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Press Release

Alabama native joins Arkansas City Police Department

Hall played college football in Oklahoma; worked as military police officer

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (July 1, 2015) — The Arkansas City Police Department's newest police officer says he has found his new home to be a very nice and welcoming place.

"There's a lot of great people here," said Officer Tyrone Jacob "TJ" Hall, 25, originally of Dothan, Ala.

He described his recent experiences of going to local convenience and grocery stores, where people have been waving at him, saying "Hi" or wanting to meet him, "even when I'm not in uniform."

"A lot of nice people want to shake my hand — I guess because I'm a new face around here," Hall said. "It's a small community, so everyone knows each other and wants to find out who you are."

"ACPD is lucky to have a great group of employees who are more family than co-workers," said Police Chief Dan Ward. "We also enjoy an excellent relationship with the community we serve."

Hall, who began his duties at ACPD on June 5, originally came to the Midwest to play football. He had a full scholarship to play for four years at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva.

Because NWOSU didn't offer the master's degree he desired, Hall moved to Kansas to attend Fort Hays State University, where he was offered a scholarship during his senior year to play football.

Due to some financial aid issues, Hall went on to join the Kansas Army National Guard as a military police officer. His sister, who's also an MP, suggested that he might enjoy the work.

"It turned out I did," Hall said. "I fell in love with being an MP, and since I was National Guard, I was able to get a civilian job as a police officer with the Hays Police Department."

After their baby was born March 28, Hall and his fiancée, Kasha Broce, decided to move to Arkansas City to be closer to her family once a position opened up with ACPD.

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"It was just a calling," he said of his decision to pursue a career as a police officer.

"All my life, I felt like I need to help someone. I felt like that was the reason God put me on this earth, to help others. (Being) a police officer is the best thing I feel like you can do."

"Everyone's always told me they felt like I would be a great police officer," Hall added, "but I never really thought about it until I went to MP school and saw what kind of work they did."

Now, though, he's convinced it's something he wants to do for the rest of his career.

"When I met Officer Hall for the first time, I knew he had the right mindset and moral compass to fit in well and become part of our family," Ward said.

"Those are things we can't teach someone. They either have it or they don't. What we can teach them is how we perform the daily duties of being an officer in Arkansas City."

Hall has been working since last November to complete all of the training and testing to become a police officer in Arkansas City. He's currently midway through the department's field training program.

The program consists of four stages, each progressing in difficulty and increased levels of responsibility. Hall is being supervised in the program by Master Patrol Officer Ryan Williams.

"Each day, he will be evaluated on his progress and taught different aspects of the job," Ward said of Hall's training. "Typically, the program takes 14 weeks for an officer to complete."

Eventually, Hall will complete the field training program and can "start my journey."

"I'm definitely looking forward (to getting out on the street)," said Hall, who thinks he eventually would like to work with the Cowley County Drug Task Force or Southern Kansas SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) teams.

"Anything and everything to make myself a better person, a better police officer, and learn all the aspects (of being an officer)," he said.

"Officer Hall still has a long road ahead of him before he is released on his own," Ward said, "but we are confident he will be successful because he brings with him the heart and mind of a guardian."

In addition to football, Hall enjoys playing other sports, such as softball, and working out at Cowley College's Wellness Center. "I also really love going fishing," he said.

In his spare time, he plays with his dog, a German shepherd named Bravo; spends time with his fiancée and newborn; and enjoys playing video games.

Hall attends First Baptist Church in Arkansas City and occasionally helps his new family with their cattle, which he said is a little different from the farming he did back at home — mainly peanuts, watermelon and cantaloupe.