



**News Release No. 65**

**For Immediate Release:** December 8, 2008

### **OPERATION AIR, LAND & SPEED ENFORCEMENT YIELDS 8% MORE SUMMONSES AND ARRESTS ON INTERSTATE 64 & 66**

***2,466 Speeding Summonses --- 276 Safety Belt Violations --- 4 DUI Arrests***

RICHMOND – The Virginia State Police’s *Operation Air, Land and Speed* revisited Interstate 64 and Interstate 66 and produced 5,363 summonses and arrests during the two-day enforcement operation, which took place Friday, Dec. 5, and Saturday, Dec. 6, 2008. The results from this latest traffic safety initiative generated an eight percent increase in the number of summonses issued compared to a previous phase on the same interstates. The last time *Operation Air, Land and Speed* focused jointly on I-64 and I-66 was in November 2007. Additionally, there were no reported fatalities on either interstate during the course of the operation.

The comprehensive enforcement project produced 3,914 violations along I-64, which stretches 300 miles from Hampton Roads to the West Virginia border. Troopers arrested two drunk drivers and made 22 drug/felony arrests. State police cited 1,783 for speeding, stopped 251 individuals for reckless driving and cited 227 safety belt violations.

Along I-66, which extends 75 miles from Strasburg, Va. to Washington, D.C., state police issued 1,449 summonses and/or arrests. Two drunk drivers were arrested and one drug/felony arrest was made. Troopers cited 683 drivers for speeding and 123 for reckless driving. Also, 49 safety belt citations were issued.

“We have seen great success with the implementation of *Operation Air, Land and Speed* and it’s not just about the statistics or figures it produces,” says Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Virginia State Police Superintendent. “We have heard from the public who say they appreciate the increased patrols and concentrated enforcement. The visibility of troopers on the interstate has an impact on drivers and how they behave on the interstate. With the holiday season underway, we hope all motorists continue to keep safety in mind and make it a priority on the road.”

This is the seventh and final *Operation Air, Land and Speed* enforcement for 2008, which is intended to prevent crashes, save lives and promote responsible driving behavior through highly visible and aggressive traffic enforcement. More phases of the campaign are planned in 2009.

The latest *Operation Air, Land and Speed* project is the sixteenth campaign along Virginia’s interstates since its inception in 2006. It brings the total number of summonses and arrests to 86,489. Funding for the enforcement initiative is provided through federal highway safety monies.

###

#### STATEWIDE MEDIA CONTACTS:

VSP HQ	Richmond	Culpeper	Appomattox	Wytheville	Chesapeake	Salem/Roanoke	Fairfax
Ms. Deb Cox	Sgt. Cunningham	Sgt. Tyler	Sgt. Cooper	Sgt. Conroy	Sgt. Cotten	Sgt. Carpentieri	
(804)674-2843	(804)553-3494	(540)829-7713	(434)352-3403	(276)223-4242	(757)424-6827	(540)375-9598	(804)674-2843