



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOI ARRESTS EMT ON CHARGES OF SUBMITTING FAKE MILITARY LEAVE PAPERS TO THE FDNY**  
**--DOI investigation finds employee was paid for 28 days of work**  
**he was not entitled to – approximately \$4,000--**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of MICHAEL SUEHLE, an Emergency Medical Technician ("EMT") employed by the New York City Fire Department ("FDNY"), on charges that he submitted fraudulent military leave orders to the FDNY to excuse his absence from work. A DOI investigation found that SUEHLE was paid by the FDNY for 28 days of employment by falsely claiming to be serving active military duty. The 28 days compensation he received totals approximately \$4,000 of his salary. DOI began its investigation after being contacted by the FDNY.

SUEHLE, 32, of Brooklyn, has been an EMT since July 7, 2004, and earns an annual salary of \$38,030. He was charged Thursday, January 24, 2008, with four counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony; one count each of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, each class D felonies, and one count of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. If convicted, SUEHLE faces up to seven years in prison.

As a result of the arrest, SUEHLE received a 30-day suspension from the FDNY.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Falsifying military leave documents is not just a crime, it also shows a disregard for those individuals who are truly serving our country and entitled to compensation. As these allegations show, the EMT arrested in this case broke the trust placed in him by the City and the U.S. Army."

According to the criminal complaint, between January 2006 and August 2007, SUEHLE submitted to his FDNY supervisor four completed military leave orders on Department of Army letterhead that excused his absence from the FDNY and stated that he had been ordered to appear for military duty. In addition, DOI found that SUEHLE verbally indicated to the FDNY that he could not work on certain days because he had been ordered to serve military duty. SUEHLE was paid for 28 days of military leave. The Department of the U.S. Army confirmed that the four notes SUEHLE submitted were forged, that the documents were not issued by the Department of the Army and that SUEHLE did not serve military duty on the 28 days he claimed.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and his staff, and the Department of the Army, for their assistance and cooperation in this case.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the FDNY. The Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

*DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.*

**Get the worms out of the Big Apple.  
To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**