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'Every Day is Different ...'
... but the constant is danger
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In the line of duty no two days are the same, but every day there is that chance of having to make or receive the call - "Officer Down." There also is the chance of being the law enforcement officer down.

"Every day is different out here," Minden K-9 handler Officer Danny "Bo" Turner said immediately following funeral services for Cpl. J.R. Searcy, March 11. "We never know what to expect or what we may come against."

Searcy, a K-9 handler for Ouachita Parish, was shot March 4 while responding to an aggravated assault call. As a result, Searcy died two days later.

Neither the dispatcher nor the officer ever wants to hear or give the call.

In August 2006, "Need a medic, need a medic, got an officer here that has been shot" were the words that rang out from Dixie Inn's Jim Edwards, who now serves as police chief of the village. Edwards placed that call for Turner, who had been shot twice by suspect Kenneth Trice during a heavy pursuit.

Answering that call was Sarepta's current police chief Bill Fields, who was working the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office dispatcher desk at the time.

"Cpl. Searcy's funeral put me in the mindset that it could have been me laying there dead," Turner said. "God spared me. I was fortunate enough to be able to pick back up and continue working. It is heartbreaking. I've seen the point where I didn't know whether I was going to live or die."

Although the 2006 incident has been the only time Edwards has had to make that call during his career, he said he thinks about often.

Edwards said he thought of the incident just hours before his interview with the Press-Herald. According to reports, Turner was shot following a domestic call, regarding a subject (Trice) with a gun. The incident led to a heavy pursuit of the subject, which ended in Dixie Inn.

"It happened so fast," Turner said. "As soon as I opened my car door, I told the subject, 'Let me see your hands.' He then fired, shooting me through the car door."

The first shot hit Turner in the arm, exiting that same arm.

"At that time, while running to my car to get more coverage, I slipped and fell," Turner said. "The subject then walked over to me and said 'I got you' and shot me again."

Turner said the second shot struck him in the hip as back-up arrived, yelling for Trice to drop the his gun.

Edwards was one of the officers chasing Trice that day.

"Bo (Turner) was yelling at me, but I couldn't make out what he was saying," Edwards said.

"After he got closer to me I realized he was saying that he had been shot. We both realized

there was not enough time to wait for an ambulance. So he got into the passenger seat of my car and we headed towards Minden Medical."

When asked by the Press-Herald what are the worst phrases for an officer of the law to hear come across his two-way radio, Turner replied, "Officer shot, officer down."

It is a feeling, he said, like none other.

"When you hear that an officer is down, you are hoping that soon after you will hear the officer come back and say 'code four,' meaning that he's okay," Turner said.

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