

Trooper Robert Costa
Trooper Freddy Lopez
Trooper John P Dirusso
Trooper Michael A Bayer

Case Type: Personnel Complaint

Case Number: DCN2019-0054

Finding: Founded

Complainant: Captain Paul M Dequarto



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU PERSONNEL COMPLAINT TRACKING

DCN: 2019-0054	CTV: K1462	REGION: So	uth	LEVEL: 3	TYPE: Personnel Complaint
	Michael A Bayer, John	DiRusso, Rober	rt Costa and Fredd	y Lopez	
	Sgt/SC Brian Williams		_ .	Troop or Detail	K
Staff Inspector: F				Date: 07/11/2019	
	DRY REVIEWED? 🗵	AUDIO?	VIDEO?	ON PROBATIO	N? 🗆
	failure to properly search				
					6 by AMI at Troop K HQ.
					y search 2K56 before and after 02/03/19, Tpr Bayer and Tpr.
					transported in the back seat of
2K56, in violation o	f Article 31E6(c)2 (both Mo				seat, of a marked Division ·
vehicle, which was i	not equipped with a cage).				
Major Diahard Ma	Trans V Camma		ا عدد ده الحالة عام العالم الحال		GL SSI A DI A C
	vith the findings of Major		ded that this matter t	be closed as Founded	. Staff Inspector Robert C.
Gregory concurs v	ritir tile ritidiligs of Major	Mazzone.			
A Review of the P	SB histories of the involv	ved Members rev	veals Tor Michael A	Baver has a prior F	aunded PC for improper
transport of a prise			reals ipi mienaerii	. Dayor mas a prior r	amaca i e ioi impropei
		insporting the de	fendant in the rear s	eat of a noncaged ve	hicle" (apparent single
Member transport		. 0	١	•	\\\\
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Finding of Invest	igation: 🛛 Founded	Unfounded	Unsubstantiat	ed 🔲 Closed by Ir	vestigation
Recommended L	evel of Adjudication: 🛭	Troop Level	☐ Division Leve	1	
Adjudicated at T	roop	Date:	Disposi	tion:	
Date Forwarded	to Assistant Deputy Sup	oerintendent – F	Professional Standa	rds Bureau 07/11/2	2019 – RCG.
	Superintendent – Profess			Date: 7/21/19	THE THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER
					n of the rear seat. Should
	discovered during rout				
portion of the sea	t.		-		<u> </u>
Finding of Invest	igation: 🛛 Founded	Unfounded	Unsubstantiat	ed 🔲 Closed by Ir	ivestigation
Recommended La	evel of Adjudication: 🛭	Troop Level	Division Level	1	· MSR
	-	•		·	MSK
	to Deputy Superintende				
Comments: Concu	ident – Professional Stan	dards Bureau	Date: //	23/19	
. Comments. Conce	ir				
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☐ Division Level	Recommended	⊠ Troop Le	evel Recommended		PJR
	First Deputy Superinter				
First Deputy Supe	rintendent.	Date:		3.5	
Direction:	6	7673 -	7/2/19		
		•			
	Return to Chief Inspector	r □Div	vision Level Forwa	ard to Division Couns	el
Date Forwarded to	Return to Chief Inspector Counsel or the Chief In	r Div spector:		ard to Division Couns	el
	Return to Chief Inspector	r Div spector:		ard to Division Couns	el

Genl. 7

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

MEMORANDUM

Troop K Station Headquarters

Date_____August 21, 2019

To:

Deputy Superintendent Patrick J. Regan, Professional Standards Bureau

From:

Major Richard L. Mazzone, Troop Commander, Troop K RLM

Subject:

COMPLAINT AGAINST PERSONNEL - #20190054

TROOPER ROBERT COSTA

Reference is made to the previously submitted report regarding the above subject.

On August 21, 2019, Trooper ROBERT COSTA appeared before me and executed his consent to have me adjudicate this matter at Troop level.

Pursuant to Rule 3 of the New York State Police Administrative Manual, I have determined that he receive a Letter of Censure. I have attached a copy of the Letter of Censure and consent waiver. Additionally, Trooper COSTA was assessed the loss of one vacation day to be worked by him without additional compensation and/or overtime.

This matter is closed.



RICHARD L. MAZZONE Troop K Commander

LETTER OF CENSURE

August 15, 2019

Trooper Robert Costa New York State Police Troop "K" East Fishkill, New York

Dear Trooper Costa:

On August 15, 2019, you appeared before me at Troop "K" Headquarters for the purpose of adjudicating a disciplinary matter arising from your failure to properly search your vehicle prior to the start of your shift. This occurred on February 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 6th, and you subsequently requested via memorandum to have the matter adjudicated informally by me pursuant to Rule 3 of the Administrative Manual.

During the informal inquiry, we discussed the importance of always properly and thoroughly searching your Troop car, for contraband, both at the start and end of your shift. Specifically, we discussed how a bag of heroin and cocaine were located under the rear seat of your vehicle on the afternoon of February 6, 2019. Although the contraband was located, it does not mitigate the fact that you did not locate it at the start of your previous shift. I realize this is not reflective of your work ethic or attention to detail. I am confident something like this will not happen again and you will continue doing the good work you have done in the past.

I close this matter through the issuance of this Letter of Censure. Additionally, I assess you the loss of one vacation day to be worked by you without additional compensation and/or overtime. I trust this has been a learning experience.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Mazzone

Major - Troop Commander

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

MEMORANDUM

Troop <u>K</u> Station_	East Fishkill
Date	August 21, 2019

To: Troop Commander, Troop K, Poughkeepsle, New York

From: Trooper Robert Costa, SP East Fishkill (C

Subject: DISCIPLINARY ACTION - COMPLAINT AGAINST PERSONNEL20190054

I hereby request to have the above captioned investigation adjudicated by the Troop Commander pursuant to Rule 3, disciplinary action, of the New York State Police Manual.

I waive the following:

- 1. The right to have this matter disposed of by the Superintendent or by a formal hearing.
- 2. Any right to appeal the Troop Commander's adjudication, which may be a determination of unfounded or, upon a finding of guilt, the imposition of the following penalties:
 - i. A letter of censure and/or
 - ii. An intra-troop transfer and/or
 - iii. A fine to be expressed in the loss of no more than five vacation days to be worked by me with no additional compensation or overtime.

Gent. 7

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

MEMORANDUM

Troop K Station Headquarters

Date_____ August 26, 2019

To:

Deputy Superintendent Patrick J. Regan, Professional Standards Bureau

From:

Major Richard L. Mazzone, Troop Commander, Troop K from

Subject:

COMPLAINT AGAINST PERSONNEL - #20190054

TROOPER MICHAEL A. BAYER

Reference is made to the previously submitted report regarding the above subject.

On August 26, 2019, Trooper MICHAEL A. BAYER appeared before me and executed his consent to have me adjudicate this matter at Troop level.

Pursuant to Rule 3 of the New York State Police Administrative Manual, I have determined that he receive a Letter of Censure. I have attached a copy of the Letter of Censure and consent waiver. Additionally, Trooper BAYER was assessed the loss of one vacation day to be worked by him without additional compensation and/or overtime.

This matter is closed.



RICHARD L. MAZZONE Troop K Commander

LETTER OF CENSURE

August 26, 2019

Trooper Michael A. Bayer New York State Police Troop "K" East Fishkill, New York

Dear Trooper Bayer:

On August 26, 2019, you appeared before me at Troop "K" Headquarters for the purpose of adjudicating a disciplinary matter arising from your failure to properly search your vehicle prior to the start of your shift and properly secure a prisoner for transport. This occurred in early February 2019, and you subsequently requested via memorandum to have the matter adjudicated informally by me pursuant to Rule 3 of the Administrative Manual.

During the informal inquiry, we discussed the importance of always properly and thoroughly searching your Troop car, for contraband, both at the start and end of your shift. Specifically, we discussed how a bag of heroin and cocaine were located under the rear seat of your vehicle on the afternoon of February 6, 2019. Although the contraband was located, it does not mitigate the fact that you did not locate it at the start of your previous shift. Additionally, we discussed the importance of properly transporting and monitoring prisoners, and how this responsibility was not met. I realize this is not reflective of your work ethic or attention to detail. I am confident something like this will not happen again and you will continue doing the good work you have done in the past.

I close this matter through the issuance of this Letter of Censure. Additionally, I assess you the loss of one vacation day to be worked by you without additional compensation and/or overtime. I trust this has been a learning experience.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Mazzone Major - Troop Commander

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NEW YORK STATE POLICE

MEMORANDUM

Troop <u>K</u> Station	<u>East Fishkill</u>
Date	August 26, 2019

To:

Troop Commander, Troop K, Poughkeepsie, New York

from:

Trooper Michael A. Bayer, SP East Fishkill

Subject:

DISCIPLINARY ACTION - COMPLAINT AGAINST PERSONNEL20190054

I hereby request to have the above captioned investigation adjudicated by the Troop Commander pursuant to Rule 3, disciplinary action, of the New York State Police Manual.

