

Office of the Sheriff



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PRESS RELEASE

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Yesterday morning the Broome County Sheriff's Office was made aware of a subject who was streaming live on the social media platform 'Facebook' wearing what appeared to be ballistic body armor. During the video, a handgun-style weapon was observed. The video was streaming on the personal page of 42-year-old Nicholas Skiba, of Johnson City, N.Y., and indicated that Skiba was operating a vehicle while live streaming. Additionally, there was a passenger in the vehicle who was ultimately identified as 28-year-old Keith Hall of Chenango Forks, N.Y.

The Sheriff's Office immediately initiated an investigation. Due to the content of the video, contact was established with Skiba's immediate family members, and, as a result, locations and schools associated with family members were locked down. That triggered additional locations and institutions to initiate their own lock-down measures and protocols. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that Skiba cannot legally possess firearms in New York State.

Sheriff's Office detectives obtained search warrants for Skiba's cellular phone and Facebook location data and records. Information received from those search warrants indicated Skiba was in the area of Route 12 in Chenango Forks, Town of Chenango. Law enforcement personnel was directed to that area. The vehicle Skiba was operating was located, unoccupied, and parked in front of a residence on State Route 12, Town of Chenango. After making brief phone contact with Skiba both he and Hall exited the residence and were taken into custody without incident. At that time, all lock-down protocols and procedures were lifted.

A subsequent investigation was conducted at the residence located at 2553 State Route 12, Town of Chenango. Numerous firearms were located within the residence including the one observed on the live stream video. Additionally, two black powder pistols, five handguns, three shotguns, four rifles, and several large-capacity magazines were recovered. Of those firearms, three were defaced in attempts to obscure the serial numbers.

Skiba and Hall were processed and were turned over to Sheriff's Office Corrections staff for arraignment at Central Arraignment Part Court (CAP). Additionally, Sheriff's Office personnel applied for and received Extreme Risk Protection Orders under the N.Y.S. Red Flag law. The orders were subsequently served on both Skiba and Hall at the Broome County Sheriff's Office Correctional Facility.

The Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Johnson City Police Department, New York State Police, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF).

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Arrested:

Nicholas Skiba, 42, of Johnson City, N.Y.

Keith Hall Sr., 28, of Chenango Forks, NY

Both defendants were charged with the following:

Criminal possession of a weapon 2nd degree, a class C felony – 1 count

Criminal Possession of a weapons 3rd degree, class D felony – 4 counts