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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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4 DUI Checkpoints and 91 DUI Patrols Scheduled for Holiday Weekend

Dover – The Delaware Office of Highway Safety (OHS) is coordinating a huge enforcement effort for the night before Thanksgiving well as for the remainder of the holiday weekend. Thanksgiving Eve has become a big drinking occasion, particularly among college students who come home and visit with friends. That's why OHS has scheduled one sobriety checkpoint and 48 DUI Saturation Patrols for that evening. Another three DUI checkpoints and 43 additional Saturation Patrols will be conducted through the rest of the weekend.

The checkpoints will be held:

November 21 – Wilmington (New Castle Co Task Force)

November 24 – Camden (Kent/Sussex DUI Task Force)
Dover (Dover PD)
Millsboro (Millsboro PD)

Additional officers will also be on the roadways looking for aggressive drivers this weekend. Last year during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, officers statewide made 25 DUI arrests and issued 363 citations for aggressive driving behaviors. In 2006, there was one fatality and 96 injuries in Delaware as a result of traffic crashes over Thanksgiving weekend.

Last weekend's DUI enforcement efforts (Nov. 16 & 17) resulted in the arrest of Delaware Law 27 individuals for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of drugs and/or alcohol as the *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign to prevent impaired driving continued.

The Kent/Sussex County Task Force checkpoint held on Friday November 16th was dedicated to the memory of Michael Banks, whose was killed in an alcohol-related crash in 1997. His mother Dolly later became the driving force behind the revitalization of Delaware's MADD chapter. Because of a large response by Task Force officers who showed up to work the checkpoint on Rt. 13A in

Seaford, the officers were able to simultaneously conduct a second checkpoint in the Seaford area on Rt. 20.

Forty- three percent (43%) of Delaware traffic deaths since January 1st, and 37% of those occurring in the last two and half months have been alcohol-related. You can prevent alcohol-related crashes by being a HERO – Be a Designated Driver, or make sure you appoint one before you go out for the evening if you plan to drink alcohol.

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