I waive the following:

- 1. The right to have this matter disposed of by the Superintendent or by a formal hearing.
- 2. Any right to appeal the Troop Commander's adjudication, which may be a determination of unfounded or, upon a finding of guilt, the imposition of the following penalties:
 - i. A letter of censure and/or
 - ii. An intra-troop transfer and/or
 - iii. A fine to be expressed in the loss of no more than five vacation days to be worked by me with no additional compensation or overtime.

Gent, 7

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

MEMORANDUM

Troop K Station Headquarters

Date **August 26, 2019**

To:

Deputy Superintendent Patrick J. Regan, Professional Standards Bureau

From:

Major Richard L. Mazzone, Troop Commander, Troop K

Subject:

COMPLAINT AGAINST PERSONNEL - #20190054

TROOPER JOHN P. DIRUSSO

Reference is made to the attached report regarding the above subject.

On August 26, 2019, Trooper JOHN P. DIRUSSO appeared before me and executed his consent to have me adjudicate this matter at Troop level.

Pursuant to Rule 3 of the New York State Police Administrative Manual, I have imposed no penalty. I have attached a copy of the consent waiver.

This matter is closed.

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

MEMORANDUM

Troop <u>K</u> Station	<u>East Fishkill</u>
	•
Date	August 26, 2019

To:

Troop Commander, Troop K, Poughkeepsie, New York

From:

Trooper John P. DiRusso, SP East Fishkill

Subject:

DISCIPLINARY ACTION - COMPLAINT AGAINST PERSONNEL20190054

I hereby request to have the above captioned investigation adjudicated by the Troop Commander pursuant to Rule 3, disciplinary action, of the New York State Police Manual.

I waive the following:

- 1. The right to have this matter disposed of by the Superintendent or by a formal hearing.
- 2. Any right to appeal the Troop Commander's adjudication, which may be a determination of unfounded or, upon a finding of guilt, the imposition of the following penalties:
 - i. A letter of censure and/or
 - ii. An intra-troop transfer and/or
 - iii. A fine to be expressed in the loss of no more than five vacation days to be worked by me with no additional compensation or overtime.

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

MEMORANDUM

Troop K Station Headquarters

Date <u>August 15, 2019</u>

To: Deputy Superintendent Patrick J. Regan, Professional Standards Bureau

From: Major Richard L. Mazzone, Troop Commander, Troop K

Subject: COMPLAINT AGAINST PERSONNEL - #20190054

TROOPER FREDDY LOPEZ

Reference is made to the previously submitted report regarding the above subject.

On August 15, 2019, Trooper FREDDY LOPEZ appeared before me and executed his consent to have me adjudicate this matter at Troop level.

Pursuant to Rule 3 of the New York State Police Administrative Manual, I have determined that he receive a Letter of Censure. I have attached a copy of the Letter of Censure and consent waiver. Additionally, Trooper LOPEZ was assessed the loss of one vacation day to be worked by him without additional compensation and/or overtime.

This matter is closed.



RICHARD L. MAZZONE Troop K Commander

LETTER OF CENSURE

August 15, 2019

Trooper Freddy Lopez New York State Police Troop "K" East Fishkill, New York

Dear Trooper Lopez:

On August 15, 2019, you appeared before me at Troop "K" Headquarters for the purpose of adjudicating a disciplinary matter arising from your failure to properly search your vehicle prior to the start of your shift. This occurred on February 5, 2019, and you subsequently requested via memorandum to have the matter adjudicated informally by me pursuant to Rule 3 of the Administrative Manual.

During the informal inquiry, we discussed the importance of always properly and thoroughly searching your Troop car, for contraband, both at the start and end of your shift. Specifically, we discussed how a bag of heroin and cocaine were located under the rear seat of your vehicle on the afternoon of February 6, 2019. Although the contraband was located, it does not mitigate the fact that you did not locate it at the start of your previous shift. I realize this is not reflective of your work ethic or attention to detail. I am confident something like this will not happen again and you will continue doing the good work you have done in the past.

I close this matter through the issuance of this Letter of Censure. Additionally, I assess you the loss of one vacation day to be worked by you without additional compensation and/or overtime. I trust this has been a learning experience.

Sincerely.

Richard L. Mazzone

Major - Troop Commander

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

MEMORANDUM

Troop_K_Station	<u>East Fishkill</u>				
Date	August 15, 2019				
Date	Augusi IS, 4017				

To:

Troop Commander, Troop K, Poughkeepsie, New York

From:

Trooper Freddy Lopez, SP East Fishkill \mathcal{F} .

Subject:

DISCIPLINARY ACTION - COMPLAINT AGAINST PERSONNEL 2019 0054

I hereby request to have the above captioned investigation adjudicated by the Troop Commander pursuant to Rule 3, disciplinary action, of the New York State Police Manual.

I waive the following:

- 1. The right to have this matter disposed of by the Superintendent or by a formal hearing.
- Any right to appeal the Troop Commander's adjudication, which may be a determination of unfounded or, upon a finding of guilt, the imposition of the following penalties:
 - i. A letter of censure and/or
 - ii. An intra-troop transfer and/or
 - iii. A fine to be expressed in the loss of no more than five vacation days to be worked by me with no additional compensation or overtime.

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

MEMORANDUM

Troop K Station Headquarters

Date June 26, 2019

To: Deputy Superintendent Patrick J. Regan, Professional Standards Bureau

From: Major Richard L. Mazzone, Troop Commander, Troop K

Subject: COMPLAINT AGAINST PERSONNEL #20190054

TROOPER MICHAEL A. BAYER, EOD 9/26/05, SP EAST FISHKILL TROOPER JOHN P. DIRUSSO, EOD 1/13/14, SP EAST FISHKILL TROOPER ROBERT COSTA, EOD 3/28/16, SP EAST FISHKILL TROOPER FREDDY LOPEZ JR, EOD 5/08/06, SP EAST FISHKILL

Reference is made to attached NYSP Cover Page Report of Sergeant/SC BRIAN M. WILLIAMS, dated May 23, 2019, and cover memorandum of Captain PAUL M. DEQUARTO, Zone 2 Commander, dated May 31, 2019, both concerning titled subject.

I have reviewed the report and discussed the contents of same with Captain DEQUARTO, Zone Two Commander, and I concur with the report findings.

On February 6, 2019, Trooper ROBERT COSTA drove 2K56 to Troop K AMI for radio repair. While working on 2K56, NYCOMCO employee Mr. JOHN L. ZELKER removed the rear seat locating a bag of cocaine and heroin. Investigation identified Troopers COSTA, MICHAEL A. BAYER and FREDDY LOPEZ, Jr. as the primary drivers of 2K56 from February 1 through 6, 2019. During this time frame two prisoners were transported in 2K56, one in the front passenger seat and one in the back seat. However, the investigation could not determine the origin of the contraband. Troopers COSTA, BAYER and LOPEZ all stated they inspected the vehicle each shift, but did not remove the rear seat due to concern of damaging the seat, however, they all failed to notify their supervisor of the issue as directed by Troop Order 18-02. Additionally, Troopers BAYER and JOHN P. DIRUSSO transported a prisoner in the rear seat of 2K56, which is not equipped with a security screen while Trooper DIRUSSO was seated in the front passenger seat.

The investigation has determined that Troopers BAYER, COSTA and LOPEZ by their actions, violated the following NYSP Rules and Regulations:

Regulation 8A2: Failed to comply with the Rules, Regulations and Instructions, specifically:

Article 5C1(a)1: At the start of the tour and before going on patrol, search the vehicle to ensure it is clear of contraband.

Trooper Order 18-02 Inspection and Security of Division Patrol Vehicles: All Members utilizing a patrol vehicle for any purpose, will carefully raise and/or remove the rear seat and visually check the area underneath the seat as part of their daily vehicle inspection.

The investigation also determined that Troopers BAYER and DIRUSSO by their actions, violated the following NYSP Rules and Regulations:

Regulation 8A2: Failed to comply with the Rules, Regulations and Instructions, specifically:

Article 31E6(c)2: When transporting a single prisoner, and are assisted by another Member, seat the prisoner on the passenger side of the rear seat and the assisting Member shall sit in the rear seat, behind the driver and continuously watch the prisoner throughout the trip.

Recommend appropriate administrative action.

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NEW YORK STATE POLICE

MEMORANDUM

Troop K Station Z/2 Wappinger

ate May 31, 2019

To:

Major Richard L. Mazzone, Troop Commander, Troop K

From:

Captain Paul M. DeQuarto, Zone II Commander

Subject:

COMPLAINT AGAINST PERSONNEL – DIVISION FILE #20190054 TROOPER MICHAEL A. BAYER, EOD 9/26/05, SP EAST FISHKILL TROOPER JOHN P. DIRUSSO, EOD 1/13/14, SP EAST FISHKILL TROOPER ROBERT COSTA, EOD 3/28/16, SP EAST FISHKILL TROOPER FREDDY LOPEZ JR., EOD 5/08/06, SP EAST FISHKILL

Reference is made to the attached administrative report of Sergeant/ SC Brian M. Williams, dated 5/23/19, concerning the captioned subject.

