



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ann Armstrong, Public Information Officer
Arizona Automobile Theft Authority
Phone: 602 364-2892 – ann.armstrong@aata.state.az.us

**ARIZONA AUTOMOBILE THEFT AUTHORITY TO HOST 4TH ANNUAL
SUMMIT ON VEHICLE THEFT AND HONOR 2005 AWARD RECIPIENTS**

PHOENIX (May 10, 2006) The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA) announces 2005 award recipients to be honored as part of the agency's 4th Annual Summit on Vehicle Theft scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2006 at the South Mountain Environmental Center located at 10409 S. Central Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona.

The awards ceremony, which takes place during the Summit luncheon from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., will honor the AATA's law enforcement, government, and private sector partners that have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments and innovative approaches to combating vehicle theft in the State of Arizona.

The 2005 award recipients the AATA proudly recognizes include:

1. Detective Dennis Thomas, Mesa Police Department – 2005 Auto Theft Detective of the Year.
2. Officer Dave Goitia, Glendale Police Department; and Officer Paul Sipe, Mesa Police Department - 2005 Patrol Officers of the Year.
3. Mr. Brian Salata, Pinal County Attorney's Office - 2005 Vertical Prosecutor of the Year.
4. Detective Charles Knapp, Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force -2005 Task Force Officer of the Year.
5. Ms. Nicole Tankersley, Mesa Police Department - 2005 Crime Prevention Specialist of the Year.
6. Detective Bernardo Castillo, Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force; Mr. Mel Kowal, Paradise Valley Police Department; and Ms. Christine Pinuelas, Maricopa County - 2005 Watch Your Car Special Recognition of the Year.
7. Mr. Ruben Chavez and Mr. Paul Palmer, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Video Production Unit – 2005 Special Recognition of the Year.
8. Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force - 2005 Law Enforcement Unit of the Year.
9. Glendale Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit – 2005 Public Awareness and Community Education Unit of the Year.
10. State Farm Insurance Company - 2005 Outstanding Private Sector Partner of the Year.

###