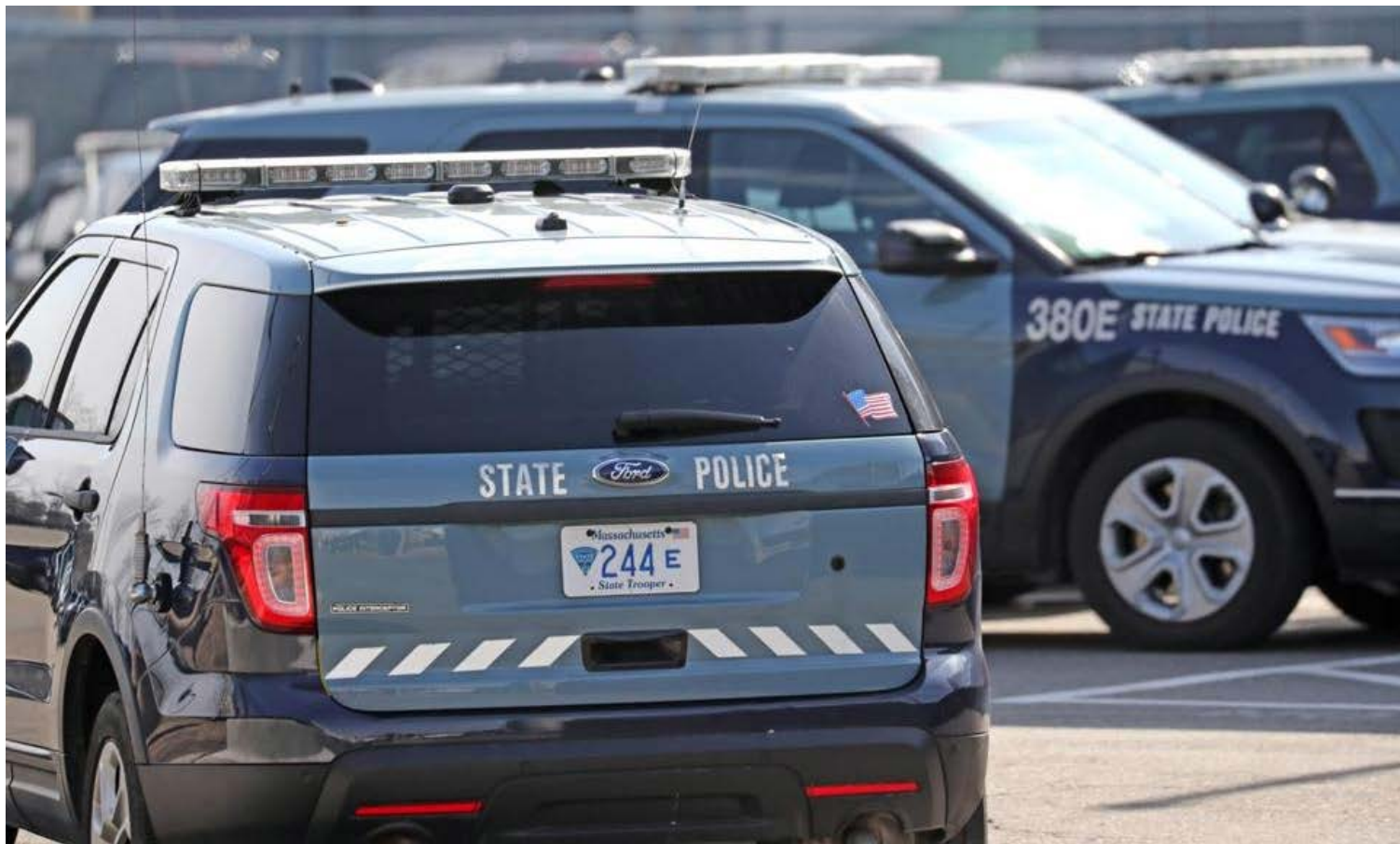




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7 more state police troopers facing investigation for overtime pay theft



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

Current and former Troop E members have been linked in recent months to alleged fraud, resulting in a series of internal investigations, a separate probe by the attorney general's office, and the disbanding of the entire unit.

By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

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The Massachusetts State Police have linked another seven troopers to the alleged theft of overtime pay, bringing the total number of troopers under scrutiny in a widening pay scandal to 40.

The agency's ongoing internal audit of Troop E — the unit that until recently patrolled the Massachusetts Turnpike — found seven new troopers with a number of questionable overtime shifts, agency spokesman David Procopio said in an e-mail Tuesday.

Current and former Troop E members have been linked in recent months to alleged fraud, resulting in a series of internal investigations, a separate probe by the attorney general's office, and the disbanding of the entire unit.

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The Boston Globe reported Friday that [a federal grand jury is examining](#) whether troopers committed fraud by collecting pay for overtime shifts they did not work, and whether supervisors were aware of or participated in the practice.

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The seven troopers most recently flagged in the internal probe will remain on active duty while the department reviews their cases further, Procopio said.

Meanwhile, five other troopers [due to face disciplinary hearings](#) this week have chosen to retire instead of move through the internal disciplinary process.

Several other troopers linked in recent months to the pay scandal have also retired just ahead of administrative hearings.

The employees who retired while under investigation received “general” discharge, which bars

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them from being reinstated to the department, and they will still be subject to the ongoing criminal probe by the attorney general's office, Procopio said.

public employees, following revelations that Mass. failed to pay taxes on tens of millions of dollars in commuting perks for troopers.

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Other troopers accused in recent months of falsifying overtime records have been suspended without pay.

One trooper faced a brief investigation and disciplinary hearing but was placed back on active duty, Procopio said.

State Police have declined to release the names of troopers involved in the scandal.

Troopers allegedly used a variety of methods to inflate their overtime pay, according to several troopers and attorneys aware of the investigation.

Troopers allegedly falsified dates and times on tickets to claim they were working overtime and ultimately filed bogus tickets with the agency.

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The practice, according to troopers and attorneys, was widespread and took place over several years.

The State Police internal audit so far has focused on overtime shifts worked in 2016.

The agency said it will move to review 2015 overtime records next.

State Police said it has only found discrepancies among troopers assigned in 2016 to Troop E, which was responsible for patrolling the Massachusetts Turnpike and tunnels. Earlier this spring, Colonel Kerry A. Gilpin and Governor Charlie Baker disbanded the troop amid the misconduct allegations.

Former colonel Richard McKeon launched an audit of overtime pay last fall — before he abruptly retired amid accusations he forced troopers to remove embarrassing information from a police report involving the daughter of a Dudley District Court judge.

Andrea Estes and Shelley Murphy of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele).

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