



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

June 27, 2013

### **Smooth Operator – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave**

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office will maintain a strong presence on the roads June 29 – July 6, 2013, to enhance safe travel and target aggressive driving during the second wave of the Smooth Operator Enforcement Campaign. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office cares about each and every motorist on the roadway in St. Mary's County. Knowledge about Aggressive Driving is half the battle. The rest relies on each and every person that operates a motor vehicle. Obey the speed limit, rules of the road, and arrive safe, it really is that easy.

#### **The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) offers the following tips to avoid aggressive drivers:**

- Get out of their way and steer clear of them on the road.
- Stay relaxed. Remember that reaching your destination safely and calmly is your goal.
- Don't challenge them. Avoid eye contact. Ignore rude gestures and refuse to return them.
- Give them the benefit of the doubt. Not all aggressive driving behavior is intentional.
- Don't block the passing lane, especially if you are driving slower than most of the traffic.
- Move over to the right lane.
- Dial #77 on a cell phone to report aggressive drivers or call your local police when you can.

#### **How to Avoid Being an Aggressive Driver:**

- Allow more travel time to get to your destination. It reduces stress dramatically.
- Come to a full stop at red lights and stop signs. Never run yellow lights.
- Let other drivers merge with you.
- Obey posted speed limits.
- Don't follow other drivers too closely.
- Resist temptation to teach someone "a lesson."
- Concentrate on driving - not on the stereo, cell phone, passengers or other distractions.
- Remember that you cannot control traffic - but you can control yourself, your driving, and your emotions.