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NEWS RELEASE

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42 Arrested for DUI as National Crackdown on Impaired Driving Begins

Dover – Delaware Law enforcement officers arrested 42 individuals for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol over the weekend of August 17 and 18th as a nationwide crackdown to prevent impaired driving began. Six of the DUI arrests were made by officers from Bethany Beach police, Dover police, and Harrington Police who were conducting DUI saturation patrols.

The remaining 36 DUI arrests were made at sobriety checkpoints. A total of four checkpoints were conducted last weekend. Participating agencies included the New Castle County DUI Task Force and the Kent/Sussex County DUI Task Force who conducted two over the weekend, one in Cheswold and one in Bethany Beach.

The fourth DUI checkpoint was conducted by Delaware State Police Troop 2 and resulted in 6 of the weekend's 42 DUI arrests. It was dedicated to the memory of Naval Ensign John Elliott, whose parents founded the HERO campaign for Designated Drivers. Delaware became the second state in the nation to adopt the HERO campaign on Friday, and will implement it by providing posters and table tents to bars and restaurants, and designated driver pledge cards and window decals to the public. Coasters with the HERO and Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign messages have already been provided to area bars in advance of the Labor Day holiday weekend.

In addition to the 42 DUI arrests, officers issued 21 citations for underage drinking violations, apprehended 17 wanted individuals, made 34 drug arrests including some for trafficking, 16 felony arrests including one for resisting arrest, seized two weapons including a knife seized by the Kent/Sussex County DUI Task Force at the Bethany Beach checkpoint, and issued 54 seat belt and 9 child restraint citations as well as 272 citations for various other traffic violations.

The National Impaired Driving Crackdown's slogan is called, Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest. It began Wed. August 15th and will run through Labor Day weekend. The crackdown is coordinated locally by OHS. In all, 27 state and local police agencies will conduct stepped up DUI saturation patrols as well as checkpoints. A national press event to announce the crackdown was held earlier today in Arlington, Virginia. Delaware officers were represented at that press event.

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