



News Release No. 11

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### **FIRST OPERATION AIR, LAND & SPEED ENFORCEMENT IN 2009 NETS MORE THAN 2,000 VIOLATIONS ON INTERSTATES 64, 264, 464 & 664**

*Two Day Safety Campaign Shortened Due To Inclement Weather*

RICHMOND – The highly successful *Operation Air, Land and Speed* completed its first enforcement phase of 2009 after focusing its efforts on the major interstates within Hampton Roads and the entire length of Interstate 64. The increased presence of Virginia State Police troopers along the four interstates produced 2,341 violations on March 12, 2008. No fatalities were reported on any of the targeted interstates during the operation.



Originally scheduled for a two day enforcement blitz, the traffic safety initiative was shortened to one day after hazardous weather conditions moved across the Commonwealth.

“When it comes to aggressive traffic enforcement, the specialized operation still had the impact it was intended for with just one day on the road,” says Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Virginia State Police Superintendent. “By increasing the presence of troopers, we hope to continue to encourage drivers to make responsible decisions when they are behind the wheel by reducing their speed, buckling up, avoiding distractions and changing their overall behavior on the road.”

*Operation Air, Land & Speed* results for Thursday, March 12, 2008 included 904 speeders being stopped, 147 reckless drivers being cited, 3 impaired drivers being arrested and 162 safety belt violations issued by state police. In addition, the enforcement project resulted in 17 drug and/or felony arrests.

Since the traffic safety program’s inception in 2006, this is second time *Operation Air, Land & Speed* has targeted I-264, I-464 & I-664 in the Hampton Roads region. With the inclusion of Interstate 64, the campaign focused on the same four interstates in July of 2008.

The previous *Operation Air, Land and Speed* initiative took place Dec. 5-6, 2008, on Interstates 64 and 66. This has been the seventeenth *Operation Air, Land and Speed* to be conducted on Virginia interstates and brings total summonses and arrests to 88,830.

All funds generated by Virginia State Police summonses go to the State Literacy Fund.

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. Conroy	Sgt. Cotten	Sgt. Carpentieri	
(804)674-2843	(804)553-3494	(540)829-7713	(434)352-7128	(276)223-4242	(757)424-6827	(540)375-9598	(804)674-2843