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**DSU welcomes new Director of Public Safety/Police Chief**

**CLEVELAND, Miss. —** Delta State University is pleased to announce the appointment of retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael L. Peeler as the new leader of the Delta State University Department of Public Safety. With an extensive background in military service, law enforcement, higher education, and juvenile justice, Peeler brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the role.

Peeler shared his enthusiasm for joining Delta State University, stating, “I am humbled and honored to have been selected to serve as the next Director of Delta State University’s Department of Public Safety and Campus Police. As Director, I will utilize my over 30 years of leadership experience to build upon the department’s strong foundation for safeguarding students, faculty, and staff daily. Together, we will focus on emergency preparedness, community partnerships, and innovation. I look forward to working with the campus community to ensure that DSU remains a welcoming and thriving place for everyone. I am truly grateful for this incredible opportunity.”

Peeler previously served as the inaugural Chief of Police for Dyersburg State Community College (DSCC), overseeing public safety operations across multiple campuses in Tennessee. In this capacity, he established a police department spanning nine counties, cultivated partnerships with local law enforcement, and implemented crime prevention initiatives to enhance campus security.

Dr. Eddie Lovin, Vice President for Student Affairs said, "Delta State University is pleased to welcome Lt. Col. Michael L. Peeler as the new leader of Delta State University's Department of Public Safety. Mike's experience, including his service in the United States Army, leadership, and commitment to campus safety will be instrumental in fostering a secure and supportive environment for our students, faculty, and staff. I look forward to working with him as he assesses the department and implements strategies to enhance safety and security across our campus.”

A distinguished military veteran, Peeler retired as a United States Army Lieutenant Colonel after serving as the Deputy Director for the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC). In this role, he led a multinational team of over 80 civilian and military personnel representing 21 allied nations, supporting U.S. foreign policy and maintaining the military armistice between North and South Korea.

Peeler also brings experience in higher education administration, having served as the Assistant Director for Veteran & Career Advising at Austin Peay State University. There, he connected military-affiliated students with career opportunities and provided guidance on veteran affairs.

Lovin said, “The selection of Director Peeler is a key step in ensuring that Delta State University continues to be a safe and welcoming environment for all students. Parents and prospective students prioritize safety when making their college decision, and we believe that with Director Peeler’s leadership, we will continue to build a campus culture of security, trust, and support, which is essential to our growth and success as an institution.”

Peeler’s appointment underscores Delta State University’s ongoing commitment to campus safety and the well-being of its students, faculty, and staff.

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**About Delta State University:**Delta State University is a four-year public institution whose nearly 2,700 students come from most U.S. states and more than 45 countries. Acknowledging its beginning as a teacher’s college, the University sustains excellence in teacher education while continuing to expand offerings in traditional as well as unique fields of study. Programs such as those available through the Delta Music Institute, the Commercial Aviation Department, and the Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information highlight the University’s commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the students it serves with world-leading, industry-acclaimed programs. Situated in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, Delta State offers top-notch academic programs in business, arts, sciences, nursing, education, and more. DSU Athletics has won 14 national championships, 70 conference championships, and 37 regional titles.