

The Day that Changed My Life.

They say being a cop isn't like the movies. Ninety- nine percent of the time they're right. But one day , this term proved true. My name is Ronald Smith, and this was the day that changed my life.

December 1994, April 27.

I was a rookie. I just joined a week ago and I was bored. I wanted to fight, have an epic chase....something of the sort. Little did I know that for the rest of my life, all I would want was boring days.

Then the call came in.

"We've got a 10-79, any units on Main Street, please report."

My partner and I looked at each other as we drove down there. I was excited, I thought that I would be the hero, save the hostages, take out the bad guys. I didn't know what I was in for. We got there and saw a man with a suicide bomb vest outside of the building with three people tied to a chair. My partner, being the professional cop, tried to talk him down, tried to make an agreement with the man. I don't remember what they were saying. I do remember that I... was panicked, no longer excited or thinking about being the hero. Just fear....so I did something stupid. I pulled out my gun, and tried to shoot him. Only to hear the noise of my gun jamming. It felt like time slowed, as I saw the man put the fuses together on his suicide bomb vest, and then...nothing he made the vest wrong. Seizing the opportunity my partner pulled out his gun, and shot the man to death. The threat was neutralized, and everybody was safe. I let out a breath of relief, and I fell back. I almost let people die, innocent people. As we drove back and my partner tried lecturing me about how to handle hostage situations, I just sat there...

As we got back to the police base I realized that I never wanted an "exciting day", again. I realized that being a cop isn't about epic chases, firefights, and all that. It's about saving the people.

And that's my story, the day that changed my life.