I discussed this matter with Sergeant/SC Williams and concur with his findings. On February 6, Trooper Robert Costa was assigned 2K56 for the 1-shift and drove it to Troop K AMI to have the radio antenna line replaced when a NYCOMCO employee located a bag of cocaine and heroin under the rear seat. This investigation has determined that from February 1, 2019 through February 6, 2019 the following Members were the primary operators of 2K56: On February 1, 2 and 3 Trooper Costa during the 1-shift and Trooper Michael A. Bayer during the 2-shift. On February 4, 2K56 was not used on the 1 or 2-shift. On February 5, 2K56 was not used on the 1-shift but was operated by Trooper Freddy Lopez Jr. during the 2-shift. During the timeframe in question (Feb 1-6) there were two subjects transported in 2K56; one in the front seat and the other in the rear. The defendant who was transported in the front seat never had access to the rear seat. Additionally, he was interviewed and denied placing any contraband in 2K56. The defendant that was transported in the rear seat on February 3, refused to be interviewed. The bag that contained the contraband was tested for latent prints with none found. On February 1, 2019, Trooper Costa completed a Genl-44 UF Patrol Vehicle Inspection Form and indicated he checked the backseat; however, he failed to remove the back seat as directed in Troop Order 18-02, out of fear of breaking the seat. This investigation was unable to determine the origin of the contraband. Furthermore, this investigation has determined that although Troopers Costa, Bayer and Lopez searched 2K56 before and after their tours, their searches were inadequate resulting in the contraband being located by Mr. Zelker. Lastly, it has been determined that on February 3, 2019 at about 2:00am, Troopers Bayer and Dirusso transported a prisoner in the rear seat of 2K56 while Trooper Bayer was driving and Trooper Dirusso was in the front passenger seat.

The personnel complaint against Troopers Bayer, Costa and Lopez is founded. All facts obtained during this investigation concluded that Troopers Bayer, Costa and Lopez did violate the following cited Regulation of the New York State Police:

Regulation 8A2: Failed to comply with the Rules, Regulations, and Instructions Specifically:

Article 5C1(a)1 (B) 1: At the start of the tour and before going on patrol, search the vehicle to ensure it is clear of contraband. At the end of your tour, before securing the vehicle, search the vehicle to ensure it is clear of contraband.

Troop Order 18-02 Inspection and Security of Division Patrol Vehicles: All Members utilizing a patrol vehicle for any purpose, will carefully raise and/or remove the rear seat and visually check the area underneath the seat as part of their daily vehicle inspection.

Trooper Michael A. Bayer

To wit: On February 1, 2, and 3, 2019, Trooper Bayer used 2K56 on the 2-shift and failed to adequately search the vehicle resulting in contraband being located under the rear seat on February 6, 2019.

Trooper Robert Costa

To wit: On February 1, 2, 3 and 6, 2019, Trooper Costa used 2K56 on the 1-shift and failed to adequately search the vehicle resulting in contraband being located under the rear seat on February 6, 2019.

Trooper Freddy Lopez Jr.

To wit: On February 5, 2019, Trooper Lopez used 2K56 on the 2-shift and failed to adequately search the vehicle resulting in contraband being located under the rear seat on February 6, 2019.

The personnel complaint against Troopers Bayer and Dirusso is founded for failure to properly transport a prisoner. Troopers Bayer and Dirusso did violate the following cited Regulation of the New York State Police:

Regulation 8A2: Failed to comply with the Rules, Regulations, and Instructions Specifically:

Article 31E6(c)2: When transporting a single prisoner and are assisted by another member, seat the prisoner on the passenger side of the rear seat and the assisting member shall sit in the rear seat, behind the driver and continuously watch the prisoner throughout the trip.

To Wit: On February 3, 2019 at approximately 2:00am, Troopers Bayer and Dirusso had a subject under arrest for DWI and transported her in 2K56 which is not equipped with a security screen. The prisoner was seated in the rear seat while Trooper Bayer was driving and Trooper Dirusso was seated in the front passenger seat.

Recommend appropriate administrative action.

GENL.30 (REV 2/00)

NEW YORK STATE POLICE **COVER PAGE**

TITLE OF CASE		REPORTING TROOP	MANAGING TROOP	DATE OF REPORT			
Trooper Michael A. Bayer		K	K	05/23/2019			
EOD 09/26/05, S	P East Fishkill	DATE OCCURRED	TZS	CTV CODE			
Trooper John P.	DiRusso	02/06/2019	K261	K1462			
EOD 01/13/14, S	P East Fishkill	ANGESTICATIVE DEDUC	1	TVDED BY			
Trooper Robert C		02/06/19 - 05/23/19	OD	TYPED BY bmw			
EOD 03/28/16, SP East Fishkill Trooper Freddy Lopez Jr.		02/00/18 - 03/23/19	derdito director				
		REPORT OF	0 111 /				
EOD 05/08/06, S	P East Fishkill	Sgt/SC Brian M. William	s DMW	3514			
CHARACTER OF	CASE - (CC CODE)	STATION		CASE#			
COMPLAINT AG	AINST PERSONNEL	SP East Fishkill	20190054				
(PCT0100)		STATUS OF CASE () CA () C/EC () C/	/INV ()C/UNF ()C/UI	NS (X)C/FND ()OPN			
REFERENCE:	Report of Personnel Investigation # 20	190054, dated 05/23/2019					
ENCLOSURES:	 Gen'l 34d Digital Photo Record and Genl. 2 Evidence record for SJS Genl. 4 Supporting Deposition of Jol SJS Incident Report Pers 29 Member Attendance Record Tour Strength, SP East Fishkill, Feb Genl. 44 Uniform Patrol Vehicle Inst 	nn Zelker ds, SP East Fishkill ruary 1 through 6, 2019.					

8. Genl. 7 Memorandum of Trooper Freddy Lopez Jr 9. Genl. 7 Memorandum of Trooper Michael A. Bayer 10. Genl. 7 Memorandum of Trooper John P. DiRusso
11. Genl. 7 Memorandum of Trooper Robert Costa
12. SJS Incident Report # Arrest Report #
13. SJS Incident Report # Arrest Report # 14. FIU Latent Prints Report15. Genl. 7 Memorandum of Sergeant Nicholas S. Gallipani

16. Genl. 4 Supporting Deposition of Michael Thomson 17. Troop Order 18-02 dated 11/20/2018

DISTRIBUTION: () DHQ () TROOP () OTHER:	FOR TROOP/DIVISION HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY
TROOP TO A). Parl & Mym	DESTROY IN 20 INITIALS PERMANENT RETENTION INITIALS
DHQ	RCN

REPORT

SYNOPSIS:

On February 6, 2019, at approximately 1:50pm, Trooper ROBERT COSTA, SP East Fishkill, drove 2K56 to Troop K AMI to have the radio antenna line replaced. While working on 2K56, NYCOMCO employee JOHN L. ZELKER removed the rear seat and discovered a clear plastic bag of cocaine and heroin. Investigation into this matter revealed the operators and 2 shift partners of 2K56 from February 1st through February 6th to be Trooper COSTA, Trooper MICHAEL BAYER, SP East Fishkill and Trooper FREDDY LOPEZ JR, SP East Fishkill. On two separate dates during this time frame 2 subjects were transported in 2K56; one in the back seat and the other in the front passenger seat. However, the investigation has been unable to determine the origin of the found contraband. It has been determined that Troopers BAYER, COSTA and LOPEZ failed to adequately search their assigned vehicle 2K56 at the beginning and end of their shifts. Additionally, it has been determined that Troopers BAYER and DIRUSSO failed to properly position themselves while transporting a prisoner in a Division vehicle not equipped with a security screen. The personnel complaint against Troopers BAYER, COSTA and LOPEZ is founded for failing to adequately search 2K56 and founded for Troopers BAYER and DIRUSSO for the improper prisoner transport. Recommend appropriate administrative action

DETAILS:

1. On February 6, 2019, at approximately 1:50pm, Trooper ROBERT COSTA drove 2K56 to Troop K AMI to have the radio antenna line replaced. NYCOMCO employee JOHN L. ZELKER removed the rear seat of 2K56 and found a clear plastic bag of cocaine and heroin under the rear seat. Mr. ZELKER notified AMI Supervisor MICHAEL THOMSON who then advised First Sergeant MATTHEW SCHLOTTMANN, Troop K. First Sergeant SCHLOTTMANN notified Captain DAVID L. KOLB, Troop K Admin Captain, who advised Captain PAUL DEQUARTO, Zone II Commander. I, Sergeant BRIAN M. WILLIAMS, SP East Fishkill, was assigned to investigate under DCN# 20190054.

AT SP POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

2. On February 6, 2019, Investigator SHANNON ALPERT, Troop K FIU, took photographs of the contraband in 2K56 and completed a Genl. 34D, Digital Photo Record, a copy which is attached as ENCLOSURE #1.

