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# Divide man caught by Teller County deputies

By Jakob Rodgers  
The Gazette

A Divide man suspected of trying to coax Teller County sheriff's deputies to kill him was arrested Thursday afternoon after an exhaustive manhunt, according to the sheriff's office.

Kai Skov, 40, was found around 12:30 p.m. about a mile from his house northwest of Woodland Park, ending a nearly day-long search that began when he fired at deputies driving in a **Lenco BearCat**® armored vehicle.

"He told our negotiator that he had tried several times to take his own life," said Teller County sheriff's Sgt. Nick Olmsted. "And the only thing he could think to do is suicide by cop."

Skov's family called the sheriff's office Wednesday morning to report they were worried about him, Olmsted said.

A Teller County sheriff's negotiator reached him on the phone later that day and talked to him for six hours, Olmsted said. But their conversations ended with the words "I told you I didn't want any cops up here" when Skov saw a sheriff's **Lenco BearCat**® armored vehicle roll up outside the house, Olmsted said.

Rushing outside, Skov fired two warning shots in the air and a third at the **Lenco BearCat**® armored vehicle, hitting it. He fled into the woods near the Lutheran Valley Ranch retreat, where deputies lost track of him.



*Photo of the Teller County Sheriff's **Lenco BearCat**® after being shot at by a Divide man on October 26, 2011.*

No one was injured in the shooting.

“I know that when he fired on the **Lenco BearCat**® armored vehicle yesterday, the members were directed not to fire on him,” Olmsted said.

Skov did not return to the house overnight. A National Guard helicopter equipped with heat-sensing equipment was on its way from western Colorado when deputies found Skov.

Skov is being held in the Teller County jail in lieu of \$1 million bail.

During the search, several residents evacuated the area, and deputies were told to avoid firing on the man.

“It’s a situational thing,” Olmsted said. “You need to know what your strengths are and your limitations. In this case, we wanted to take him alive, if possible, and we were successful in doing so.”

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### **Testimonial Submission**

*On October 26 our team deployed on a mentally disturbed party that wanted to commit “suicide by cop”, as we approached the residence the suspect fired three rounds from a scoped 30.06, from approximately 200 yards. Only one round was a direct hit, striking the BearCat on the right side just below the window, approximately head / neck level for the team members that were seated inside. The second round skipped in front of the unit with fragments striking the lower left running light breaking it, the third was a miss.*

*The BearCat worked flawlessly, this incident occurred in a very rural area of our county in rugged terrain consisting of dirt roads that were covered in about 10 inches of snow. We were able to get into and out of places that amazed me.*

*If we had not been in the BearCat I believe we would have either lost a team member or had one seriously injured.*

*To all the employees of Lenco thank you for what you do.*

*Les Lewis, Commander  
Teller County Sheriff’s Office  
Special Operations*