

## **Law Enforcement Officials Launch "Across the State" Battle Against DWI**

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WILMINGTON- Division of Motor Vehicles Commissioner George Tatum joined Darrell Jernigan, director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program, and about 100 law enforcement officials today aboard Battleship North Carolina to kick off the Fall 2005 "Booze It & Lose It" campaign. This campaign marks the eleventh year of the Governor's Highway Safety Program's "Booze It & Lose It" initiative.

Today's kick-off was the first of two events this week highlighting the campaign theme "Across the State' Battle Against DWI." As part of the campaign, law enforcement officials from across the state will hold stepped-up DWI checkpoints in the coming weeks. Checkpoints held in 2004 led to the arrest of more than 11,000 individuals for DWI violations.

"The 'Booze It & Lose It' program is the state's most valuable weapon in the battle against drunk driving," said Commissioner Tatum. "Law enforcement officers will be out in full force putting in long hours across North Carolina to make sure that our citizens know that driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs will not be tolerated."

"The message of 'Booze It and Lose It' is simple," said Jernigan. "If you drink and drive, you will get caught. By increasing enforcement efforts, we are reinforcing this message and showing our commitment to keeping North Carolina's roads safe from impaired drivers."

To assist officers, breath-alcohol testing mobile units, or BATMobiles, will be used in all parts of the state throughout the campaign. Each BATMobile is outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment to measure the blood-alcohol level of motorists.

The second kick-off event will take place on Friday, August 19 at the Jackson County Courthouse in Sylva.