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State Police OT pay probe brings 8 more troopers under investigation

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JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

By Danny McDonald

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An investigation into overtime pay for a State Police division that covers the Massachusetts Turnpike has widened to include eight more troopers, a spokesman confirmed Friday.

The group brings to 30 the total number of active and retired members of Troop E that are under scrutiny for being paid for overtime shifts they allegedly did not work.

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The group, which includes seven active and one retired trooper, is under investigation for between one and four questionable overtime shifts, said State Police spokesman David Procopio.

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The other troopers are under investigation for working more than five questionable shifts, said Procopio.

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The troopers under investigation have not been publicly identified. Their ranks range from trooper to lieutenant, Procopio said. The overtime shifts in question are from 2016. Procopio said he did not know if **RELATED LINKS** duty status hearings have been held or scheduled for the seven active-duty troopers added to the probe. Such hearings determine whether troopers remain on duty, or are suspended with or without pay while an internal affairs investigation is ongoing. Last week, nine troopers were suspended without pay at duty status hearings held in connection with the overtime probe. Nine



9 suspended, 9 retire in OT probe Nine Massachusetts State Police troopers were suspended without pay and nine more retired this week in the midst of an internal affairs investigation.

more troopers who are being investigated retired before their hearings. The agency's internal affairs investigation is ongoing, as is an audit of overtime shifts in the agency, Procopio said.

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Friday's news is yet another blow for a beleaguered state agency that has been rocked by controversy recently.

The Globe <u>reported</u> Monday that neither the State Police nor Massport had publicly filed information on payouts for Troop F that patrols Logan Airport, the Seaport District and other Massachusetts Port Authority properties with the state comptroller since 2010.

Matt Rocheleau and Todd Wallack of Globe Staff and Globe Correspondent Matt Stout contributed to this report. Danny McDonald can be reached at <u>daniel.mcdonald@globe.com</u>. Follow him on Twitter @Danny__McDonald.

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