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NEWS RELEASE

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OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL BLUE MAX PROGRAM 2009 ACE AWARD RECIPIENTS

KEY: **DUS** – Driving Under Suspension
LEADS – Law Enforcement Automated Data System
OVI – Operating a Vehicle under the Influence
VIN – Vehicle Identification Number

2009 BLUE MAX WINNER TROOPER JARED KLINGENSMITH – ASHTABULA POST

Trooper Jared Klingensmith was the 2009 Blue Max Award winner. He recovered 14 stolen vehicles with a combined value of nearly \$85,000 and apprehended eight suspects.

One of his cases occurred while off-duty. Tpr. Klingensmith was inquiring about purchasing a pick-up truck from a used car lot. After receiving suspicious information about the truck, Tpr. Klingensmith notified his supervisors. Further investigation led to confirmation that the pick-up and several other vehicles on or related to the used car lot were actually stolen.

CAMBRIDGE POST

TROOPER KYLE R. SHIRER: Tpr. Shirer recovered five stolen vehicles with a combined value of \$30,300 and arrested five suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

He recovered a 2008 Ford Mustang after stopping the vehicle for a marked lanes violation. The suspect provided a false identity and the vehicle was found to belong to Hertz Rental Car. Subsequent investigation revealed the suspect's true identity and that he was wanted by authorities in Florida and Pennsylvania as well as by U.S. Marshals on various felony charges. Among other things, the suspect was wanted in connection with several jewelry thefts and was facing a 20-year federal sentence. Tpr. Shirer was later contacted by the FBI and authorities in North Carolina who were also looking for the suspect.

CANTON POST

TROOPER NICKOLAS GOODNITE: Tpr. Nickolas Goodnite recovered five stolen vehicles valued at \$3,000 and apprehended six suspects to earn his third Ace Award.

Tpr. Goodnite recovered one vehicle after stopping the suspect driver for a traffic violation. The 16-year-old driver admitted to taking the vehicle without permission and smoking marijuana just before the stop. A 16-year-old passenger was found in possession of marijuana, an electronic scale with marijuana residue on it, four stolen credit cards and \$400 cash.

TROOPER MILAN V. MILOSEVIC: Tpr. Milosevic recovered five stolen vehicles with a combined value of \$23,000 and arrested five suspects to earn his second Ace Award.

Three of the suspects he arrested were also driving with a suspended license. A fourth suspect attempted to flee on foot but was first run over by his own vehicle. The suspect lost his shoe and his cell phone, but still managed to run between two homes and jump a fence. Akron police assisted in tracking the suspect, who was found hiding in a residential trash can. The man was highly intoxicated and admitted to using mushrooms, marijuana, and other drugs.

CIRCLEVILLE POST

TROOPER RUSTUN SCHACK: Tpr. Rustun Schack, Circleville, recovered five stolen vehicles valued at \$33,500 and apprehended seven suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

He recovered a Ford Taurus after he determined the vehicle was stolen during a traffic contact for a vehicle defect. The driver was charged with receiving stolen property and also found to be driving under suspension. Two passengers were charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

TROOPER TERENCE VOLLMER: Tpr. Terrence Vollmer, Circleville, recovered five stolen vehicles valued at \$13,500 and apprehended five suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

After stopping a disabled vehicle hauling a trailer, he recovered a stolen four-wheeler from the trailer. In another case, Tpr. Vollmer recovered a vehicle that was being driven by a 15-year-old suspect who had a 14-year-old girl and a 10-year-old girl in the car with him.

DELAWARE POST

TROOPER FRANK APPLGATE: Tpr. Frank Applegate, of the Delaware post, recovered five stolen vehicles valued at \$19,850 and apprehended five suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

He recovered one vehicle through a crash investigation, three after stopping the suspect drivers for traffic violations, and one after stopping the suspect vehicle for a registration violation. Two of the suspects he apprehended were juveniles. One suspect was also charged with OVI and another did not have a valid driver license.

GALLIPOLIS POST

TROOPER TYLER E. BROWN: Tpr. Brown recovered five stolen vehicles with a combined value of \$19,900 and arrested five suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

He recovered a Suzuki four-wheeler after he stopped the suspect driver for operating the vehicle on the roadway. Tpr. Brown noticed there was no key in the ignition. He checked the VIN through LEADS and received confirmation that the vehicle was stolen from Franklin County. The driver was charged with receiving stolen property.

GEORGETOWN POST

TROOPER RICHARD C. GABLE: Tpr. Gable recovered five stolen vehicles with a combined value of \$4,000 and arrested five suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

Three of his recoveries came through crash investigations after the suspect drivers had crashed the vehicles. Two of those drivers, as well as the suspect driver of another vehicle Tpr. Gable recovered, were also found to be impaired.

GRANVILLE POST

TROOPER CHAD MAINES: Tpr. Chad Maines, Granville, recovered five stolen vehicles valued at \$12,500 and apprehended six suspects to earn his third Ace Award.

On July 23, Tpr. Maines was dispatched to a single car crash on US 62. Upon arriving at the scene, he saw an abandoned 1995 Mercedes Benz stuck in the embankment, with front and rear-end damage to the vehicle. As he conducted the crash investigation, the owner of the vehicle arrived. The owner stated that her boyfriend was the driver and that he did not have permission to drive her vehicle. Tpr. Maines made contact with the driver at his residence, and took him back to the crash scene. After failing a field sobriety test, the driver was placed under arrest for OVI.

