

TRAINING CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Domestic violence calls for service are highly volatile and pose significant risk not only to the involved parties but also to the officers responding

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lthough state law did not require him to do so, newly-elected Muhlenberg County Sheriff Curtis McGehee, 48, chose to enroll in 18 weeks of Basic Training at the Department of Criminal Justice Training.

"I attended the academy because I wanted to be certified, well-trained and capable of serving the citizens of our county with the integrity that they deserve," he wrote recently in a letter to DOCJT Commissioner John Bizzack.

While he found the training to be "extremely difficult," McGehee pressed on with the support of DOCJT staff and graduated on Feb. 10.

"... Only 17 days later, I responded to a domestic dispute, where unfortunately I was involved in a fatal shooting," he wrote. "During my incident on the evening of Feb. 27, my academy training was helpful to the point that it saved my life and possibly the lives of others."

McGehee explained that during his training he struggled with his shooting. But he was reassured by DOCJT Instructor Rob Ramsey and others that "on the range or during the actual line of duty, failure was not an option."

"As the incident began unfolding, the instruction I had received came to life," he wrote. "When there was a crisis, I responded as I was trained, and I survived."

Because training is perishable, keeping your skills sharp could mean the difference in your life, said domestic violence expert Mark Wynn.

