



Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

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

TERRY C. LANDRY, COLONEL
SUPERINTENDENT

October 10, 2000
4750/0501/MGN/0236
HQ-1-0134

PERSONAL DELIVERY

TROOPER WILLIAM R. WOODWARD
STATE POLICE TROOP F

RE: SUSPENSION

Dear Trooper Woodward:

Pursuant to the authority contained in Sections 12.1 and 12.2 of the State Police Commission Rules, I hereby suspend you for one (1) twelve (12) hour shift without pay and allowances. Your suspension will begin at 1800 hours on Monday, October 30, 2000, and end at 0600 hours on Tuesday, October 31, 2000. You are to report back to work at 1800 hours on Tuesday, October 31, 2000. You are suspended for the following:

On July 15, 2000, Ms. Angelia Richard called Troop F and filed a telephone complaint with Lt. Wilson against a trooper driving unit F-60 (your assigned unit). As instructed by Lt. Wilson, Ms. Richard prepared a written statement regarding the incident and came by Troop F on July 20, 2000, to deliver it. At that time she was interviewed by Lt. Wilson.

The complaint and investigation revealed that on July 15, 2000, Ms. Richard and her six year old sister were traveling southbound on US 165, approaching the Desiard St. overpass in the lefthand lane at a rate of speed between 50 to 55 mph. The posted speed limit was 50 miles per hour. She noticed a vehicle tailgating her and flashing its headlights in her rearview mirror. She noticed it was a police car by the emergency overhead lights, which were not activated. She then heard a voice over the vehicle's loudspeaker say "Get in the goddamn right lane." She stated that her six year old sister also heard the statement. Ms. Richard couldn't immediately move over due to an eighteen wheeler merging into the right lane ahead at the Desiard street overpass. Ms. Richard felt forced to speed up and move into the righthand lane ahead of the eighteen wheeler. When the police car passed her, she identified it as a state police vehicle, bearing license plate F-60. Ms. Richard stated that after you passed her, you didn't seem to be in hurry because you were not speeding, did not display any blue emergency lights, or sound your siren.

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

DPSSP 4102

EXHIBIT

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Trooper William R. Woodward, October 10, 2000 p. 2

Your written statement concerning the incident, a copy of which is labeled as Exhibit A and is attached hereto and made a part hereof, confirmed that you were en route to a non-injury crash on I-20 east of Monroe. You admitted that you momentarily activated your flashers approximately four separate times in an attempt to get the vehicle in front of you to move into the righthand lane. In an interview with Lt. Wilson, you stated that you did this because you were aggravated that the vehicle was driving slowly in the left lane. Furthermore, you admitted that you then stated over your P.A. system, "Get in the goddamn right lane." When Lt. Wilson questioned why you made this statement using profane language over the loudspeaker, you replied, "I just lost my cool."

Trooper Woodward, your actions were in direct violation of Procedural Order 201, Paragraph X, sub-paragraphs 1 and 4, which state in pertinent part:

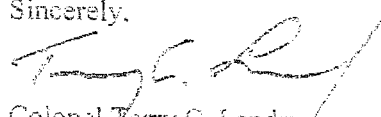
X. Courtesy

1. Courtesy to the public will be strictly observed. A commissioned officer's conduct and deportment shall always be civil, orderly and courteous. He shall be diplomatic and tactful in the performance of his duties, controlling his temper and exercising patience and discretion.

4. Officers shall at all times, while on duty or in uniform, refrain from using coarse, violent, profane or insolent language. Officers shall also refrain from voicing any bias or prejudice language concerning race, religion, politics, national origin, life-style or similar personal characteristics.

