



NEWS RELEASE

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POLICE CAPTURE ARMED AND DANGEROUS SUSPECT WANTED IN FLORIDA

~ Multi-state law enforcement effort leads to arrest of man who shot at Florida troopers ~

BROOKSVILLE, Fla. – Early this morning U.S. Marshalls, Connecticut State Police and local law enforcement officers arrested the man accused of shooting at Florida State Troopers on March 25. Officials in Winchester, Conn., took Brody James Whitaker, 37, into custody after a brief struggle. Whitaker escaped authorities two weeks ago after shooting at two Florida troopers who attempted to pull him over for a traffic violation.

After firing on the Florida troopers, Whitaker crashed the Chevrolet Suburban he was driving and fled on foot into the Lake Panasoffkee Wildlife Management area in Sumter County. Federal, state and local law enforcement officers joined the Florida Highway Patrol in a widespread search of the area for two days as Whitaker eluded his pursuers, which sparked a nationwide manhunt. Yesterday, authorities tracked him to a residence in Connecticut.

“The Florida Highway Patrol wants to thank all the agencies involved in the search and capture of this dangerous man wanted in two states,” said FHP Director, Colonel John Czernis. “Law enforcement officers throughout the area, including Sumter County Sheriff Bill Farmer and his deputies, worked tirelessly in a coordinated effort. Without the combined efforts of law enforcement across state lines, the arrest of this fugitive would not have been possible.”

Whitaker faces an assortment of charges, to include aggravated fleeing and eluding a police officer and aggravated assault on a police officer in Florida. He has a criminal history in several different states: Michigan, Virginia, California, Florida and Ohio. He is wanted in Michigan for illegal drug possession. From today’s arrest, Connecticut has charged him with being a fugitive from justice and possession of drug paraphernalia. Currently, Whitaker is in custody and awaiting court proceedings before a judge in Connecticut. He will subsequently await extradition to Florida to face charges.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles provides highway safety and security through excellence in service, education and enforcement. The Department is leading the way to a safer Florida through the efficient and professional execution of its core mission: the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle tags and titles and operation of the Florida Highway Patrol. To learn more about DHSMV and the services offered, visit www.flhsmv.gov.

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