AT SP EAST FISHKILL, NEW YORK

- 3. On February 6, 2019, Sergeant NICHOLAS S. GALLIPANI, SP Poughkeepsie, secured the evidence, completed a Geni-2 Evidence Record and placed the evidence in the SP Poughkeepsie UF evidence locker. A copy of the Geni-2 Evidence Record is attached as **ENCLOSURE #2**.
- 4. On February 6, 2019, Sergeant MICHAEL FRONTINO. SP Poughkeepsie, interviewed NYCOMCO employee JOHN L. ZELKER, who stated in sum and substance that he removed the rear seat to 2K56 to run a radio antenna line when he discovered a bag of drugs under the seat. He then advised AMI Supervisor MICHAEL THOMSON. A copy of Mr. ZELKER'S supporting deposition is attached as ENCLOSURE #3.
- 5. On February 6, 2019, Sergeant FRONTINO created SJS #8737921 in connection with this found property investigation. A copy of the SJS #8737921 is attached as **ENCLOSURE** #4.
- 6. On February 10, 2019, I reviewed the Pers. 29, Member Attendance Records for SP East Fishkill for the 1 and 2 shifts encompassing February 1, 2019 through February 6, 2019. This revealed that on February 1, 2 and 3 Trooper COSTA operated 2K56 during the 1 shift and Trooper BAYER operated 2K56 during the 2-shift. On February 4, 2K56 was not used on the 1 or 2-shift. On February 5, 2K56 was not used on the 1-shift but was operated by Trooper LOPEZ during the 2-shift. On February 6, Trooper COSTA operated 2K56 during the 1-shift. See chart below. Copies of the Pers. 29s are attached as ENCLOSURE #5.

Primary Operators of 2K56 from February 1-6, 2019

Day,	Feb. 1, 2019	Feb. 2, 2019	Feb. 3, 2019	Feb. 4, 2019	Feb. 5, 2019	Feb. 6, 2019
1-Shift	Tpr. COSTA	Tpr. COSTA	Tpr. COSTA	No used	Not used	Tor. COSTA
2-Shift	Tpr. BAYER	Tpr. BAYER	Tpr. BAYER	No used	Tpr. LOPEZ	

- 7. On February 10, 2019, I reviewed the Tour Strength encompassing February 1, 2019 through February 6, 2019 which showed on February 1, 2 and 3 Trooper COSTA operated 2K56 during the 1-shift and Trooper BAYER operated 2K56 during the 2-shift. Additionally, on February 1st and 2nd Trooper DIRUSSO was the passenger in 2K56 from 12am 5am with Trooper BAYER. During Trooper BAYER'S 2-shift on February 3 he was partnered with Trooper DIRUSSO from 12am 5am in 2K54. On February 4, 2K56 was not used on the 1 or 2-shift. On February 5, 2K56 was not used on the 1-shift but was operated by Trooper LOPEZ during the 2 shift. However, during the hours of 12am 5am Trooper LOPEZ did not operate 2K56 because he was the passenger in 2K54 with Trooper ROBERT STANTON. On February 6, Trooper COSTA operated 2K56 during the 1-shift. Copies of the Tour Strength are attached as **ENCLOSURE #6**.
- 8. On February 10, 2019, I reviewed the Genl. 44 UF Patrol Vehicle Inspection for 2K56 dated February 1, 2019 which indicates Trooper COSTA wrote in the comments/remarks section "Rear seat checked" indicating he checked the rear seat for contraband but did not specify that he removed the rear seat during the inspection. A copy of the Genl 44 UF Patrol Vehicle Inspection form is attached as **ENCLOSURE #7.**
- 9. On February 10, 2019, I interviewed Trooper FREDDY LOPEZ JR, SP East Fishkill. Trooper LOPEZ stated in sum and substance that on February 5, 2019, he operated 2K56 during his 2-shift and did not transport anyone in the vehicle. During the hours of 12am 5am Trooper LOPEZ did not operate 2K56 because he was the passenger in 2K54 with Trooper STANTON as the driver. On that date, he inspected the driver and passenger seats of 2K56 for contraband prior to going on patrol and after his shift. He did so by using search gloves and a flashlight and did not observe any contraband. He attempted but was unable to remove the rear seat of 2K56 in fear he may break it. Trooper LOPEZ'S memorandum is attached as **ENCLOSURE #8**.
- 10. On February 12, 2019, I interviewed Trooper MICHAEL BAYER, SP East Fishkill, Trooper BAYER stated in sum and substance that on Friday February 1, 2019 he operated 2K56 during his 2-shift. Between the hours of 12am - 5am Trooper DIRUSSO was his passenger. No one else was in 2K56 during that time. On Saturday/February 2, 2019, he operated 2K56 during his 2 shift. Trooper DIRUSSO was his 2-shift partner from 12am - 5am as the passenger. In the early morning hours of Sunday February 3, 2019, at approximately 2:00am Troopers BAYER and DIRUSSO arrested (SJS for DWI. Trooper BAYER and placed her in the rear passenger side seat of 2K56. was transported from the scene to SP East Fishkill for arrest processing. During the transport, Trooper DIRUSSO sat in the front passenger seat not positioning himself in the rear seat with On Sunday February 3, 2019 Trooper BAYER operated 2K56 during his 2-shift. During the hours of 12am - 5am he was the passenger of 2K54 with Trooper DIRUSSO as the driver. Trooper BAYER did not transport anyone else in 2K56. Additionally, Trooper BAYER stated he did physically check the rear seat of 2K56 prior to going on patrol and at the end of each of his tours on February 1, 2 and 3rd. He did so by spreading the seat cushion and back rest apart while visually inspecting. He stated he did not fully remove the rear seat in fear he would damage from exerting too much. force upon it. Trooper BAYER'S memorandum is attached as ENCLOSURE #9.
- 11. On February 12, 2019, I interviewed Trooper JOHN DIRUSSO, SP East Fishkill who stated in sum and substance that on Friday February 1, 2019 he worked a 2-shift in 2K54. Between the hours of 12am 5am he was the passenger in 2K56 with Trooper BAYER as the driver. On Saturday February 2, 2019, he worked a 2-shift in 2K54. Between the hours of 12am-5am he was the passenger in 2K56 with Trooper BAYER as the driver. On February 3, 2019 (during the February 2nd, 2 shift) at approximately 2:00am he and Trooper BAYER arrested for DWI. Trooper DIRUSSO explained, Trooper BAYER searched and placed her in the rear passenger side seat of 2K56. During the transport from the scene back to SP East Fishkill Trooper DIRUSSO sat in the front passenger seat not positioning himself in the rear seat with Additionally, at no time did Trooper DIRUSSO search the rear seat of 2K56. On Sunday February 3, 2019, he worked a 2-shift in 2K54. Trooper BAYER was his passenger from 12am-5am. At no time on during Trooper DIRUSSO'S 2-shift on February 3rd was he in 2K56. Trooper DIRUSSO'S memorandum is attached as ENCLOSURE #10.
- 12. On February 12, 2019, I interviewed Trooper ROBERT COSTA, SP East Fishkill who stated in sum and substance that on February 1, 2019, he operated 2K56 during his 1-shift. Prior to going on patrol, Trooper COSTA completed a Genl. 44 UF Patrol Vehicle Inspection for? He stated he visually inspected the rear seat of 2K56 and physically checked the crevasses with negative results. He explained he attempted multiple times to remove the rear seat but was unsuccessful. He was concerned he would damage the seat by forcefully pulling on it. On February 1, 2019, Trooper COSTA did not transport anyone in 2K56. On February 2, 2019 Trooper

Trooper COSTA operated 2K56 during the 1-shift. He did not transport anyone on that date. On February 3, 2019. Trooper COSTA operated 2K56 during his 1-shift. At approximately 6:15pm Trooper COSTA arrested [SJS
13. On February 17, 2019, I telephonically contacted who was arrested by Trooper COSTA on February 3, 2019. respectfully declined an interview without consulting with his attorney CHRISTOPHER YORKE.
14. On February 17, 2019, I spoke with Mr. CHRISTOPHER YORKF who advised he would talk with and get back to me regarding an interview.
15. On February 17, 2019, I attempted to contact who was arrested by Trooper BAYER and DIRUSSO on February 3, 2019. I left a multiple voice messages requesting her to contact me with negative results. A copy of SJS incident and arrest report (are as ENCLOSURE #12.
16. On March 12, 2019, contacted me telephonically and agreed to an interview with in a three-way phone call. On date confirmed he was arrested by Trooper COSTA on February 3, 2019. Stated he was thoroughly searched by Trooper COSTA and handcuffed behind his back and then placed in the front seat of 2K56 and secured with the seatbelt. I asked time he secreted any contraband in the rear seat of 2K56 and he replied, "No.". Stated at no time was he placed in the rear seat of 2K56 or have access to rear seat of 2K56. And Mr. YORKE declined to provide a written statement. A copy of SJS incident and arrest report

AT TROOP K HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

are attached as ENCLOSURE #13.