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 Ronald Theriot
Captain Don McDonald
Internal Affairs
State Police Commission
Human Resources Management
Office of Legal Affairs



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS
 OFFICE OF STATE POLICE
 INCIDENT REPORT FORM

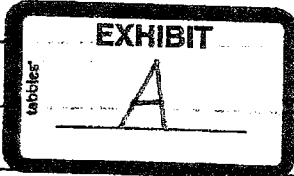
PAGE () OF ()

NATURE OF REPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INITIAL REPORT BY OFFICER <input type="checkbox"/> ACTION TAKEN BY SUPERVISOR	INCIDENT:	TIME 2230 HRS
		DATE 07 15 00 MO / DAY / YR
TO: Lt. Robert Wilson	FROM: William R. Woodward	
Lt. F	Trooper F	
RANK TROOP/SECTION	RANK TROOP/SECTION	

NATURE OF INCIDENT: Complaint

LOCATION: US 165 @ US 80

SYNOPSIS: I was enroute to a crash (Code 1) SB US 165 @ US 80. I approached a white vehicle that was SB in the inside lane traveling approximately 30 miles per hour. I activated my flashers for one second then turned them off. I repeated this for three times. The vehicle continued in the inside lane at the same speed. I then said over my P.A., "Get in the Goddamn Right Lane." The vehicle moved to the right lane and I proceeded to the crash at I-20 EB at MP 121.



Trooper Robbie Woodward Trooper 1968 7-24-00 / 1800Hrs.

REPORTING OFFICER RANK DATA NO. DATE / TIME OF REPORT (HRS)

CONTINUED OF REVERSE SIDE

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL D. EDMONSON, COLONEL
DEPUTY SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

February 24, 2011
4750/0501/FDM/11-8138
HQ-01-1311

Senior Trooper William Woodward
Louisiana State Police- Patrol Troop F

VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY
IA # N10-102 OLA #28168

Re: **SUSPENSION**

Dear Senior Trooper Woodward:

Pursuant to the authority granted by State Police Commission Rules 12.1 and 12.2, I am hereby suspending you for eight (8) hours without pay and allowances. Your suspension shall start on April 4, 2011 at 0600 hours and end on April 4, 2011 at 1400 hours. You are to return to duty on April 5, 2011 at 0600 hours. You are being suspended for the following reasons:

Prompted by a phone call from the security guards at Graphic Packaging, Inc., an administrative investigation was initiated regarding your conduct during the October 16, 2010 off duty detail you worked for Graphic Packaging, Inc. According to the October 26, 2010 Incident Report prepared and submitted by Sergeant Keith Thompson (Attached as Exhibit A), an unidentified security guard for Graphic Packaging, Inc., called Troop F at 1903 hours on October 16, 2010 and requested a trooper for the crosswalk on La. Hwy. 34 between the physical plant and the parking lot at Graphics Packaging, Inc. When Sgt. Thompson advised the caller that a trooper was assigned there at the time, the caller reported that it was the second time you had "chased" a vehicle and you were not getting out of your vehicle as workers crossed the highway.

According to your October 20, 2010 Incident Report (Attached as Exhibit B), prepared at the direction of Captain Reeves, you worked the 1800-2000 hours detail at Graphics Packaging, Inc. on October 16, 2010. Admittedly, you left your assigned post at the crosswalk detail and conducted traffic stops because you had witnessed various traffic violations. During one traffic stop you observed that the driver was impaired and you requested an on duty trooper to assume the remaining investigation and arrest. You remained with the driver until assistance arrived.

According to Sgt. Thompson, he made contact with you while you were waiting for an on-duty trooper to take over the investigation of the impaired driver. He advised

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you that you could not merely sit in your vehicle while working the detail, but you had to get out and stop traffic as workers crossed. When you told Sgt. Thompson that you had been doing that, he advised you that the guard had called and stated that you had chased down two different vehicles and was not getting out of your car to stop traffic.

According to Sgt. Thompson's Incident Report, on October 18, 2010, while working the same detail at Graphic Packaging, he learned that the security guard who was on duty was one of the ones who were on duty during your detail on October 16, 2010. According to Sgt. Thompson, the security guard reported that you had confronted him and his partner about their complaint, that you got in their faces and you were obviously trying to intimidate them. Sgt. Thompson also reported in the Incident Report that the security guard advised that you told him to shut up and not to interrupt you when you were talking.

According to your Incident Report, upon return to the crosswalk, you walked to the guard shack. By your account, you walked up to the guards and asked for their names and you grabbed the name tag of one of the guards (Mr. Jeffrey Rogers) in order to identify him. You then stepped toward the second guard (Mr. Jarrell Johnson) and asked for his name. The second guard backed away from you and asked why you needed to know. According to your Incident Report, at this point, you realized that you were making the guards uncomfortable. You then introduced yourself and explained the circumstances under which you left the crosswalk.