HAMILTON POST

TROOPER JEFFREY R. CROOK: Tpr. Crook recovered five stolen vehicles with a combined value of \$28,000 and arrested five suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

He recovered a Toyota Highlander after he did a routine registration check on the vehicle as it was parked in a rest area. The vehicle did not have a front license plate and the rear license plate did not match the vehicle. When Tpr. Crook made contact, the suspect driver behaved suspiciously and ultimately tried to flee on foot. Tpr. Crook took him into custody and the man admitted stealing the vehicle. The suspect also was in possession of heroin and other drug paraphernalia and was the subject of five active felony warrants out of Franklin County.

TROOPER MARK G. MCNEELY: Tpr. McNeely recovered five stolen vehicles with a combined value of \$15,750 and apprehended five suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

Four of the recoveries came after Tpr. McNeely stopped the suspects for traffic violations; the fifth came after a routine registration check came back as stolen. Four of the suspects he arrested were either driving under suspension or did not possess a driver license. One of the suspects was charged with his sixth OVI offense.

LIMA POST

TROOPER TIMOTHY P. GRIGSBY: Tpr. Grigsby recovered five stolen vehicles with a combined value of \$12,000 and arrested five suspects to earn his second Ace Award.

Four of the suspects he arrested were also charged with OVI. The fifth suspect fled on foot but was later identified by the vehicle owner. After several unsuccessful attempts to serve the suspect with a warrant for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, the suspect was ultimately arrested four months later when he was stopped by another trooper and found to be driving under the influence.

MANSFIELD POST

TROOPER DAVID NORMAN: Tpr. David Norman recovered five stolen vehicles valued at \$80,000 and apprehended five suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

In one of the cases, he stopped the suspect vehicle for a traffic violation and found the driver, in addition to not having permission to have the vehicle, also was the subject of a felony warrant. K9 Storm indicated to the vehicle and during a probable cause search, a bag of marijuana and a loaded automatic handgun were discovered.

MILAN POST

TROOPER DAVID S. FRANCFWAY: Tpr. Francway recovered five stolen vehicles with a combined value of \$33,000 and arrested six suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

Two of his recoveries were in the city of Cleveland while he was working the Buckeye Metro Initiative in November. His first recovery as part of the Buckeye Initiative came after he stopped the suspect vehicle for a traffic violation and arrested a juvenile suspect after verifying the vehicle was stolen. In the second case, Tpr. Francway was operating with support from Post 18's unmarked ELSAG vehicle. The ELSAG alerted to a possible stolen vehicle. Tpr. Francway participated in stopping the vehicle, confirming the stolen entry, and arresting two suspects.

MT. GILEAD POST

TROOPER PAUL J. SHORE: Tpr. Shore recovered five stolen vehicles with a combined value of \$23,000 and apprehended five suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

Three of the suspects Tpr. Shore arrested were impaired. One was a person of interest in a stabbing investigation by the Mt. Vernon Police Department. Another was involved in a hit-skip prior to his arrest and was the subject of a felony warrant out of Morrow County. A fourth suspect led troopers on a 14-mile pursuit before the suspect vehicle was disabled with a tire-deflating device. That suspect was a juvenile entered as missing from a residential treatment facility in Springfield.

PORTSMOUTH POST

TROOPER MICHAEL K. ERVIN: Tpr. Ervin recovered five stolen vehicles with a combined value of \$9,600 and arrested five suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

Four of his recoveries came after he stopped the suspect vehicles for various vehicle defects. In each instance, the suspect drivers were driving with suspended licenses and without the registered owners' permission. His fifth recovery came during a crash investigation. The suspect driver was arrested for OVI and the vehicle owner confirmed that he did not have permission to use the vehicle.

STEUBENVILLE POST

TROOPER BRYAN L. SPONAUGLE: Tpr. Sponaugle recovered five stolen vehicles with a combined value of \$8,500 and apprehended five suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

Four of the vehicles Tpr. Sponaugle recovered had been crashed. In two of the cases, the suspect drivers had fled the scene, but were identified through the crash investigation. One of the other crashes resulted in serious injuries to both the suspect driver, who was driving with a suspended license, and her passenger.

WEST JEFFERSON POST

TROOPER JAMES CRESS: Tpr. James Cress, West Jefferson, recovered five stolen vehicles valued at \$22,500 and apprehended two suspects to earn his second Ace Award.

While on patrol, Tpr. Cress observed a vehicle that had been reported stolen through the Springfield Police Department. He initiated a stop and took the suspect into custody without incident. The suspect subsequently provided Tpr. Cress with information about a "chop shop" operating in Columbus. Columbus police investigated and ultimately executed a search warrant on a residence where stolen tools, construction equipment, a skid steer, trailer and four-wheeler were recovered.

TROOPER WILLIAM S. DAVIS: Tpr. Davis recovered five stolen vehicles with a combined value of \$55,000 and arrested five suspects to earn his first Ace Award.

Four of the suspects he arrested were also charged with OVI and two of them were also found in possession of illegal drugs. Another suspect had caused a four-vehicle crash. The woman, who had a previous conviction for OVI, was driving under suspension. In addition to charges related to the stolen vehicle and OVI, she was also charged with aggravated vehicular assault related to the crash.