

*Department of Public Safety and Corrections*  
*Public Safety Services*

M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.  
GOVERNOR

TERRY C. LANDRY, COLONEL  
SUPERINTENDENT

January 19, 2001  
4750/0501/MGN/00323  
HQ-1-277

PERSONAL DELIVERY

TROOPER CHRISTOPHER ESKEW  
STATE POLICE TROOP A

RE: SUSPENSION

Dear Trooper Eskew:

Pursuant to State Police Commission Rules 12.1 and 12.2, you are hereby suspended for forty-four (44) hours without pay and allowances. Your suspension will begin at 1800 hours on January 26, 2001, and end at 0200 hours on January 31, 2001. You will return to work at 0600 hours on February 5, 2001. You are suspended for the following:

On November 9, 2000, you were interviewed by Internal Affairs regarding allegations that you possessed an illegally programmed satellite tv access card. During the interview, you admitted to investigators that in approximately March or April 2000, you spoke with Trooper [REDACTED] about the programming of satellite tv access cards which would allow free access to satellite tv service. You also admitted that soon after, you gave Trooper [REDACTED] a satellite tv access card from [REDACTED] older satellite system to be reprogrammed to receive satellite tv service free of charge. You told investigators that you paid \$50.00 for the initial programming fee and took possession of the reprogrammed satellite tv access card until you gave it to [REDACTED] for their use. You admitted that you retrieved the satellite tv access card from [REDACTED] home 3 or 4 times and gave the card back to Trooper [REDACTED] on those occasions for reprogramming. This had to be done because the satellite tv access card had been "spiked", or rendered useless through a surge produced by the satellite tv provider.

Trooper Eskew, your possession of the illegally programmed satellite tv access card constitutes, or is in the nature of, a violation of 18 U.S.C.A. 2512, Manufacture, distribution, possession and advertising of wire, oral, or electronic communication interception devices prohibited, which states in pertinent part:

- 1) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter, any person who intentionally-
- b) manufactures, assembles, possesses, or sells any electronic, mechanical, or other device, knowing or having reason to know that

COURTESY LOYALTY SERVICE  
OFFICE OF STATE POLICE, P.O. BOX 66614, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70896-6614  
(225) 925-6118

the design of such device renders it primarily useful for the purpose of the surreptitious interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications, and that such device or any component thereof has been or will be sent through the mail or transported in interstate or foreign commerce;...

shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

Your actions in assisting in obtaining of the illegally reprogrammed satellite tv access card constitutes, or is in the nature of, a violation of 47 U.S.C.A. 605(a), Unauthorized publication or use of communications, which provides in pertinent part:

a) Practices prohibited

Except as authorized by chapter 119, Title 18, no person receiving, assisting in receiving, transmitting, or assisting in transmitting, any interstate or foreign communication by wire or radio shall divulge or publish the existence, contents, substance, purport, effect, or meaning thereof, except through authorized channels of transmission or reception, (1) to any person other than the addressee, his agent, or attorney, (2) to a person employed or authorized to forward such communication to its destination, (3) to proper accounting or distributing officers of the various communicating centers over which the communication may be passed, (4) to the master of a ship under whom he is serving, (5) in response to a subpoena (sp) issued by a court of competent jurisdiction, or (6) on demand of other lawful authority.

As provided in 47 U.S.C.A 605(e), a person who willfully violates subsection a stated above shall be fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned for not more than 6 months, or both.

Your conduct also constitutes, or is in the nature of, a violation of LSA R.S. 14:221, Avoiding payment for telecommunications service, cable television services, or multipoint distribution system service which states in pertinent part:

- A. Avoidance of payment for telecommunication, cable television, or multipoint distribution system services is the avoidance, attempt to avoid, or the causing of another person to avoid, the lawful charges, in whole or in part, for any telephone, telegraph, cable, or multipoint

distribution system service utilized or for the transmission of a message, signal, or other communication over telephone, telegraph, cable facilities, or multipoint distribution system:...

(3) By intercepting and decoding a transmission by a multipoint distribution system without the authorization of the provider of service, the person intentionally or knowingly attaches to, causes to be attached to, or incorporates in a television set, video tape recorder, or other equipment designed to receive a television transmission a device that intercepts and decodes the transmission.

Your actions were also in direct violation of Procedural Order 201, Code of Conduct and Ethics, Paragraph I, Sub-paragraph B, 1 (a) & 2(b), 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 which state:

(B) The Rules

(1) Conformance to Laws

(a) A commissioned officer shall conform to, and abide by, the laws of the United States, the State of Louisiana, all other states of the United States and subdivisions thereof.

(2) Conduct Unbecoming an Officer

(b) Unbecoming conduct is defined as conduct which:

- (1) brings the Department or any of its subdivisions into disrepute;
- (2) reflects discredit upon the officer as a member of the Department;
- (3) impairs the operations or efficiency of the Department, the officer, or state service;
- (4) detrimentally affects the morale of the Department's personnel; or,
- (5) that which may reasonably be expected to destroy public respect for State Police Officers and/or confidence in the Office of State Police.

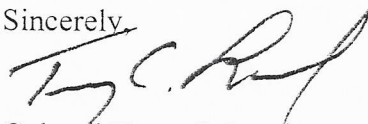


Trooper Eskew  
January 19, 2001  
Page 4

Trooper Eskew, any future violations of this or any nature may result in more severe disciplinary action, including up to termination.

You have the right to appeal this action to the State Police Commission. The time limits and procedure for appealing are contained in Chapter 13 of the State Police Commission Rules. A copy of Chapter 13 of the State Police Commission Rules can be obtained from the State Police Commission. Their current mailing address is P.O. Box 66555, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-6555. Their current telephone number is (225) 925-7057 and the fax number is (225) 925-7058.

Sincerely,



Colonel Terry C. Landry  
Superintendent

c: Lt. Colonel Dave Hunter  
Lt. Colonel John LeBlanc  
Major Mel Ryan  
Captain Wayne Ryland  
**Internal Affairs**  
Office of Legal Affairs  
State Police Commission  
Human Resources Management