

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Assistant Director Named for Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Division

ATLANTA, GA (October 27, 2023) – The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced the promotion of Captain James McLaughlin to Lieutenant Colonel. Lt. Col. McLaughlin will serve as the new Assistant Director of the Law Enforcement Division under Colonel Mike England. As the Assistant Director, he will oversee all field operations for the Law Enforcement Division.



“Lt. Col. James McLaughlin has demonstrated great leadership, loyalty, and trust throughout his career, and we are honored to have him serve as our Law Enforcement Division’s second-in-command,” said Walter Rabon, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. “He brings a great deal of experience that I believe will generate positive influence within the Law Enforcement Division.”

Lt. Col. McLaughlin is a 23-year veteran of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, spent a large amount of his career as a game warden in Region 4, where he was assigned to Telfair County. On September 1, 2011, he was promoted to Corporal and then promoted to Administrative Sergeant in 2013. McLaughlin’s dedication and worth ethics was recognized, and he was promoted again as Field Sergeant in 2014, and rose to the rank of Captain in 2021. As Captain, he supervised the northwest Georgia Region of the DNR’s Law Enforcement Division. McLaughlin has been awarded numerous local, regional, state, and even national awards relating to his service.

“James has consistently raised his hand to take on more responsibility and I know he will be a tremendous asset in this leadership role,” said Col. Mike England, Director of Georgia DNR’s Law Enforcement Division. “His work across all levels of the division, coupled with his knowledge and leadership abilities, will benefit Georgia and our natural resources.”

In his new role, Lt. Col. McLaughlin will work out of DNR’s Law Enforcement Division Headquarters in Social Circle. He is newly married to his wife BreAnna.

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ABOUT THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The mission of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is to sustain, enhance, protect, and

conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources for present and future generations, while recognizing the importance of promoting the development of commerce and industry that utilize sound environmental practices. This work is conducted by DNR's five operating divisions which include: Coastal Resources Division; Environmental Protection Division; Law Enforcement Division; State Parks & Historic Sites Division; and Wildlife Resources Division.

ABOUT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION OF GEORGIA DNR

The Law Enforcement Division (LED) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is responsible for protecting Georgia's wildlife populations by enforcing laws, rules and regulations pertaining to game and non-game animals, threatened and endangered plants and animals, exotic animals, boating safety, litter and waste control and other natural resource issues. The LE Division also administers the state's hunter education and boating safety programs. Game Wardens investigate violations of wildlife laws, as well as hunting and boating incidents. LED's Game Wardens are the most versatile law enforcement officers in the state with specialized training in Woodland Operations, Waterborne Operations, Aviation, Critical Incident Reconstruction, Search-and-Rescue, Disaster Response, K-9, and Urban Crime Suppression.

For more information, contact

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