



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

Lamar A. Davis, COLONEL
DEPUTY SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

December 29, 2020
4750/0501/JPR/20-23339
HQ2-1926-20

TROOPER FIRST CLASS MATTHEW MOTES
TROOP I

IA#20-008, OLA#06937
VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY

RE: TWELVE (12) HOUR SUSPENSION

Dear TFC Motes:

In accordance with State Police Commission Rules 12.1, 12.2, and the authority delegated to me by Colonel Lamar Davis, you are hereby notified that you are suspended from duty for twelve (12) hours without pay and allowances. Your suspension will begin at 1700 hours on Thursday, January 21, 2021, and will end at 0500 hours on Friday, January 22, 2021. You shall report back to your assigned duty station at 0500 hours on Monday, January 25, 2021. You are suspended for the following reasons:

On September 28, 2019, TFC Kevin Prejean attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a vehicle but the driver refused to stop. A pursuit ensued which lasted approximately 28 minutes. You joined the pursuit along with other troopers and Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office ("IPSO") deputies. The driver eventually drove into a cane field where his vehicle became stuck in the mud. The driver began moving his vehicle in a reverse and forward motion, traveling approximately 5-10 feet in either direction. Your Axon Body 2 body-worn camera¹ showed the following:

Approximately 33 seconds after the driver's vehicle became stuck, you requested permission to shoot one of the vehicle's tires, which was granted by Sgt. Arvie. You then fired 15 rounds from your Glock model 22 .40 caliber. Approximately two (2) and a half minutes after the first shot, you stated, "He has no tires, he ain't going nowhere." You then retrieved your Bushmaster AR-15 rifle and, approximately one (1) minute and 26 seconds later, fired 19 more rounds from that weapon at the vehicle. You fired 34 rounds total at the right rear tire and engine block of the vehicle.

On June 16, 2020, you were interviewed by Internal Affairs ("IA") investigators Trooper Richard Buckland and S/T Michael Talley. During this recorded interview, when asked why you shot at the vehicle rather than the driver, you replied, "I perceived the person behind the wheel of that vehicle and the vehicle as one." You told IA investigators you had not been taught to shoot at a vehicle with the intent to disable it.

¹ On September 28, 2019, you were using an Axon Body 2 camera with serial number X81130265.

The Use of Force Review Board ("Board") met on October 22, 2020, to review the incident and determined that deadly force was not justified. The Board found that by firing 34 rounds from your weapon at a moving vehicle when deadly force was not justified, you violated LSP P.O. Order 238- Use of Force, Section 5- Use of Firearms, which states:

- ...
- v.) Firing at or from a moving vehicle is prohibited except where the use of deadly force is justified, in accordance with this order.

By this letter, you are notified that I agree with the Board's findings.

Any future violations of this or any nature may result in more severe discipline, up to and including termination, and this suspension can be used to support the severity of future discipline.

You have the right to appeal this action to the Louisiana State Police Commission. The time limits and procedure for appealing are contained in Chapter 13 of the State Police Commission Rules. A copy of Chapter 13 can be obtained from the State Police Commission. Their current mailing address is P.O. Box 66555, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-6555. Their current telephone number is (225) 925-7057 and their fax number is (225) 925-7058.

Your attention is directed to Louisiana State Police Policy and Procedure Order No. 201.5.iv, which states:

No officer shall work escorts, paid off-duty details, or overtime in any pay period wherein he has taken leave without pay, been suspended without pay, placed on forced or administrative leave, or worked at a reduction in pay as a result of a disciplinary action unless authorized by the appointing authority.

Sincerely,



Lt. Colonel M. Doug Cain, II
Assistant Superintendent/ Chief of Staff
Louisiana State Police

c: Col. Lamar Davis
Lt. Col. Layne Barnum
Lt. Col. Jay D. Oliphant
Major Benny Broussard
Captain Eric Duplechain
Internal Affairs
Office of Legal Affairs
Human Resources Management

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