

\$94,000 in contraband cigarettes and cash seized



On June 23, Farouq A. Al-Mathil was arrested and charged with multiple felonies. The Strike Force seized \$5,500 and 898 cartons of brand-name cigarettes – with a sales value of at least \$89,000 – that were either Virginia-stamped or stamped with counterfeit New York State and New York City cigarette tax stamps.

Seized: \$130,000, 3,236 cartons and 3,795 counterfeit tax stamps



In early June, the Strike Force arrested Ji Long Chen and Mohamed A. Kassim for the possession and transport for sale of illegal cigarettes. The total value of the seizure approached \$500,000.

942 cartons seized in the Bronx; Queens man arrested



In February, *the Strike Force* arrested Hassan Aidibi of Elmhurst and charged him with four felonies. By law the monetary penalty could range as high as \$565,000 (up to \$600 per carton).