

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

John Carr (916) 419-2525

March 16, 2009

PR 09-13

Over 140 Arrested in Northern California's Largest Shoulder Tap Operation
ABC, Modesto Police and over 30 other Agencies try to Reduce Youth Access to Alcohol

(Modesto) - Officers from the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Modesto Police joined forces with over 30 other law enforcement agencies from several counties on Saturday, March 14, 2009, in the largest Shoulder Tap Decoy Operation ever assembled in Northern California.

The huge task force operation has resulted in approximately 170 citations and bookings. 126 individuals were cited for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors, another 24 were arrested for other violations including driving under the influence, illegal narcotics, drunk in public, probation violations and stolen vehicle charges. The operation was conducted in multiple cities and counties in a united effort to reduce youth access during the St. Patrick's Day Holiday Weekend and send a strong safety message prior to Spring Break.

The task force consisted of approximately 180 police officers representing the following agencies; Modesto Police, California Alcoholic Beverage Control, Sacramento Police, Sacramento County Sheriff, Calaveras County Sheriff, Pacifica Police, San Bruno Police, South San Francisco Police, Brisbane Police, Broadmoor Police, Daly City Police, Half Moon Bay Police, Berkeley Police, UC Berkeley Police, Millbrae Police, Colma Police, Burlingame Police, Fairfield Police, Grass Valley Police, Nevada County Sheriff, Nevada County Probation, Martinez Police, Oakdale Police, Rohnert Park Police, Cotati Police, Sonoma State University Police, Healdsburg Police, Sonoma County Sheriff, Rocklin Police, Roseville Police, Lincoln Police, Sacramento Regional Transit Police, Stanislaus County Sheriff, Stockton Police, Turlock Police, Vacaville Police and the University of Pacific Police.

ABC Investigators and local law enforcement conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which targets adults who purchase alcohol for people under 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.

If the adults agree to purchase alcohol for the minor, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health, and result in unintentional injury and death.

Funding for this program was provided by ABC through the Grant Assistance Program (GAP). The Grant Assistance Program provides money to local law enforcement to address alcohol - related concerns in communities throughout the State.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.