- 17. On April 22, 2019, at the request of Captain DEQUARTO, item #1 was forwarded to Troop K FIU for latent print processing.
- 18. On May 13, 2019, Investigator CHELSEA A. GAGLIARDI, Troop K-FIU, advised that no latent prints were obtained from Item #1. A copy of the Latent Print Report is attached as **ENCLOSURE #14**.
- 19. On May 20, 2019, I interviewed Sergeant NICHOLAS S. GALLIPANI, SP Poughkeepsie who stated in sum and substance that on February 6, 2019, at about 2:00pm, he was advised by First Sergeant MATTHEW SCHLOTTMANN that drugs were discovered under the back seat of 2K56 while getting work done in AMI. Sergeant GALLIPANI stated he was instructed by First Sergeant SCHLOTTMANN to secure the drugs as evidence which he did and placed said evidence in the SP Poughkeepsie UF Evidence Locker. Additionally, Sergeant GALLIPANI completed a Genl. 2, Evidence Record and a Genl. 40, Evidence Tag. Sergeant GALLIPANI'S memorandum is attached as ENCLOSURE #15.
- 20. On May 20, 2019, I interviewed MICHAEL THOMSON, Troop K AMI Supervisor, who stated in sum and substance that on February 6, 2019, at approximately 1:50pm, he was advised by NYCOMCO employee Mr. ZELKER that he found a bag of drugs under the rear seat of 2K56 while running a radio antenna line. Mr. THOMSON immediately advised First Sergeant SCHLOTTMANN. A copy of Mr. THOMSON'S supporting deposition is attached as **ENCLOSURE # 16.**
- 21. Major RICHARD L. MAZZÓNE, Troop K Commander, issued Troop Order #18-02 on November 20, 2018 titled Inspection and Security of Division Patrol Vehicles. A copy of this Troop Order is attached as ENCLSOURE #17.

CONCLUSION:

Investigation into this matter has determined that on February 1, 2 and 3 Trooper COSTA operated 2K56 during the 1-shift and Trooper BAYER operated 2K56 during the 2-shift. On February 4, 2K56 was not used on the 1 or 2-shift. On February 5, 2K56 was not used on the 1-shift but was operated by Trooper LOPEZ during the 2-shift. On February 6, Trooper COSTA was assigned 2K56 for the 1-shift and drove it to Troop K AMI to have the radio antenna line replaced when NYCOMCO employee located a bag of cocaine and heroin under the rear seat. The bag was tested for latent prints with none found. This investigation was unable to determine the origin of the contraband. Furthermore, this investigation has determined that although Troopers COSTA, BAYER and LOPEZ searched 2K56 before and after their tours, their searches were inadequate resulting in the contraband being located by Mr. ZELKER. Lastly, it has been determined that on February 3, 2019 at about 2:00am, Troopers BAYER and DIRUSSO transported a prisoner in the rear seat of 2K56 while Trooper BAYER was driving and Trooper DIRUSSO was in the front passenger seat.

The personnel complaint against Trooper MICHAEL A. BAYER, ROBERT COSTA and FREDDY LOPEZ JR. is founded. All facts obtained during this investigation concluded that Troopers BAYER, COSTA and LOPEZ did violate the following cited Regulation of the New York State Police:

Regulation 8A2: Failed to comply with the Rules, Regulations, and Instructions Specifically:

Article 5C1(a)1 (B) 1: At the start of the tour and before going on patrol, search the vehicle to ensure it is clear of contraband. At the end of your tour, before securing the vehicle, search the vehicle to ensure it is clear of contraband.

Troop Order 18-02 Inspection and Security of Division Patrol Vehicles: All Members utilizing a patrol vehicle for any purpose, will carefully raise and/or remove the rear seat and visually check the area underneath the seat as part of their daily vehicle inspection.

Trooper MICHAEL A. BAYER

To wit: On February 1, 2, and 3, 2019, Trooper BAYER used 2K56 on the 2-shift and failed to adequately search the vehicle resulting in contraband being located under the rear seat on February 6, 2019.

Trooper ROBERT COSTA

To wit: On February 1, 2, 3 and 6, 2019, Trooper COSTA used 2K56 on the 1-shift and failed to adequately search the vehicle resulting in contraband being located under the rear seat on February 6, 2019.

Trooper FREDDY LOPEZ JR

To wit: On February 5, 2019, Trooper LOPEZ used 2K56 on the 2-shift and failed to adequately search the vehicle resulting in contraband being located under the rear seat on February 6, 2019.

The personnel complaint against Troopers BAYER and DIRUSSO is founded for failure to properly transport a prisoner. Troopers BAYER and DIRUSSO did violate the following cited Regulation of the New York State Police:

Regulation 8A2: Failed to comply with the Rules, Regulations, and Instructions Specifically:

Article 31E6(c)2: When transporting a single prisoner and are assisted by another member, seat the prisoner on the passenger side of the rear seat and the assisting member shall sit in the rear seat, behind the driver and continuously watch the prisoner throughout the trip.

To Wit: On February 3, 2019 at approximately 2:00am, Troopers BAYER and DIRUSSO had a subject under arrest for DWI and transported her in 2K56 which is not equipped with a security screen. The prisoner was seated in the rear seat while Trooper BAYER was driving and Trooper DIRUSSO was seated in the front passenger seat.

Recommend appropriate administrative action.

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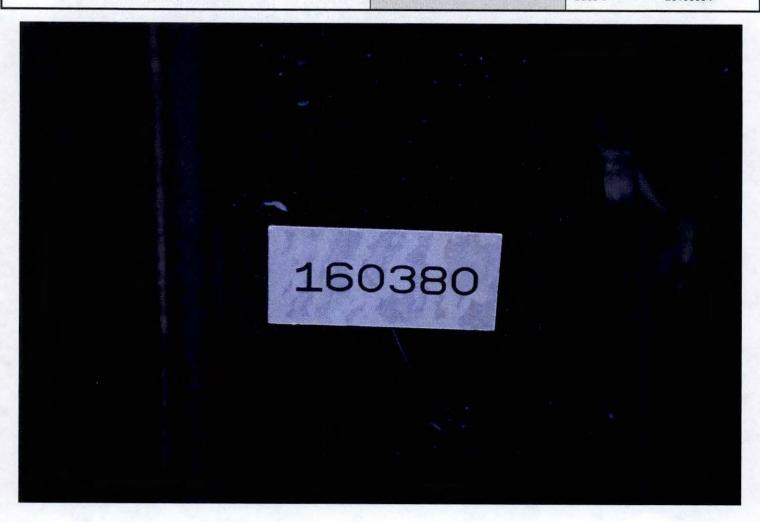


Photo 2 of 12

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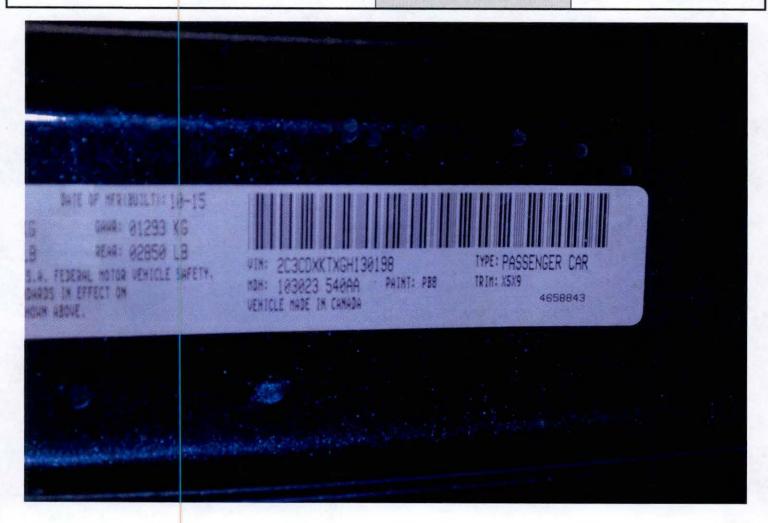


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Photo 4 of 12

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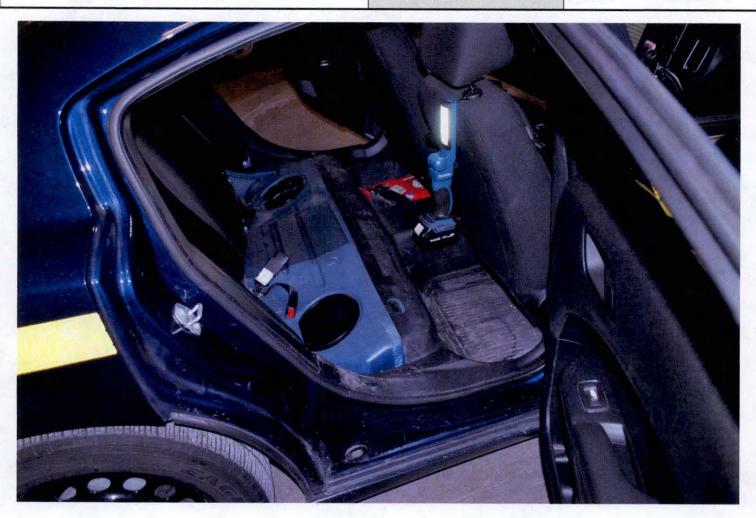


