

## Friendly fire killed U.S. marshal - Express-Times, The (Easton, PA) - March 3, 2018 - page A7

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Harrisburg

Dauphin County officials has released new details about the friendly-fire death of a deputy U.S. marshal in January.

The release came after PennLive reported that Christopher Hill, 45, was killed by another officer's bullet instead of one fired by **Kevin Sturgis**.

Dauphin County District Attorney Fran Chardo confirmed that Hill was struck by a bullet fired by another officer that came through a wall.

Hill was part of a nine-person task force that was serving a warrant at 1837 Mulberry St. in the early hours of Jan. 18 to arrest Shayla Towles Pierce. Once officers knocked on the door, entered the home and arrested Pierce, Hill went into the back of the house, to clear the rest of the first floor.

While he was in the back dining room, **Kevin Sturgis** emerged from the second-floor stairwell, which faces the front of the home.

"Are you looking for me?" Sturgis shouted from the stairs before descending and opening fire.

A York city officer was struck in the elbow by Sturgis' first bullet, Chardo said. That prompted another officer to return fire at Sturgis.

At least two bullets penetrated the wall behind Sturgis, ending up in the dining room where Hill was.

Task force members who were inside the house retreated through the rear door, according to Chardo's statement.

As task force members tended to the wounded, Sturgis exited the front door of the house, Chardo said, and continued to fire on officers, striking a Harrisburg officer in the chest.

A bullet resistant vest saved his life.

Sturgis was later shot to death in the ensuing gunbattle in the street.

Chardo said his investigation has been completed and that officers were justified in using deadly force against Sturgis.