

Osceola County Sheriff's Office,  
Kissimmee & St. Cloud, Florida Police  
Departments wrote **2,388 tickets** in  
3 days with the ProLaser® III.

See article below:

# Camouflaged cops return



## Waiting to Spy Speeders

Kissimmee police Sgt. Jimmy Haddock and Osceola Sheriff's Sgt. Larry Savedge pose as laborers with a broken-down truck.

**Susan Jacobson, Sentinel Staff Writer. Orlando Sentinel. Orlando, Fla.: Aug 22, 2003**

KISSIMMEE -- The two men in a beat-up pickup Thursday looked as if they had broken down in the U.S. Highway 192 median -- so much so that a Florida Highway Patrol trooper asked whether they needed a tow.

But the men were, in fact, law-enforcement officers in their latest inventive effort to get motorists to slow down.

Thursday's Operation DAV (Disabled Vehicle) was the latest ruse from the Osceola County Sheriff's Office and Kissimmee and St. Cloud police, whose Operation Vagrant angered homeless advocates in May when two deputies dressed as vagrants to catch red-light runners.

Some of the 478 motorists ticketed Thursday, mainly for speeding, complained that they were just going with the flow of traffic, which they said was exceeding the 45-mph speed limit. Others said they thought police and deputies should have been trying to prevent or solve more serious crimes instead of spending time handing out citations.

Kissimmee police Sgt. Jimmy Haddock said stopping speeders is one of the most important things the department does. Thirty-two people have been killed in traffic accidents this year in Osceola County, he said.

"This is costing more lives and more money than any other crime we have," said Haddock, who wore a sleeveless gray T-shirt and paint-stained khaki shorts as he sat in a lawn chair in the bed of the dented pickup.

Haddock trained his laser gun on westbound cars near Osceola Heritage Park while Osceola sheriff's Sgt. Larry Savedge radioed the cars' speeds to deputies and officers waiting at the next intersection. The men head their respective traffic units. The goal, they said, is to get drivers to slow down even when police aren't watching them.

Nobody was glad to get a ticket, but driver Martin Ortiz of St. Cloud said he still supports the operation. "If I have a ticket, I broke the law," said Ortiz, 68, a Korean War veteran who was on the way to a medical appointment when he was clocked at 55 mph.

Although some motorists suspected the sting was a way to raise revenue, officers had leeway on what citations to write. St. Cloud police Officer Ted Smith, for example, ticketed Ortiz for not carrying his registration and insurance, nonmoving violations that incur only a \$5 fine if the cards are valid but just not in the vehicle. Ortiz also got a speeding warning he said he would remember.

This week's stings began Monday at World Drive and U.S. 192 near Celebration, where officers and deputies wrote a whopping 575 tickets, mostly for speeding, in Operation Lead Foot.

On Tuesday, they wrote 465 tickets on Vine Street east of Dyer Boulevard while running the laser gun from a bucket truck. Most people apparently assumed they were road workers and didn't slow down. In St. Cloud, they wrote 375 tickets Wednesday at 13th Street and Mississippi Avenue, again using a bucket truck.

In addition to Operation DAV, Operation Vagrant and Operation Lead Foot, Savedge also dreamed up Operation Tourist. In that sting, law officers dressed up last month in tacky tourist garb on West U.S. 192.