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Cops had response awaiting our 'call'

STATE POLICE BRASS were concerned that the *Daily News* had found out about the radar gun problems even before the newspaper began asking questions, and held at least one briefing to make sure the department's spokesmen "had a response ready should Nicole Egan call," according to newly released internal memos.

The memos reveal that high-ranking state cops got worried after the newspaper asked for a list of state police vehicles from the state General Services Administration in early December 2003.

The information was released to the *Daily News* mid-afternoon on Friday, Dec. 12, 2003. At 4:25 p.m., Lt. Frank McCorkle, assistant director of the state police Patrol Services Division, sent an e-mail to the division director.

"As you can tell by your e-mails, the Genesis [radar guns] were placed back in service today," McCorkle wrote, adding that he and an associate briefed public affairs officers so that the official state police spokesman "had a response ready should Nicole Egan call."

Later that day, according to the e-mail, another state police spokesman "was going to call Egan about the vehicle info and was going to offer to speak to Egan about whatever she was looking for."

State police officials then began working on possible responses to questions about the radar gun, the documents show.

On Jan. 7, 2004, when the *Daily News* first posed questions to the state police spokesman about the radar problems, the spokesman e-mailed the questions to superiors with this comment:

"We have been waiting for these questions and I think we already have positioned ourselves correctly on this issue.

"I would like to have a meeting involving the appropriate representatives from Patrol, Tech Services and Legal to obtain input so that the Public Information Office can craft a response to Egan. The Governor's Press Office already has indicated that it wants to see our response before it is sent."

Nicole Weisensee Egan