

# State Police Move Head Of Internal Affairs Unit

## Transfer Comes Amid Questions On Tactics

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The supervisor of the state police internal affairs unit was transferred Thursday, amid accusations made to the attorney general's office that complaints against troopers were not being investigated ethically and fairly.

Public Safety Commissioner Leonard C. Boyle Thursday confirmed the transfer of Capt. Michael Guillot, and said others will likely be moved from the unit.

The complaints — which focus on questionable tactics and findings in investigations against troopers — are being investigated by state auditors, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said. Complaints were also filed with the governor's office.

"We are working with the auditors to investigate the complaints made by the state police," Blumenthal said. He declined to elaborate on any of the complaints.

A spokesman for Gov. M. Jodi Rell said she expects "Connecticut to be the national model of integrity in government."

"If changes need to be made at the Department of Public Safety, Gov. Rell is confident

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that Commissioner Boyle will make them," said Adam Liegeot, a Rell spokesman.

Guillot, a veteran trooper, was transferred to the special licensing and firearms unit in the shake-up. The move is not a demotion but a lateral transfer.

Capt. Paul Samuels, a veteran trooper, has been assigned to take Guillot's spot, and to review any cases that have been questioned, Boyle said Thursday.

"He will speak to any one who has concerns and will conduct an independent review of that case," Boyle said. "We'll take the appropriate action on the basis of what Samuels finds."

Boyle declined to comment on the nature of the specific cases or complaints.

But sources close to the investigation said the complaints centered on allegations that cases were being influenced by high-ranking members of the department's command staff, based on whether they liked the trooper who was being investigated. Internal affairs findings are supposed to go directly to Boyle.

One of the complaints filed with Blumenthal's office alleges that a trooper was investigated based on a complaint by his estranged wife that the trooper had gambling problems and that he smoked marijuana.

One of the troopers who complained works in the internal affairs division.

The internal affairs unit reportedly spent hours of overtime on surveillance and searching through the trooper's garbage for evidence, but found none, a fact that was never documented by the investigators, the source said. The case was eventually dismissed by Boyle.

When Boyle took over the state police a year ago, he attempted to centralize internal affairs investigations and ensure their fairness by putting Maj. Robert Duffy, a trusted veteran, in charge of how discipline was meted out.

But Duffy, who has since been assigned different duties, and Boyle may not have been kept apprised of all the developments in investigations conducted by the internal affairs division.

"The question that needs to be asked is who did Capt. Guillot answer to?" state police union President David LeBlanc said. "And did other people have influence or direct him on how his unit would conduct investigations?"

The state police union brought some of the issues to Boyle's attention, and has also asked for an investigation into them, union officials said.

LeBlanc said internal affairs should be "a group of individuals who are above reproach."

"They are the unit that police their own," he said. "The public and the rank and file troopers have a right to know that the unit will do their job thoroughly and completely."