In an interview conducted by Lieutenant Melvin "Rusty" Cottingham on November 9, 2010, Mr. Rogers related that when you approached them and asked for their names on October 16, 2010 you appeared to be very agitated. Mr. Rogers stated that you pulled up on his nametag, then turned toward Mr. Johnson to get his name.

In an interview conducted by Lt. Cottingham on November 17, 2010, Mr. Johnson stated that on the date in question, you left your post several times, during the two hour detail, to stop traffic violators. By Mr. Johnson's account, you endangered plant employees each time you left the crosswalk. Upon your return to the crosswalk on October 16, 2010, you stayed in your unit. When you got out of your unit, you walked over to where Mr. Johnson and Mr. Rogers were standing. According to Mr. Johnson, you were obviously "pissed" and you grabbed Rogers' name tag and turned toward Johnson who covered up his name tag. Under Johnson's account, you asked them, "we have a problem here?" You then explained why you left the crosswalk and when Mr. Johnson tried to tell you something, you told him "don't interrupt me while I am talking." Mr. Johnson advised the investigators that he felt very intimidated by the way you approached them and talked to them.

You were interviewed regarding this incident on November 14, 2010 by Lt. Cottingham and Sergeant John Peters. You were interviewed a second time on

November 23, 2010¹ by Lt. Cottingham and Sgt. James Richardson. Your statements in both interviews were consistent in that you admitted that you left the crosswalk to make, at a minimum, two traffic stops and that during the last stop, the driver was observed to be intoxicated. In both interviews you admitted that you learned of the security guard complaints from Sgt. Thompson, while you were waiting for an on duty trooper to assume the stop. In both interviews, you admitted that upon your return to the crosswalk, you left your post again and walked to the guard shack to talk to them.

According to your recorded statement, you said, "is there a problem with what I am doing?" You then asked for the guards' names and when they did not respond, you reached down to read one of the guards name tags and you flipped it over. You then asked for the other guard's name. According to your Incident Report and your November 14, 2010 interview, at this point you realized that you might be making the guards uncomfortable. You then identified yourself and explained that you had learned of their complaint and you had been dealing with a drunk driver while you were away from the crosswalk. You then told them that if there was something you were not doing, for them to let you know. Ultimately, according to your statements in both interviews, you apologized and walked away after some friendly conversation.

Your time sheets, Graphic Packaging, Inc. detail receipts and desk logs demonstrate that you had worked the detail on at least five prior occasions; namely, October 6, 2009, October 9, 2009, March 7, 2010, March 8, 2010 and October 15, 2010. Moreover, you are certified by the Department of Transportation and Development in work zone training which provides for three types of work zone duties; namely, officer presence, traffic control and enforcement. The Graphic Packaging, Inc. detail is a traffic control detail.

The October 16, 2010 video from your dash cam recorder confirms that when you returned to crosswalk, you got out of your unit and walked toward the guard shack to return six minutes later. During your time away from your unit, pedestrians continued to cross the crosswalk.

By absenting yourself from your duty post to walk to the guard shack and speak to the guards about their complaint you violated P.O. 901-11, Neglect of Duty, which provides in pertinent part:

LSP P.O. 901-11

- i) A commissioned officer shall not, without proper authorization, absent himself from his assigned duty station or otherwise fail to perform his duty during his tour-of-duty.

¹ A second interview was conducted on November 23, 2010 because Lt. Cottingham inadvertently erased the recording of the first interview while he was attempting to download it to a CD.

By contacting the security guards after they had made a complaint against you, you violated P.O. 901-22, Interference, which provides in part:

LSP P.O. 901-22

22. INTERFERENCE

- i) No commissioned officer shall interfere with, or attempt to exert influence on, any of the participants in a Departmental disciplinary matter.
- ii) A commissioned officer shall not interfere with a case assigned to another officer for investigation without the consent of the assignee, except by order of a superior officer; nor shall he interfere with the operation of any subdivision of the Office of State Police.
- iii) ...
- iv) A commissioned officer shall not undertake any investigation or other official action not part of his regular duties without obtaining permission from his superior officer unless the exigencies of the situation require immediate police action.

