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# State trooper indicted in prostitution sting

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By **MATTHEW KEMENY, The Patriot-News**  
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A Harrisburg-based Pennsylvania state trooper who was once awarded a purple heart was indicted Thursday by a federal grand jury.

He is accused of tipping off prostitutes at the Gables Truck Stop during a widespread 2004 prostitution sting and of offering to reduce charges against a prostitute in exchange for sexual favors, according to U.S. Attorney Martin Carlson.

Shawn C. Dillard, 39, of Harrisburg is the second trooper from Harrisburg to be charged in connection with the sting. In March, Kevin J. Coleman, 42, was accused of tipping off prostitutes and pimps, accepting money from pimps, receiving sexual favors from prostitutes and selectively arresting prostitutes. Coleman has since resigned. Dillard has been suspended without pay, state police spokesman Jack Lewis told The Associated Press.

The indictment accuses Dillard of warning prostitutes about upcoming undercover stings at the Interstate 81 truck stop, offering to reduce charges against a prostitute in return for sexual favors and lying to federal agents about his involvement in the illegal activity, Carlson said.

Four years ago, Dillard received a purple heart for bravery during a Dec. 16, 2001, standoff at a West Hanover Twp. farm.

The sex trafficking investigation, dubbed "Precious Cargo," centered on an interstate prostitution ring involving some girls as young as 12 and 13 years old. The investigation began in March 2004 and has resulted in the federal indictments of 18 men and women.

If convicted, Dillard faces up to 25 years in prison and more than \$1 million in fines.

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bullsticks

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My oh my what is the prestigious State Police becoming? Another good quality hire along with a stellar background check!!

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jackhamma

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So what now of the sixteen people they convicted in this operstion? I would thing that if the convictions involved crooked cops they would have to be thrown out and the convicts released? Way to go PSP... the taxpayer gets it again. The cost of the investigation that counts now for nothing, and the costs of the lawsuits yet to come for false imprisonment.

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