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Suspect dies in shootout with police

2 officers hurt while trying to serve warrant

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Article Text:

Two Atlanta police officers were wounded Saturday in southwest Atlanta by a man who was killed when o

fficers returned fire in an early morning shootout.

Both officers were treated at Grady Memorial Hospital and released by 3 p.m. Saturday.

Atlanta and Douglasville police were trying to serve a warrant at 1421 Lockwood Drive S.W. at 4:45 a.m. when gunfire erupted from the house, Atlanta police spokeswoman Sylvia Abernathy said. Officers returned fire, she said.

Corey Grogen, an Atlanta officer since 1997, was hit in the chest. His bulletproof vest probably saved his life, Maj. C.W. Moss said.

Lt. John Demitt, a 13-year veteran of the department, was grazed on the cheek when a bullet glanced off of his radio, Abernathy said.

Police retreated and called in an Atlanta SWAT team. Eventually, officers stormed the one-story house, and several from both jurisdictions were slightly injured in the rush.

"There was quite a bit of aggression going into the building," Abernathy said.

Officers found a man dead inside the house. They said the man, whom they would not identify, apparently was killed in the earlier exchange of fire.

A woman police believe to be the man's companion was shot in the leg and was later treated at Grady Memorial Hospital, Abernathy said.

Police also found two handguns and an assault pistol in the home, Moss said.

Identities of the suspect who was killed and the other casualties were not released by Atlanta police. Douglasville police did not return calls.

Police were serving a warrant on Joshua Rickman for aggravated assault and false imprisonment from an incident Friday in Douglasville.

Rickman was alleged to have accused several people at a Douglasville apartment of stealing drugs from him. He then assaulted them with a weapon, Abernathy said.

"We believe the suspect died during the gunfire exchange," Abernathy said.

During the incident, police restricted traffic for an eight-block stretch of the road. Neighbors were told to stay in their houses until the area was cleared by 8 a.m.

The area is north of Fort McPherson.

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