Your confrontation of the security guards who had made a complaint about your performance of your off duty detail work intimidated them and amounted to Conduct Unbecoming an Officer under P.O. 901-04, which provides:

LSP P.O. 901-04

4. CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN OFFICER

- i) A Commissioned officer shall conduct himself at all times, both on and off-duty, in such a manner as to reflect most favorably on himself and the Department.
- ii) Unbecoming conduct is defined as conduct which:
 - a) Brings the Department or any of its subdivisions into disrepute;
 - b) Reflects discredit upon the officer as a member of the Department;
 - c) ...
 - e) May reasonably be expected to destroy public respect for State Police Officers and/or confidence in the Office of State Police.

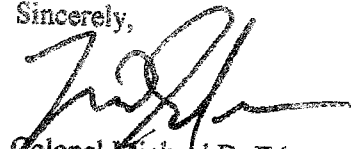
In determining the appropriate disciplinary response to your violations, your past disciplinary history has been considered. To that end, by letter dated October 10, 2000, (Attached as Exhibit C) you were suspended for twelve (12) hours.

S/T William Woodward
February 24, 2011
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Any future violations of this or any nature may result in more severe discipline including 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 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 their fax number is (225) 925-7058.

Sincerely,



Colonel Michael D. Edmonson
Deputy Secretary, Public Safety Services
Superintendent, Louisiana State Police

cc: Lt. Colonel Dale Hall
Lt. Colonel Brian Wynne
Major Joel Kilpatrick
Captain Kevin Reeves
Internal Affairs
Office of Legal Affairs
Human Resources Management

Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Office of State Police
Incident Report

Nature of Report:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial Report By Officer	Incident:	Time: <u>18:00</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Taken by Supervisor	Date:	<u>10/16/10</u> <small>MOBILITY</small>
To:	<u>Capt Kevin Reeves</u> <small>Captain</small>	From:	<u>TFC WILLIAM R. WOODWARD III #1968</u> <small>S/T</small>
	<u>TROOP F</u> <small>Troop/Unit</small>		<u>TROOP F</u> <small>Troop/Unit</small>

Nature of Incident: Graphic Packaging Detail

Location: LA 34 MP 84 @ Crosswalk



Synopsis: On 10/16/2010 between the hours of 1800-2000 hours I was working the Graphic Packaging Detail at the crosswalk. I had several vehicles failing to yield to pedestrians and stopped a few of the vehicles. The last one I stopped was wanted in Ouachita Parish for a failure to appear warrant and was too impaired to operate a motor vehicle safely. I called the westside unit to my location, Tpr. Robert Roach. Tpr. Roach took the arrest and I returned to the crosswalk. While I was out with the DWI violator and Tpr. Roach, Sgt. Thompson asked me to give him a call. I called Sgt. Thompson and he advised me to make sure that I stand outside my car and stop traffic for the pedestrians. There had not been a lot of pedestrians and some had crossed before I could get out of my car to stop traffic for them but I was getting out of my vehicle when I would see them coming.

I returned to the crosswalk and approached the guardshack on foot. I walked up to the guards and asked them their names. One of them was standing close to me and had an I.D. badge that I read and asked them their names. It was hard to read because the small print and I did just grab it gently to hold it up in the light to read. I then stepped to the other guard and asked him what his name was. The guard stepped backwards and asked why I needed to know. I then recognized that I may be putting them in an uncomfortable situation. I then introduced myself and said I just wanted to talk to them to let them know that if they wanted me to do more than what I was doing to just let me know. I advised them that the desk sergeant was extremely busy, due to the fatal from the night before, and that they could feel free to talk to me if I was doing anything wrong. I also explained to them that I was not trying to avoid the crosswalk and was gone helping Tpr. Roach with the DWI violator I had stopped.

At the end of the conversation I appologived to them if I made them un-easy in anyway and we shook hands. One of them even said he remembered reading about the fatal crash and could see that we were busy. I also communicated to them at the end of the shift and again told them I hope that I did not cause them any problems and we talked for a while about the traffic and he even shared an example where he was almost hit by a vehicle and all he could do was give the driver a view of his middle finger.

Capt, I apologize to you and to my supervisors for causing this problem and will correct my short comings in my interactions with the public.

William R. Woodward III
 Reporting Officer

S/T
 Rank

1968
 Data #

10/20/2010
 Date/Time of Report