Delaware State Police Announces the Retirement of Lt. Colonel Daniel Meadows

The Delaware State Police (DSP) proudly announces the retirement of Lt. Colonel Daniel Meadows, who concluded a distinguished 30-year career in law enforcement last Friday. Lt. Colonel Meadows leaves a legacy of service shaped by three decades of transformative leadership, modernizing technology, strengthening critical response, expanding transparency, and guiding DSP through critical incidents.

Colonel William D. Crotty, Superintendent of the Delaware State Police, stated, “Lt. Colonel Meadows has dedicated his career to ensuring DSP remains a progressive, accountable, and community-focused agency. His thoughtful leadership, forward-thinking approach, and steady presence have strengthened every corner of our agency. It has been an honor to serve alongside him and witness the profound impact of his work.”

His journey in policing began in 1995 with the New Castle County Police Department. Two years later, he joined the Delaware State Police as a fast-track recruit in the 67th Delaware State Police Academy Class and officially began his DSP service on September 29, 1997.

After graduating from the Academy, Lt. Colonel Meadows was assigned to Troop 3 for field training and promoted to Trooper that same year. In the early years of his career, he served at Troops 3, 6, and 2, where he responded to both patrol and investigative calls for service. As he advanced in rank, he earned assignments in the Governor’s Task Force, the Special Investigations Unit, and the Intelligence Section, where he contributed to complex investigations. He was also selected as a member of the DSP Pipes and Drums in 2001, reflecting his

pride in representing the agency in both ceremonial and operational capacities.

In 2010, after years of service in criminal investigations and patrol, he was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to oversee operations in the Criminal Investigative Unit at Troop 2. Two years later, he was promoted to Captain and became the Director of the Delaware State Bureau of Identification, leading approximately 100 sworn and professional staff. In this role, he managed critical functions such as state criminal history records, background checks, and sex offender registration.

In 2013, he was assigned to lead DSP's Intelligence and Homeland Security Section, where he provided oversight of multiple specialized units, including the Joint Terrorism Task Force, High Technology Crimes Unit, Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, and the Real-Time Crime Center. He also served as the Director of the Delaware Information and Analysis Center, the state's Department of Homeland Security-designated fusion center. Under his leadership, the center enhanced its information-sharing capabilities during national events and emerging cyber trends.

He was promoted to Major in 2016 and became a member of the Executive Staff, leading the Special Operations portfolio. In this role, he was responsible for DSP's response to large-scale critical incidents by coordinating the operations of specialized units, including Aviation, Homicide, the Special Operations Response Team, SCUBA, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, and the Tactical Control Unit. He served as incident commander during multiple high-profile events, including the James T. Vaughn prison barricade, the armed standoff at the Delaware Veterans Cemetery, and the standoff following the murder of one of DSP's very own, Corporal Stephen J. Ballard. These moments tested the resolve of the agency, yet Lt. Colonel Meadows remained a steady and compassionate leader throughout.

In 2020, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and appointed as Deputy Superintendent of the DSP. In this executive role, he provided direct oversight of all operational components of the agency, including patrol troops, criminal and special units such as aviation, communications, intelligence, and executive protection. He also oversaw internal affairs, police accountability measures, and the agency-wide implementation of the body-worn camera program. Under his leadership, the Public Information Office increased its staffing and digital engagement footprint.

Lt. Colonel Meadows represented the agency on several statewide and national committees and boards, including the Delaware Police Chief's Council Legislative Committee, the Homeland Security Advisory Committee, the Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council, the Board of Constables, and the Board of Examiners for Private Security. He also served as a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and was active in national networks such as the FBI National Executive Institute, Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network, and the National Fusion Center Association.

He holds a Master of Science in Human Resource Management and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, both from Wilmington University. He is a graduate of the 45th Session of the FBI National Academy, the FBI National Executive Institute, the Naval Postgraduate School's Fusion Center Leaders Program, and several other nationally recognized leadership programs. His service has been recognized with two Lifesaving Awards, multiple Exceptional Performance Awards, and honors from both the Delaware Department of Justice and the Superintendent of the DSP.

The Delaware State Police extends its deepest gratitude to Lt. Colonel Daniel Meadows for his extraordinary service and leadership. We wish him all the best as he begins his well-

earned retirement.