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Nevada trooper suspended for skipping out on \$3 pizza tab

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RENO -- A Nevada state hearing officer has upheld the suspension of a state trooper who failed to tell his supervisors he was taking a dinner break and then skipped out on his \$3 tab at a pizza parlor.

Trooper Anthony Dosen is serving a 30-day suspension without pay for leaving the restaurant without paying the discounted bill, and for other violations of the patrol's meal-break policy more than a year ago, said David Hosmer, chief of the Nevada Highway Patrol.

"The Nevada Highway Patrol will not allow insubordination and dishonesty to continue to degrade the integrity and honesty of the Nevada Highway Patrol," Hosmer said in a statement Wednesday.

Patrick Dolan, a hearing officer for the Nevada Personnel Commission, ruled that the Department of Public Safety had just cause to suspend Dosen as a result of the incident at the Nik N Willies restaurant in Reno on Sept. 22, 2001.

"The evidence establishes that Dosen willfully failed to notify dispatch that he was taking a break, leaving his supervisors to believe that he was out patrolling his beat when in fact he was eating pizza at a restaurant with three other troopers," Dolan wrote in a finding of facts issued last week.

Dosen and the three other troopers, who were not named, also violated Nevada Highway Patrol policy that no more than two troopers and two vehicles stop to eat at the same restaurant at the same time, Hosmer said.