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Photo 6 of 12

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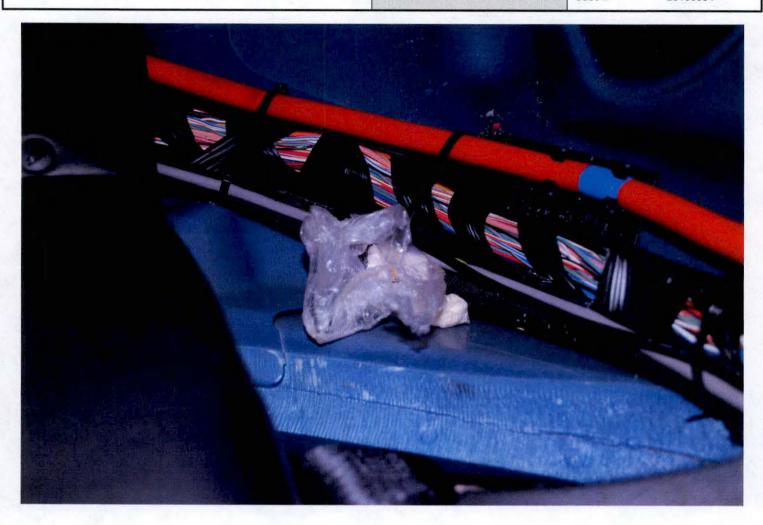


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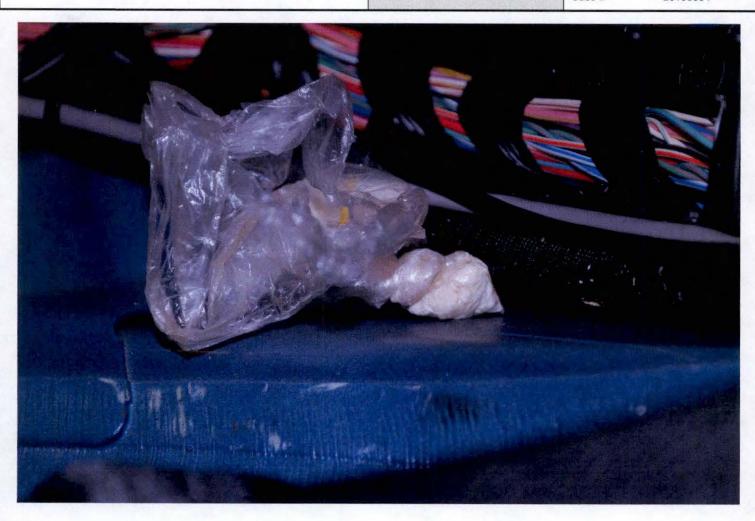


Photo 8 of 12

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Photo 9 of 12

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Photo 10 of 12

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Photo 11 of 12

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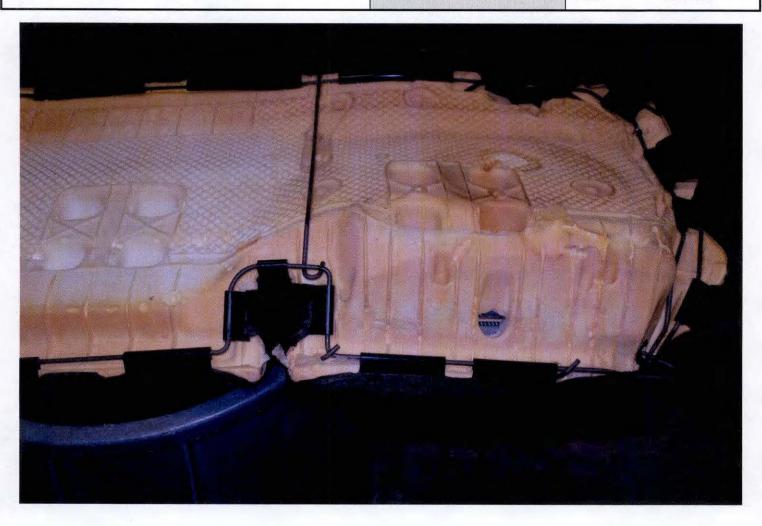


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NEW YORK STATE POLICE

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Mid Hudson Satellite Crime Laboratory 224 Breunig Road, P.O. Box 4077, New Windsor, NY 12553-0077 | (845) 564-4330 | www.troopers.ny.gov Page 1 of 1

Crime Laboratory Case Receipt Record

Lab Number

19ML-00379

Agency Case Number 8737921

Submitting Agency

K261-SPEAST FISHKILL

Submission Date-Time

2/21/2019 - 12:02 pm

Received By

Renee M. Rose

Submitted By

TPR HOBSON

Comments

Associated Names

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Last Name NYSP First Name

Middle Name

Item

Description / Source

One (1) scaled plastic bag containing: Chunk Substance BAG, GLASSINES W/ POWDER & RUBBERBAND





NEW YORK STATE POLICE Forensic Investigation Center Building 30, 1220 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12226-3000 | (518) 457-1208 | www.troopers.ny.gov

Return to Submitting Agency - Pick Up

K261-SP EAST FISHKILL

05/02/2019

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Page 1 of 1

The items and/or sub-items listed on this receipt were assigned by the laboratory and are returned in sealed packages. The accountability for the contents of these scaled packages is the responsibility of the submitting officer and/or laboratory scientist.





NEW YORK STATE POLICE Mid Hudson Satellite Crime Laboratory 224 Breunig Road, P.O. Box 4077, New Windsor, NY 12553-0077 (845) 564-4330 | www.troopers.ny.gov

Return to Submitting Agency - Pick Up

K261-SP EAST FISHKILL

04/22/2019

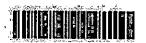
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Page 1 of 1

The items and/or sub-items listed on this receipt were assigned by the Inboratory and are returned in scaled packages. The accountability for the contents of these scaled packages is the responsibility of the submitting officer and/or laboratory scientist.



THE PEOP	LE OF THE STATE OF NE vs.	EW YORK						
	Defendant(s)							
	INCIDENT LOCATION:		Ē	OCATION	I OF DEPOSIT	ION:		
STATE OF NEW	YORK LOCAL CRIMINAL	COURT		STATE O	F NEW YORK			
COUNTY OF	DUTCHESS		COUNTY OF	DU T CHE	SS			
TOWN	ofPLEASANT VALLEY	,	TOWN of PLEASANT VALLEY					
On 02/06/2019 at	Time Started 02:20 PM I,	Full Name: JOHN L ZELKER	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
Date of Birth 11/29/1970	No. and Street 53 WEST CEDAR ST		СЛN POUGHK	(EEPSIE		_	State NY	
manufacturer that co	ie stuffed behind the rea overed the seatbelt buck Mike Thomson, the AM	kles. Once I looked a	t it closely I saw th					
Committed a crime under penal	whent, any person who knowner the laws of the state of the state of the perjury that of the state of the stat	of New York punishable a	v §210.45) atement which such p as a Class A Misdeme			o be true has	-	
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* Subscribed and Sw	orn to before me		(WITNESS)	, <u>"</u>	Time Ended 02/06/2019	02:30 PM	\neg	
this	day of	<u>-</u>	(NAME OF PERSON TAKING DI	EPOSITION)	[<u>02/06/2019</u>	02.30 FIII		

^{*} This form need be sworn to only when specifically required by the court

GENL-44 (Rev 07/18)

New York State Police

UF Patrol V	ehicle Insp	าท	Station: SP East Fi		Plate # 2K5	6				
			<i>-</i>			1	•	Date Inspected: 0	2/01/	2019
Vehicle Informat	lion			AND FOREST	-				7.7	
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ast Operator's Name (L			 	ted By (Last, First, MI)	Cilai	Jei		124,431		·
Costa, Robert	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		 	ta, Robert						
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Make notes as needed Retain monthly inspec Retain supervisory qua inspection, then destro	tion⊲in files until a arterly inspection i	fter nex in files t	l Inspect Intil after	on, then destroy. next quarterly	√ or S = 3 U = Unsa N = Not /	Satisfa itisfact	юту	M = Missii R = Repaii X = Needs	Needed	
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√ Tires		√	Glass	(Also, Rear Windows Disable	d?)	√	AED Pad	1 1 Exp Date: 02	/01/201	8
√ Wipers & Washers		√.	Slick T	op / Cite Lights		1	AED Pad	2 Exp Date: 02	/01/201	8
√ Push Bumper	<u> </u>	- √	Inspec	tion Sticker Exp Date: 06/0	1/2019	_√	AED Bat	tery 1 Exp Date:	08/01/2	2018
R Headlights		√	E-ZPas	s # G400407157890		√	AED Bat	tery 2 Exp Date:	08/01/2	2018
√ Grille or Push Burn	per Lights	Das	hboard /	Center Console		√	Naloxon	e Exp Date: 09/0	1/2019	
Parking Lights					√_	DWI Blood Kit Exp Date: 06/30/2019				
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/ Brake Lights			- Defroster		√	Bionazar	d Kit	_		
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AlcoSensor # F000			15					ت .		<u>.</u>
as vehicle test driven?		Yes	No	is any unauthorized equip				ribe below.)	Yes 🗸	_
					the melal	Ja luka	-10			No
as an officer safety cheomments / Remarks:	ck for deadly wear	ons/da	igerous	instruments conducted on	rue Aeutett	3 S Inte	nor?	✓	Yes	140

MEMORANDUM

Troop K Station

Date February 11, 2019

To: Major Richard L. Mazzone, Troop Commander, Troop K

From: Trooper Freddy Lopez Jr 5435 F.L.

