

New York state trooper's murder 'a terrible loss for everybody'

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(Photo: AP)

A New York state trooper killed when responding to a domestic violence call was a veteran officer and father of three who coached youth sports and was committed to making his community better, his commander said Monday.

Trooper Joel Davis, 36, was shot Sunday as he approached a couple's double-wide mobile home in The State Police Superintendent George Beach II said. Army Staff Sgt. Justin Walters, 32, also killed his wife Nichole, 27, before surrendering moments later to other officers at the scene, Beach said.

Another woman who also lived on the property, Rebecca Finkle, was wounded but her injuries were not considered life-threatening, Beach said. Two small children were found at the scene unharmed, he said.

Walters was arraigned on charges of first-degree and second-degree murder and remanded to the Jefferson County Jail without bail.

Beach said Nichole Walters, shot multiple times, was found dead on the driveway. Davis was shot once, the bullet eluding the plate in his vest. He was found in a nearby ditch. He leaves behind two sons, ages 18 and 17, and a 13-year-old daughter.

"He was extremely active in his community, a husband, a father, coached sports," Beach said. "This is a terrible loss for everybody."

