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Berks deputy shot, killed in Albany Township

A law enforcement task force was on the property when gunfire erupted, officials say. A 25-year-old man with an AK-47 assault rifle also was killed.

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By Jason Kahl
Reading Eagle

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A Berks County deputy sheriff was pronounced dead in Lehigh Valley Hospital early this morning after gunfire erupted Wednesday night while a task force was trying to arrest a man at an Albany Township residence.

The deputy, Kyle Pagerly, was flown to the hospital near Allentown after the incident in the first block of Pine Swamp Road. The suspect, Matthew Connor, 25, was shot and killed at the scene during the exchange of gunfire, state police said this morning.

According to police:

A joint detail consisting of troopers from Reading, a state police fugitive task force, U.S. marshals and Berks County sheriff's deputies went to the residence shortly before 8 p.m. after obtaining an arrest warrant on Connor for burglary, firearms and assault charges.

As they were talking to Connor's girlfriend, Connor ran out the back of the house and into the woods. Pagerly followed Connor, who had an AK-47 assault rifle. Pagerly ordered Connor to drop the gun before gunfire was exchanged.

Pagerly was shot in the head, according to initial reports.

He was a 2001 graduate of Wilson High School and Army veteran who had been with the sheriff's department since 2006 and was a lieutenant in the Spring

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Township Fire Department, according to the sheriff's website. Pagerly served in Kosovo and Iraq as a military policeman in the Army.

Neighbors on the rural stretch of road, which runs through the forest near Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, said Connor and his father lived on the property where the gunfire occurred.

"We have an ongoing investigation being led by state police," Berks County District Attorney John T. Adams said.

County Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht, reached late Wednesday, was distraught and didn't have a comment.

Gov. Tom Corbett today ordered all Pennsylvania flags in the Capitol complex and at state facilities in Berks County lowered to half-staff in honor of Pagerly.

Contact Jason Kahl: 610-371-5024 or jkahl@readingeagle.com.

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Berks County sheriff's deputy Kyle Pagerly with his K-9 partner, Jynx, in a 2009 photo. Pagerly was a 2001 graduate of Wilson High School.

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