

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

() Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.
 Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 DeFranco, James
 5701 South Santa Fe Drive
 Littleton, CO 80120
 U.S.A.
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 Echostar Communications Corporation
 DISH
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
4. Statement for Month/Year
 04/00
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 (X) Director () 10% Owner (X) Officer (give title below) () Other
 (specify below)
 Executive Vice President
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
 (X) Form filed by One Reporting Person
 () Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security	2. Transaction Date	3. Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Amount	A/D	Price			
Class A Common Stock	4/20/00	M	68,568	A	\$1.16665	4,867,292	D	(6)
						2,200,000	I	(1)(6)
						17,825	I	(2)(6)
						6,008	I	(3)(6)

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date	4. Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at Month	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$1.16665	4/20/00	M	68,568	D (4) (5)	Class A Common Stock	68,568	274,272		

Explanation of Responses:

1. The shares are held by DeFranco Investment Co., Ltd., a general partnership, of which the reporting person is the sole general partner.
2. On March 8, 2000, the Company issued an additional 60,000 shares of Class A Common Stock to EchoStar Communications Corporation's 401(k) Employees' Savings Plan ("The Plan"). The number of shares reported in column 5 represents the total number of shares allocated to the reporting person's account through the Plan to date. The reporting person has dispositive, but no voting power with respect to the shares.
3. The shares are held by the reporting person as custodian for his minor children. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares.
4. The shares underlying the option vested at the rate of 20% per year, commencing on May 6, 1995.
5. Each portion of the option expires five years from the date on which that portion of the option first becomes exercisable.
6. The shares have been adjusted to reflect the two-for-one stock split of the Company's common stock which took place March 2000.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 James DeFranco