Subject: PERSONNEL COMPLAINT - FOUND CONTRABAND

I have been ordered by SC/SGT BRIAN M.WILLIAMS, SP East Fishkill, to provide a written account of CONTRABAND located in 2K56. I have been advised of my Article 16 rights. I am being represented by Trooper MAURICE COLEY, Troop K Delegate, and provide the following account:

On February 5, 2019 I was scheduled to work a 2 tour at SP East Fishkill. Prior to going on patrol, I performed a daily inspection of 2K56 in accordance with the MEMBERS MANUAL ARTICLE 5; DIVISION VEHICLES I checked both driver and passenger seats for any contraband utilizing search gloves and the aid of a flashlight with negative results. I conducted a search of possible places contraband could be placed by a subject being transported in the rear seat of 2K56 with negative results. I attempted to physically remove the backseat but was unsuccessful in doing that knowing I could possibly cause damage to the rear seat if not removed properly. I did not notify a supervisor because I did not think this warranted a notification due to no reported damage to the backseat while attempting to remove same.

During my shift I affected no arrests and did not place any subjects in my vehicle during patrol. I also conducted a secondary inspection of 2K56 prior to the end of my shift with no reported finding of contraband located in the vehicle. Additionally between the hours of 12am – 5am I was the passenger in 2K54 with Trooper ROBERT STANTON as the driver.

MEMORANDUM

Troop K Station SP East Fishkill

Date February 12, 2019

To: Major RICHARD L. MAZZONE Troop Commander, Troop K

From: Trooper MICHAEL BAYER

Subject: PERSONNEL COMPLAINT - FOUND CONTRABAND

I was advised of my rights to representation pursuant to Article 16.2 of the PBA contract by Sgt/SC BRIAN WILLIAMS on February 12, 2019. I am represented by my PBA Delegate MAURICE COLEY and I provide the following written account.

At 7pm on Friday February 1, 2019, I operated marked state police patrol vehicle 2K56 during my assigned "2" tour. Prior to going on patrol I visually inspected the rear seat of 2K56 and physically checked its crevasses with negative results. I was unable to remove the rear seat of 2K56 for inspection and was concerned about potentially causing damage to it by exerting too much force upon it. I therefore lifted the seat and inspected it with a flashlight spreading the back rest from the seat cushion to conduct my inspection. The inspection was completed with negative results.

From 12am to 5am on Saturday February 2, 2019 Trooper JOHN DIRUSSO was my passenger in 2K56. No one else was in 2K56 during my tour. At the end of my tour I visually inspected the rear seat of 2K56 and physically checked its crevasses with negative results. I was unable to remove the rear seat of 2K56 for inspection and was concerned about potentially causing damage to it by exerting too much force upon it. I therefore lifted the seat and inspected it with a flashlight spreading the back rest from the seat cushion to conduct my inspection. The inspection was completed with negative results.

At 7pm on Saturday February 2, 2019 I operated marked state police patrol vehicle 2K56 during my assigned "2" tour. Prior to going on patrol I visually inspected the rear seat of 2K56 and physically checked its crevasses with negative results. I was unable to remove the rear seat of 2K56 for inspection and was concerned about potentially causing damage to it by exerting too much force upon it. I therefore lifted the

seat and inspected it with a flashlight spreading the back rest from the seat cushion to conduct my inspection. The inspection was completed with negative results.

From 12am to 5am on Sunday February 3, Trooper DIRUSSO was my passenger. in 2K56. Trooper DIRUSSO sat in the front passenger seat during those hours. On Sunday February 3, 2019 at approximately 2am I arrested for 1192 (SJS by handcuffing her behind the back and double locking the handcuffs. Upon into custody I searched her while simultaneously being cognizant of my search limitations due to her sex. I searched utilizing the back of my hand first searching her waistline, then her pockets making her 2 front pockets inside out. I then went from the bottom of left leg to her waist, then down to the bottom of her waist and lower half I checked her left right leg to her right foot. After checking arm, her back, her right arm, and her abdomen. After taking into custody I placed her in the rear passenger seat of 2K56 and secured her with the seatbelt. During my search of and placement of her in 2K56 Trooper DIRUSSO conducted an was transported from the scene back to SP East inventory of vehicle. Fishkill in the rear passenger seat of 2K56 while trooper DIRUSSO sat in the front passenger seat. No one else was in 2K56 during my tour. At the end of my tour I visually inspected the rear seat of 2K56 and physically checked its crevasses with negative results. I was unable to remove the rear seat of 2K56 for inspection and was concerned about potentially causing damage to it by exerting too much force upon it. I therefore lifted the seat and inspected it with a flashlight spreading the back rest from the seat cushion to conduct my inspection. The inspection was completed with negative results.

At 7pm on Sunday February 3, 2019 I operated marked state police patrol vehicle 2K56 during my "2" tour. Prior to going on patrol I visually inspected the rear seat of 2K56 and physically checked its crevasses with negative results. I was unable to remove the rear seat of 2K56 for inspection and was concerned about potentially causing damage to it by exerting too much force upon it. I therefore lifted the seat and inspected it with a flashlight spreading the back rest from the seat cushion to conduct my inspection. The inspection was completed with negative results.

I was the passenger in 2K54 from 12am to 5am on Monday February 4, 2019 with Trooper DIRUSSO as the driver. No one else was in 2K56 during my tour. At the end of my tour I visually inspected the rear seat of 2K56 and physically checked its crevasses with negative results. I was unable to remove the rear seat of 2K56 for inspection and was concerned about potentially causing damage to it by exerting too much force upon it. I therefore lifted the seat and inspected it with a flashlight spreading the back rest from the seat cushion to conduct my inspection. The inspection was completed with negative results. I did not notify a supervisor of my non-removal of the rear seat as I believed my search would have detected any contraband and as previously stated was concerned about damaging the rear seat upon its repeated removal, I did not believe making a notification would alleviate that concern.

MEMORANDUM

Troop K Station SP East Fishkill

Date <u>February 12, 2019</u>

To: Major RICHARD L. MAZZONE Troop Commander, Troop K

From: Trooper JOHN DI RUSSO

Subject: PERSONNEL COMPLAINT – FOUND CONTRABAND

I was advised of my rights to representation pursuant to Article 16.2 of the PBA contract by Sgt/SC BRIAN WILLIAMS on February 12, 2019. I am represented by my PBA Delegate MAURICE COLEY and I provide the following written account.

On Friday February 1, 2019, I worked a 2 shift in my assigned vehicle 2K54. Between the hours of 12am – 5am I was the passenger in 2K56 with Trooper BAYER as the driver. At no point during my tour on Friday February 1, did I search 2K56.

On Saturday February 2, 2019, I worked a 2 shift in my assigned vehicle 2K54. Between the hours of 12am-5am I was the passenger in 2K56 with Trooper BAYER as the driver. At no point during my tour on Saturday February 2, did I search 2K56. On February 3, (during the February 2nd, 2 shift) at approximately 2:00am Trooper BAYER arrested (SJS) for DWI. Once myself and Trooper BAYER safely placed in handcuffs, I began to conduct an inventory of vehicle. Trooper BAYER searched and placed her in the passenger side rear seat of 2K56. After the completion of the vehicle inventory, I returned to 2K56 and sat in the front passenger seat. Was transported in the rear passenger side seat in 2K56 to SP EAST FISHKILL for processing. At no point after arrival at the barracks did I search or check 2K56.

On February 3, 2019, I worked a 2 shift in my assigned vehicle 2K54. Trooper BAYER was my passenger from 12am-5am. At no time during my 2 shift of February 3 was I in 2K56.

As previously stated, I did not search 2K56 for any contraband therefore never attempted to remove the rear seat of 2K56 and never made any notifications of such.

MEMORANDUM

Troop K Station SP East Fishkill

Date February 12, 2019

To: Major RICHARD L. MAZZONE Troop Commander, Troop K

From: Trooper ROBERT COSTA (CC)

Subject: PERSONNEL COMPLAINT – FOUND CONTRABAND

I was advised of my rights to representation pursuant to Article 16.2 of the PBA contract by Sgt/SC BRIAN WILLIAMS on February 12, 2019. I am represented by my PBA Delegate MAURICE COLEY and I provide the following written account.

On Friday February 1, 2019, I operated marked state police patrol vehicle 2K56 during my assigned "1" tour. At the beginning of my tour, I completed a GEN'L 44 Vehicle Inspection for 2K56. During the inspection, I visually inspected the rear seat of 2K56 and physically checked the crevasses for drug contraband or weapons with negative results. I did this by spreading the rear seat and back cushion apart while running my hand between the cushions to feel for anything and using a flashlight to visually inspect the crevasses. I was unable to remove the rear seat of 2K56 during the inspection. I attempted multiple times to remove the rear seat with negative results. I was concerned about potentially damaging the vehicle by forcefully trying to remove the rear seat. I also visually checked under the front driver's seat and passenger seat by using a flashlight. No one else was in 2K56 for the duration of my tour. At the end of my tour, I again visually and physically checked 2K56 for contraband with negative results. I did this by spreading the rear seat and back cushion apart while running my hand between the cushions to feel for anything and using a flashlight to visually inspect the crevasses. I also visually checked under the front driver's seat and passenger seat by using a flashlight.

