

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP  
 ( ) Check box if no longer subject to Section 16.  
 Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).

( ) Form 3 Holdings Reported  
 ( ) Form 4 Transactions Reported  
 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  
 12/31/00

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 Reporting (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. Transaction Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Amount	A/D Price			
Class A Common Stock	12/7/00	G	50,000	D	5,310,852	D	
Class A Common Stock	12/7/00	G	50,000	A (1)	50,000	I	(1)
					2,200,000	I	(2)
					17,825	I	(3)
					6,008	I	(4)

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

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative	3. Transaction Date	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities	10. Date Acquired or Disposed of	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The shares were contributed by the reporting person to irrevocable trust for the benefit of reporting person's children and grandchildren. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares.

(2) The shares are held by DeFranco Investment Co., Ltd., a general partnership, of which the reporting person is the sole general partner.

(3) 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.

(4) The shares are held by the reporting person as custodian for his minor children. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON  
 /s/ James DeFranco

DATE  
 1/15/01