

# Arkansas State Police and AR-CRT Sign MOU

For years, police, fire and emergency services personnel have dealt with situations which leave long lasting impressions in their hearts and minds. Unfortunately, by the nature of their profession, many impressions are dark, cold



Jami Cook, Deborah Collins and ADEM Deputy Director Danny Ormand at MOU announcement

and indescribable. For years, many public safety officials have suffered in silence while dealing with haunting memories of death and tragedy. As of this past February the Arkansas

State Police (ASP) has taken steps to change how their personnel deal with the aftermath of death and destruction encountered throughout their careers.

Under the direction of recently appointed ASP Director, Colonel Winford Phillips approved the formation of the Arkansas State Police Crisis Response Team (CRT). This team, long a dream of

Lieutenant Robert Speer of Jonesboro, is being put together to offer support, help, encouragement and direction when ASP personnel encounter tragic situations.

Colonel Phillips announced the creation of the team at a meeting with Ms. Ginger Bankston Bailey, Executive Director of the Arkansas Crisis Response Team. During the announcement, Colonel Phillips also appointed Captain Dale Saffold and Ms. Jami Cook as coordinator and assistant coordinator, respectively, of the ASP CRT.

Training and assistance will be provided through the Arkansas Crisis Response Team and the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), according to Major Kathy Sparks, Division Commander of Administrative Services for the ASP. "The great thing about this effort is that our personnel will be offered confidential advice and assistance from someone who is a part of their 'family,' and who has volunteered their time due to a willingness

to help." said Major Sparks.



Captain Dale Saffold, Major Kathy Sparks, Ginger Bailey, Deborah Collins, Jami Cook and Heather Bailey watch as ASP Colonel Phillips and AR-CRT Chair Andy Altom sign MOU

Interested ASP personnel have signed up to volunteer their time and energy towards this program. Training and final team selection will be taking place over the next several months, and procedures

will be implemented before the team becomes fully operational.

## Captain Dale Saffold Arkansas State Police

"This should have been happening 30-years ago."

Lt. Robert Speer  
Arkansas State Police