer stated I do have a quick update on the barracks, we are currently moving in the furnishings, and the bedding today. Everything is complete as far as construction and they are working through the actual punch list. So, if you have a chance to go out there, it is phenomenal, the furniture is in and it looks a lot different than a couple months ago.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Major Hydron, I saved the best for last.

Major Philip Hydron stated Colonel Hagar, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, thank you, the Highway Patrol Division answered 33,959 calls for service during the month of April. Major Hydron stated they made 2,334 criminal arrests, with 450 of those being for felony offenses. Major Hydron stated they located and arrested 286 persons driving under the influence, issued 18,495 citations, 7,953 were for hazardous offenses, they issued 22,770 warnings, and conducted 3,364 motorists assists. Major Hydron stated they recovered 15 stolen vehicles with a net worth of \$247,500, they engaged in 37 vehicle pursuits, completed 1,252 crash investigations with 27 resulting in fatality injuries. Major Hydron stated that the DL/CDL personnel tested 20,635 individuals. Major Hydron stated the ICP team seized \$83,545.00 in U. S. Currency, 15 pounds of cocaine, and quantities of THC vapes and edibles and 288 pints of promethazine. Major Hydron stated our SWAT Team conducted 11 missions, our ERT Team conducted three missions, and our Aircraft Section flew 14 missions.

Commissioner Basore asked on the stolen vehicle recoveries, were they moving recoveries or found. Major Philip Hydron stated the majority of them were moving vehicles that they located out on the highway. Commissioner Basore asked did the camera system participate in any of those, identifying any of those stolen vehicles or do we know. Major Hydron stated I can't answer that question as I don't know the circumstances behind the recovery of each one, but I can tell that those cameras are producing some criminal arrests for us.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated you know something I think would be interesting from the commissioners standpoint would be CID and Highway Patrol, if we could chart what we have been doing month by month where we could simply look at it as a break down. Commission Chairman Hinkle asked is that too much to ask. Commissioner Reeves stated a line graph for month to month would be great. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated yes, the two of you all think about that and maybe even Crimes Against Children also. Commissioner Allison stated it will take a while to get it started but once they get it started, they just add to it.

Major Phillip Hydron stated yes sir, we will work on that.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated new business, Colonel we have a few items to discuss I believe. Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, we can 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 Akin 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 10:29 a.m.

At 11:07 a.m., Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I will call the meeting back to order, thank ya'll for staying. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated Colonel Hagar, I think you have some recommendations for us, please.

Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, first we have a reinstatement request for Alexander Theodore and the recommendation to the commission would be to reinstatement Alexander Theodore. Commissioner Allison made a motion to approve the reinstatement of Alexander Theodore. Commissioner Teague seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated we have a motion and a second, any discussion, all in favor say aye, all of those opposed, so ordered.

Colonel Hagar stated the next is consideration for promotion to Highway Patrol Troop L, Post Sergeant and the recommendation is Corporal Randall Schwab. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Corporal Randall Schwab be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L. 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.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated the next regular scheduled meeting will be held on June 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated if you would like to mark your calendars in advance, the August 13 Commission Meeting will be held at the new Training Center at Camp Robinson. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated according to Major Moyer everything will be delivered and in place by the August meeting, so it should not be any problem. We could have possibly held it in July but let's not take a chance, lets make sure everything is finished, so we are looking at August 13.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated with that does anybody have anything that I may have forgotten.

Colonel Hagar stated I think they have the video to show. Commission Chairman Hinkle stated good. The video message from the Brinks girls related to the Devils Den investigation was shown.

Commission Chairman Hinkle stated I hope you agree with me how impressive that was, thanks to all of the people in this room who were involved and many, many who are not here today, that are out there working the streets every day.

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

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary