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Press Release

State Police capture fugitive rapist in Florida

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The dangerous sexual offender who fled Norfolk Superior Court in April and escaped a State Police pursuit by driving over his own lawn and then speeding away recklessly has been captured in Florida.

James M. BOWEN, age 50, of 74 Blueberry Lane, Taunton, Mass., was taken into custody just prior to 6:30 p.m. in Daytona Beach, Fla., by Troopers assigned to the Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section of the Massachusetts State Police working with Florida authorities, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

"Bowen was at Norfolk Superior Court in April when he apparently learned that the probation department was about to seek his return to custody for violating the terms of his release relative to a 2001 aggravated rape conviction. He fled the court," District Attorney Morrissey said.

Hours later, State Police officers went to Bowen's Taunton home and blocked his driveway as they approached. Bowen was able to enter his car and gain entrance the street by driving across his lawn; he sped away recklessly, causing the police to discontinue the pursuit for the protection of the public.

After two weeks of attempting to track Bowen locally, State Police and prosecutors from DA Morrissey's Office requested the assistance of State Police VFAS. "They do excellent work. This was a Canton rape, and the Canton Police and Det. Eric Wade were very involved in this track down. The US Marshal Service Boston Office was an excellent partner. The Taunton Police took part," Morrissey said. "This is an excellent example of law enforcement at the local, state and federal levels working together to make the public safe from a dangerous and increasingly desperate convict."

Morrissey's office is now working with Florida officials to secure Bowen's return to Massachusetts to face probation surrender proceedings. The date of his return has not been fixed.