

Sheriff Eric Weaknecht Bio:

Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht has been a member of the Berks County Sheriff's Department since May of 1984. As a deputy sheriff, he was first assigned to the Court Division and then to service of civil process.

In 1996 Eric was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief Deputy in charge of the Court Division. His duties included the direct supervision of 28 deputies as well as handling all out-of-county transports, juvenile transports/juvenile court and the maintenance of the Sheriff's department fleet of vehicles.

In 1999 Eric was promoted the rank of Chief Deputy Sheriff. His duties were to assist the Sheriff in the overall operation of the Berks County Sheriff's Department as well as maintaining the budget and all the purchasing for the department. He was also the direct supervisor of the four Assistant Chief Deputies and the Real Estate Administrator.

On November 7, 2007 Eric was elected Sheriff of Berks County and was sworn into office on December 31, 2007 to a four year term effective January 7, 2008. Eric was re-elected in 2011 and began his second four year term January, 2012.

In June, 2012, Eric was appointed by Governor Tom Corbett to the Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board. The Board advises the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in the development, implementation and operation of legislatively mandated basic training and continuing education that serve as the basis for certification of deputy sheriffs within the Commonwealth's 67 counties.

In July, 2012, Eric was elected by Pennsylvania Sheriffs as Treasure of the Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association. The Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association works to crate and establish objectives to ensure on-going training for deputies and draft language to support legislation that clarifies the authority of the office of Sheriff.

Sheriff Eric Weaknecht is a member of:

- * Pennsylvania Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board
- * Berks County Chiefs of Police Association
- * Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association

- * International Association of Chiefs of Police
- * Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association, Secretary Treasurer
- * Berks County Emergency Response Team (BCERT) Board of Chiefs
- * Berks County Criminal Justice Policy Group
- * Berks County Prison Board
- * National Sheriff's Association
- * Pennsylvania State Police Camp Cadet
- * Berks Encore Senior Expo Committee, co-chair
- * The National Rifle Association (life member)
- * Alvernia University Criminal Justice Advisory Board
- * Crime Alert Berks County Advisory Committee

Sheriff Weaknecht has an extremely positive relationship with the board of commissioners and the District Attorney's Office.

The Berks County Sheriff's Office has been a member of the US Marshals Fugitive Taskforce for over 15 years and is responsible for the service of ALL criminal arrest warrants for every municipal police department in the County of Berks.

HB466 Benefits

A major issue relates to our warrants division. For example, should our warrants deputies find drugs in the course of serving an arrest warrant, they are not able to file criminal charges regarding drug possession. Because suspected drugs found are sent to a lab for verification, the Berks County District Attorney has interpreted a "drug arrest" as falling under the headline of "investigation."

The warrants deputies are then required to notify the municipal police to file the charges resulting in court testimony from two agencies at time of prosecution.