

Vermont Department of Public Safety - Vermont State Police
Synopses of internal investigations for the period of January 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021
Released January 28, 2022

Background: In an effort to further increase transparency in operations, beginning in January 2021 and continuing twice annually in approximately January and July, the Department of Public Safety and Vermont State Police, with the support of the independent State Police Advisory Commission, will begin releasing synopses of all internal investigations. These synopses will be compiled in six month increments to balance timeliness with the need to have complete investigations and resolutions prior to release.

Notes:

- A. "Internally generated" indicates the complaint was made by a co-worker / employee of the department. "Externally generated" indicates the complaint was made by someone outside the department, most often a member of the public involved in an event or investigation.
- B. Events marked with and A, B, C and so forth indicate there was more than one employee involved, and each has a separate finding or outcome.
- C. All investigations, details and outcomes are reviewed by the State Police Advisory Commission pursuant to its oversight role outlined in state statute.

1. Internally generated – January 2021

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper posted comments to his Facebook page in support of the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the Washington Capitol Building.

Outcome: The member resigned before the completed investigation could be reviewed and adjudicated by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

2. Internally generated – January 2021

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper was untruthful during the course of an internal investigation.

Outcome: The member resigned before the completed investigation could be reviewed and adjudicated by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

3. (A, B, and C) Internally generated – January 2021

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that troopers engaged in a motor vehicle pursuit that failed to adhere to VSP policy specifics. Investigation revealed that the troopers failed to adhere to specific VSP policy regulating motor vehicle pursuits.

Outcome: Finding of a policy violation for "Violation of Rules." Troopers were counseled.

4. Internally generated – January 2021

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper violated policy in relation to a traffic stop.

Outcome: Finding of policy violations for "Violation of Rules." Employee disciplined for violating this policy – Letter of Reprimand accompanied by additional training.

5. Internally generated – February 2021

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper used excessive force during the arrest of a subject.

Outcome: Investigation pending outcome of criminal investigation.

6. (A and B) Externally generated – February 2021

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that troopers were discourteous to members of the public.

Investigation revealed that the allegation was without merit.

Outcome: Finding that no policies were violated.

7. Internally generated – March 2021

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper violated the “Unmanned Aircraft Systems” policy by flying without adhering to all safety protocols during a training flight.

Outcome: Finding of policy violation for, “Violation of Rules.” Trooper disciplined – Letter of Reprimand.

8. Externally generated – April 2021

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper was discourteous to a member of the public.

Outcome: The member retired before the completed investigation could be reviewed and adjudicated by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

9. Externally generated – May 2021

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper violated a policy related to the use of computer systems. Investigation revealed that the employee violated a policy related to the use of computer systems.

Outcome: Finding of a policy violation for, “Violation of Rules.” Trooper disciplined – Letter of Reprimand.

10. Externally generated – May 2021

Synopsis: Inquiry into an allegation that a trooper used excessive force during an arrest that occurred in 2018. Investigation revealed that the trooper’s use of force was within policy standards.

Outcome: Finding that no policies were violated.

11. Internally generated – June 2021

Synopsis: Inquiry into allegation that a trooper failed to respond to a call for service. Investigation determined that the trooper did respond to the call.

Outcome: Finding that no policies were violated.