On Saturday February 2, 2019, I operated marked state police patrol vehicle 2K56 during my assigned "1" tour. No one else was in 2K56 for the duration of my tour. At the beginning of my tour, I searched 2K56 for drug contraband or weapons with negative results. I did this by spreading the rear seat and back cushion apart while running my hand between the cushions to feel for anything and using a flashlight to visually inspect the crevasses. I also visually checked under the front driver's seat and passenger seat by using a flashlight. At the end of my tour, I again visually and physically checked 2K56 for

contraband with negative results. I did this by spreading the rear seat and back cushion apart while running my hand between the cushions to feel for anything and using a flashlight to visually inspect the crevasses. I also visually checked under the front driver's seat and passenger seat by using a flashlight.

On Sunday February 3, 2019, I operated marked state police patrol vehicle

2K56 during my "I" tour. At the beginning of my tour, I searched 2K56 for drug contraband or weapons with negative results. I did this by spreading the rear seat and back cushion apart while running my hand between the cushions to feel for anything and using a flashlight to visually inspect the crevasses. I also visually checked under the front driver's seat and passenger seat by using a flashlight. At approximately 6:15pm, I arrested for 1192 (SJS Subsequent to my arrest, I searched and placed him into the front passenger seat of 2K56. I transported to SP East Fishkill. At no time was placed in the rear seat of 2K56 or have access to the rear seat of 2K56. No one else was in 2K56 for the duration of my tour. At the end of my tour, I again visually and physically checked 2K56 for contraband with negative results. I did this by spreading the rear seat and back cushion apart while running my hand between the cushions to feel for anything and using a flashlight to visually inspect the crevasses. I also visually checked under

On Wednesday February 6, 2019, I operated marked state police patrol vehicle 2K56 during my assigned "1" tour. At the beginning of my tour, I searched 2K56 for drug contraband or weapons with negative results. I did this by spreading the rear seat and back cushion apart while running my hand between the cushions to feel for anything and using a flashlight to visually inspect the crevasses. I also visually checked under the front driver's seat and passenger seat by using a flashlight. At approximately 12:30pm, I relayed 2K56 up to Troop Headquarters for an antenna repair. I waited at Troop while NYCOMCO worked to repair the antenna for 2K56. At approximately 1:30pm, First Sgt. MATTHEW C. SCHLOTTMANN advised me that NYCOMCO had located drugs under the rear seat of 2K56.

the front driver's seat and passenger seat by using a flashlight.

Prior to going on patrol each day, and at the end of each tour, I visually inspected the rear seat of 2K56 including the crevasses by spreading the seat from the back rest and using a flashlight to check the crevasses as well as physically feeling around with my hand with negative results for any illegal drugs or contraband. I was unable to completely remove the rear seat of 2K56 to check underneath. I did not notify a supervisor of my inability to remove the rear seat as I believed my search would have detected any contraband and did not believe making a notification would alleviate the concern of possibly damaging the rear seat of 2K56. On each occasion the inspection was completed with negative results.

ANDREW M. CUOMO Governor

KEITH M. CORLETT Acting Superintendent

LATENT PRINT REPORT

<u>TO:</u>

Sgt/SC Brian Williams

SP East Fishkill P.O. Box 41

Stormville, NY 12582

May 13, 2019

FIU Case #: 19-107

Agency Case #: 8737921

SP East Fishkill

SUBJECT:

NYSP - Complainant

2/6/2019

ITEMS:

Item #1D - One (1) sealed plastic bag containing: Item(s) for fingerprint processing packaging

EXAMINATION/CONCLUSION:

Item #1D consists of a piece of wax paper and a plastic baggie. Item #1D was processed with black powder and visually examined for friction ridge impressions, with no friction ridges observed.

(CPL 190.30(2) Certification)

I, Shannon M. Alpert, investigator, hereby certify that form a public servant and a fingerprint technician in the employ of the New York State Police, and that I performed on examination on the above referenced evidence. The above report contains the results of the examination of the above referenced and is the original report of my examination.

Shannon M. Albert

Investigator

Latent Print Examiner

Michael P. Holtman

Senior Investigator Latent Print Examiner Daniel P. Smith

Bureau of Criminal Investigation

MEMORANDUM

Troop K Station SP Poughkeepsie

Date May 20, 2019

To:

Major Richard L. Mazzone, Troop Commander, Troop K

From:

Sergeant Nicholas S. Gallipani USE

Subject:

PERSONNEL COMPLAINT - FOUND CONTRABAND

On February 6, 2019, I was working a scheduled 11C out of SP Poughkeepsie. At approximately 2:00 pm, I was in SP Poughkeepsie's patrol room when I was advised by First Sergeant MATTHEW C. SCHLOTTMANN that drugs were discovered in a marked patrol car 2K56. JOHN L. ZELKER, a NYCOMCO employee had discovered drugs underneath the rear seat of 2K56 while running a radio antenna line in Troop K AMI. I was instructed by First Sergeant SCHLOTTMANN to take the drugs into evidence.

In Troop K AMI, ZELKER showed me where the drugs were in 2K56. I took possession of said drugs and placed them in an evidence bag. I then completed a General 2 and General 40 and placed the evidence in SP Poughkeepsie's uniform evidence locker.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. VS	E-1
,	
DEFENDANT(S)	
LOCATION OF INCIDENT:	LOCATION OF DEPOSITION:
STATE OF NEW YORK, LOCAL CRIMINAL COURT	STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS	COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY	TOWN OF PLEASANT VALLEY
On 05/20/19 at TIME STARTED: AM PM I, FULL NAME:	MICHAEL R. THOMSON

STATE THE FOLLOWING:

On February 6, 2019 I was working at Troop K Headquarters AMI. NYCOMCO employee John L. Zelker was at AMI to replace the antenna line for the radio antenna in 2K56 which runs under the rear passenger seat. At approximately 1:50pm John L. Zelker notified me he had found a bag a drugs under the rear seat of 2K56. I immediately contacted Troop K First Sergeant Matthew Schlottmann.

		crime under th	nowingly a	NOTICE (Penal Law Sec. 210.45) makes a false statement which such person does not believe to be true has com the state of New York punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor.	mitted a				
Affirmed unde	er penalty of per	jury							
this	day of	MONTH	_ , 20 _	(SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT) - MICHAEL R.					
	- or -	•		THOMSON	THOMSON				
*Subscribed a	and Sworn to be	fore me		(WITNESS) TIME ENDED	☐ AM				
this	day of		_ , 20 _		☐ PM				
* This form need be swo	om to only when specifica	lly required by the court.		(NAME OF PERSON TAKING DEPOSITION)					



	Troop Order 2018	KO # 18-02
Subject:		Issued: 11/20/18
From:	Major Richard L. Mazzone, Troop Commander, Troop K	Page 1 of 1
Attn:	All Troop "K" Members	/(

Reference is made to the above captioned subject and associated NYSP Member's Manual Article 5C1(a, b) pertaining to a driver's daily vehicle inspection and operation of uniform patrol vehicles. Recent incidents involving the discovery of contraband concealed under and around the rear seats of patrol vehicles have prompted a review of how inspections of Division patrol vehicles will be conducted. Effective immediately, all Members utilizing a patrol vehicle for any purpose, will carefully raise and/or remove the rear seat and visually check the area underneath the seat as part of their daily vehicle inspections. This can be accomplished by pulling upward against the rear seat latches to release them (depending on the make/model of the patrol vehicle). Additionally, the inspection of the back-rest area of the seat and associated seatbelt anchor point locations that are not removable, should be viewed with a flashlight or similar deviceto ensure that no contraband or weapons are secreted behind those areas. To date, all marked patrol vehicles in our fleet are designed to have the rear seat portion removed or positioned for access for these purposes. Please be mindful not to damage any of the vehicle components that may be housed under the rear seat area of these vehicles. Any incidents of rear seating that appear to be unable to be safely removed or lifted out of the viewable area, should immediately be brought to the attention of a station supervisor for follow-up and determination on how to rectify the issue. Members are reminded that patrol vehicle inspections will occur prior to the start of their tour or operation of that vehicle and subsequent to the transport of any non-Division member in that vehicle.

In addition, during the monthly patrol vehicle inspection conducted by the vehicle MIC in accordance with NYSP Member's Manual Article 11L4(a, b), the required officer safety check for deadly weapons/dangerous instruments conducted on the vehicle's interior will include the removal of the rear seat and search underneath it. The corresponding Genl. 44 will include the comment "rear seat removed" in the comments/remarks section to denote the action taken. The quarterly supervisor's verification will require the same action to be taken.