

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief John R. Batiste*

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date:** September 25, 2009  
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## **WSP Aviation Tracks Down Stolen Vehicle Equipped With LoJack**

A 2004 Nissan Pathfinder, equipped with the LoJack theft system, was stolen today and WSP Aviation along with WSP troopers were able to track down the Nissan and arrest the driver and passenger after a short pursuit.

The state patrol received reports of a LoJack alert at approximately 12:00 p.m. today. The WSP Aviation used their Cessna Aircraft to follow the signal which led them to the area of I-5 and Hosmer. The Trooper Pilot was able to spot the vehicle in a parking lot and alerted the ground troopers.

A trooper was coming onto I-5 from 72<sup>nd</sup> when they observed the vehicle. The driver of the stolen Nissan exited at 56<sup>th</sup> Street where the trooper attempted to stop him. The suspect would not stop. They continued in pursuit for approximately 3 minutes until troopers determined it was unsafe to continue due to the dangerous driving behaviors of the suspect; the WSP Pilot continued to follow the stolen Nissan. The suspect and a passenger "dumped" the vehicle near Fossett and fled on foot. The ground troopers were able to catch up to the suspects with the help of the pilot and, at 12:48 p.m., place the suspects under arrest.

The suspects, 39 year-old Michael A. Papuzza of Lacey (driver) and 36 year-old Harold J. Bailey of Tacoma (passenger) were booked into the Pierce County Jail on suspicion of Possession of Stolen Property 1 & 2, Eluding, Possession of Burglary Tools, and Taking a Motor Vehicle without Permission 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. Both had prior criminal history records.

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