



Colorado State Patrol



SUMMARY DIGEST OF TELEPHONE CALLS RECEIVED BY THE COLORADO STATE PATROL TO IDENTIFY AND DETER UNLAWFUL PROFILING OF DRIVERS DURING TRAFFIC STOPS

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INTRODUCTION BY CHIEF MARK TROSTEL

Professionalism is an indispensable attribute for all law enforcement personnel. Since the Colorado State Patrol's inception in 1935, this department has achieved an unparalleled reputation for professionalism. We could not expect to maintain this standard if our officers were to engage in profiling or other discriminatory enforcement practices. Profiling is a shameful exercise of law enforcement authority. It undermines the public trust, erodes community partnerships, and dampens efforts to reduce crime or improve traffic safety in local communities. Uniformed members of the Colorado State Patrol have long been held to the highest standards of personal and professional conduct. They are expected to lay aside their personal biases and contact drivers based solely upon observation of actual criminal activity. The Colorado State Patrol is committed to providing a safe and secure environment in Colorado *for all persons* through vigorous, non-discriminatory enforcement of state traffic laws.

During the required twenty-two weeks of instruction at the Colorado State Patrol Academy, prospective officers are subjected to intense training and strict discipline, while fundamental principals of honesty, integrity, and professionalism are constantly reinforced. This intensive training environment provides a myriad of opportunities to evaluate an officer's judgment and character. These opportunities do not cease upon graduation from the Academy; they extend throughout the duration of their careers with the Colorado State Patrol.

COLORADO STATE PATROL MISSION STATEMENT
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The mission of the Colorado State Patrol is to ensure a safe and secure environment in Colorado for all persons by providing professional law enforcement through responsive, courteous, caring, and dedicated service.

GENERAL ORDERS

General orders outline appropriate standards of personal and professional conduct for all members of the organization. There are 10 general orders, but 3 in particular prohibit conduct such as profiling.

General Order #1: Members will obey the law.
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General Order #5: Members will conduct themselves in a manner that will preserve the public trust and utilize their authority appropriately.
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General Order #6: Members will avoid any conduct which would bring discredit or undermine the credibility of themselves, the Colorado State Patrol, or the police profession.

General Order #7: Members will conduct themselves to reflect the highest degree of professionalism and integrity and to ensure that all people are treated with fairness, courtesy, and respect.
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DEFINITION OF PROFILING

Profiling means the practice of detaining a suspect based on race, ethnicity, age, or gender without the existence of any individualized suspicion on the particular person being stopped.
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During my tenure as Chief of the Colorado State Patrol, I have met with various community groups, concerned citizens, business and civic leaders to discuss concerns and ways of improving traffic safety in Colorado. I have found these opportunities to be deeply informative and beneficial for the organization. It is my hope to build new partnerships with members of the community to improve upon the services we provide and the manner in which they are delivered.

Colonel Mark Trostel
Chief, Colorado State Patrol

Background

Pursuant to Title 24, Art. 31, § 309, of the *Colorado Revised Statutes*, each uniform member of the Colorado State Patrol is required to voluntarily provide a business card to any driver contacted during a self-initiated traffic stop. This mandate does not apply to drivers who have been arrested or issued a citation. Each business card contains pertinent information such as the officer's name and employee number, along with a telephone number in the event a driver wishes to contact the Patrol for any reason following a traffic stop.

SAMPLE BUSINESS CARD

 Colorado State Patrol Public Affairs 700 Kipling Street Lakewood, Colorado 80215 (303) 239-4574	The mission of the Colorado State Patrol is to ensure a safe and secure environment in Colorado for all persons by providing professional law enforcement through responsive, courteous, caring, and dedicated service.	This Card is to inform you that _____ # _____ (RANK) (LEGIBLY PRINT LAST NAME) (EMP. NUM.) of the Colorado State Patrol has contacted you as a result of a traffic stop. If you have comments (positive or negative) about this traffic stop, you should contact the office on the front of this card using the information provided.
Front	Back	

When a driver telephones the Colorado State Patrol subsequent to receiving a business card, a Patrol member attempts to collect the following information from the caller:

- Caller's Name, Address, and Phone Number
- Date of the Traffic Stop
- Employee Number of the Officer (As noted on the business card)
- Comment Type (Positive or Negative)
- Alleged Illegal Profiling (Yes or No)
- Additional Comments

Drivers who express negative comments, or allege illegal profiling or other forms of officer misconduct, are immediately referred to a sworn supervisor. The Colorado State Patrol is obligated to investigate all claims of officer misconduct and ensure that a thorough and objective investigation is conducted. Serious cases of officer misconduct may also be referred to the Colorado State Patrol Internal Affairs Section and/or the local district attorney's office for an independent inquiry. Officers who engage in illegal profiling and target drivers on the basis of their race, ethnicity, age, or gender alone are subject to corrective or disciplinary action, which may include termination.

The Colorado State Patrol has made a deliberate attempt to ensure that all data presented in this report is accurate and disseminated in accordance with Colorado law. All telephone calls received by the Colorado State Patrol subsequent to the issuance of a business card by a uniform member during calendar year 2002 has been summarized below.¹

¹ Figures current as of January 15, 2004

Summary Digest of Incoming Telephone Calls (Statewide)

TOTAL CALLS	POSITIVE COMMENTS	NEGATIVE COMMENTS	ALLEGE PROFILING
782	766	16	0

Whether a telephone call was positive or negative in context was determined strictly from actual statements or utterances made by the caller. A positive comment would include any statement or utterance that commends an officer's conduct following a traffic stop, while a negative comment would include any statement or utterance that conveys dissatisfaction with an officer's conduct.

Summary Digest of Incoming Telephone Calls (by Troop or Section)

TROOP/SECTION	LOCATION	POSITIVE COMMENTS	NEGATIVE COMMENTS	ALLEGE PROFILING
District 1	Castle Rock	0	0	0
Troop 1A	Limon	33	2	0
Troop 1C	Castle Rock	24	0	0
Troop 1D	Commerce City	9	0	0
District 2	Pueblo	0	0	0
Troop 2A	Pueblo	60	2	0
Troop 2B	Colorado Springs	58	2	0
Troop 2C	Lamar	78	1	0
Troop 2D	Trinidad	34	0	0
District 3	Evans	1	0	0
Troop 3A	Evans	37	0	0
Troop 3B	Sterling	28	0	0
Troop 3C	Fort Collins	14	1	0
District 4	Fruita	1	0	0
Troop 4A	Fruita	53	2	0
Troop 4B	Craig	19	0	0
Troop 4C	Glenwood Springs	40	1	0
District 5	Durango	0	0	0
Troop 5A	Durango	40	1	0
Troop 5B	Alamosa	21	1	0
Troop 5C	Montrose	32	0	0
District 6	Golden	0	0	0
Troop 6A	Golden	72	2	0
Troop 6B	Frisco/Dillon	49	0	0
Troop 6C	Broomfield	52	0	0
Troop 6D	Jefferson/Gilpin Co. (Gaming)	1	0	0
Troop 8B	Investigative Support Services	0	0	0
Troop 8C	HAZMAT	0	0	0
Troop 8D	Motor Carrier Safety	3	0	0
Troop 8Z	Operational Services Branch	0	0	0
Troop 9A	Chief & Lieutenant Colonels	0	0	0
Troop 9B	Executive Security	0	0	0
Troop 10A	Operational Development Section	1	0	0
Troop 10C	Public Affairs	6	1	0
Troop 10M	Motorcycle Unit	0	0	0
Column Subtotal		766	16	00
Total Telephone Calls				782

<i>Contacts for Further Information</i>
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