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NEWS

‘No place for hate’ in State Police, officials say after trooper’s tattoos draw scrutiny

Updated: Mar. 30, 2023, 9:41 p.m. | Published: Mar. 29, 2023, 7:05 p.m.



Jason Dare, a 46-year-old state trooper from Vineland, has been missing since Sunday evening. New Jersey State Police

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By [S.P. Sullivan | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

New Jersey's top law enforcement officials said Wednesday they are committed to rooting out bias and hate among the State Police after [pictures of a trooper's tattoos](#) featuring images associated with white supremacist groups spread online.

New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin said a new [police licensure law](#) set to take effect soon would also prevent people with such associations from becoming cops.

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“While I cannot comment on a matter that is currently under investigation, I can say – in no uncertain terms – that there is no place for hate in the New Jersey State Police or within the ranks of the 38,000 sworn law enforcement officers in New Jersey,” Platkin said in a statement to NJ Advance Media.

The trooper, Detective Jason Dare, disappeared from a medical facility last week, sparking a five-day search that led authorities to post his pictures online. Some of those included his tattoos on his hands and torso that contained imagery associated with Nazi Germany and modern skinhead groups, including a neck tattoo that said “Blood Honor.”

Dare was later found safe, authorities said. He could not be reached for comment.

Authorities have not disclosed details about his disappearance other than to say he left an unnamed medical facility in Media, Pennsylvania around 7 p.m. on March 19 and was believed to be endangered at the time. A spokeswoman for the Pennsylvania State Police, Trooper Michele Naab, said her agency assisted in locating Dare, who was found staying with an associate in the area.

Col. Patrick Callahan, the superintendent of the State Police, said the matter was now under internal investigation and Dare was on administrative leave.

“There is no room for hate, prejudicial rhetoric, or divisive behavior in our organization, an organization that was built on our core values of honor, duty, and fidelity,” he said in a statement.

“We live and work in a very diverse state and our law enforcement community should reflect that as well. We want the communities we serve to be our partners and I stand united with them as well as the troopers and other law enforcement professionals who work

tirelessly to dedicate themselves to strengthening these relationships.”

The images circulated by authorities in New Jersey and Pennsylvania after Dare’s disappearance included an apparent driver’s license photo that showed Dare’s “Blood Honor” neck tattoo, as well as other imagery.

“Blood and honor” was a slogan of the Hitler youth. According to the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), a variation is also associated with an array of skinhead gangs.

Users on Twitter and [reddit](#) began combing through Dare’s then-public Facebook page, [flagging other photos](#) showing iron cross tattoos on his wrists and the head of a pitbull, which is an image connected to a Pennsylvania skinhead group [according to the anti-Defamation League](#), on his chest.

The Facebook page has since been made private. NJ Advance Media viewed it before it was removed.

Platkin, the attorney general, said New Jersey’s police licensing law — signed by Gov. Phil Murphy last year and set to take effect later this year — will help weed out people associated with hate groups.

“To be clear, it would be a violation of the new police licensure law to be an active member of a group that advocates for discrimination based on classes protected by the Law Against Discrimination,” he said.

But it’s unclear why Dare’s tattoos only became the matter of an internal investigation after the images spread online. The State Police [recruitment website](#) tells potential applicants the division does not allow “tattoos/body art/brands on an applicant’s face, head, neck, scalp, hands, or any part of the exposed body.”

It’s unclear when Dare got his tattoos. State Police did not respond to questions about the division’s tattoo policy.

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