

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
 4/02/03
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 | | | |

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 Number of Underlying Securities | 8. Price of Derivative Security | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month | 10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------|--|-----|---|-----------------|--|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| | | | | Amount | A/D | Exercisable Date | Expiration Date | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---|--------|---|-----|-----------|----------------------|--------|--------|---|--|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$28.88 | 3/31/03 | A | 20,000 | A | (1) | 3/31/2013 | Class A Common Stock | 20,000 | 20,000 | D | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---|--------|---|-----|-----------|----------------------|--------|--------|---|--|

Explanation of Responses:
 (1) The shares underlying the option vest at the rate of 20% per year, commencing on March 31, 2004.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 /s/ James DeFranco

DATE
 4/2/03