

Pennsylvania State Police

Dec. 9, 2004

Letters to the Editor
Daily News
Box 7788
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Dear Editor:

The Dec. 8 and 9 stories by Nicole Weisensee and the Dec. 9 column by John Baer relative to the Decatur Genesis handheld radar units used by State Police are both factually inaccurate and misleading.

The facts are that when troopers in the field raised questions about the possibility of electronic interference affecting the operation of the radar units, the Department took the extraordinary steps of having the units tested by the manufacturer, by Guth Laboratories of Harrisburg and by the University of Pittsburgh. In each case, it was determined conclusively that the electronic interference had no impact on the accuracy of the units when used by trained troopers for speed enforcement.

But the Daily News articles would have you believe that State Police have been involved in a grand conspiracy to use faulty radar equipment to issue citations and to keep that information from the public. That is pure rubbish.

In order to accept this incredible conspiracy theory, one must believe all of the following:

- That the manufacturer, Guth Laboratories and the University of Pittsburgh would risk their professional reputations and the future of their agencies by knowingly lying about the results of their tests.
- That Pennsylvania State Troopers would knowingly issue fraudulent speeding citations that would not stand up in court, thus risking their reputations and careers.
- That thousands of police nationwide who use Decatur Genesis handheld radar units are part of a national conspiracy to defraud the public.

Instead of praising State Police for spending \$18,000 for a study by the University of Pittsburgh that proves beyond a shadow of doubt that the radar units work properly, the articles contain spurious allegations from a civil suit that has yet to go to court and comments from a so-called "expert" in police corruption from who knows where. After reading these articles, it is difficult to determine if Nicole Weisensee is employed by the Daily News or by attorney Don Bailey, who represents the plaintiff in the civil suit.

I think that most readers understand that John Baer writes columns that are meant to be relatively humorous and amusing rather than factual, and therefore his distortions of the truth can almost be excused. But the reporting of Nicole Weisensee is a more serious problem, since readers have every right to expect that news articles will be unbiased and balanced. Instead, Weisensee ignores the facts and continues her personal campaign to attack the honor and integrity of the more than 5,700 enlisted and civilian employees of the Pennsylvania State

Police.

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