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Officer reluctant to shoot kills man firing upon him

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A 17-year veteran Detroit police officer, well known for his reluctance to fire his gun at criminals, shot and killed a gunman early Sunday. The man had unexplainedly fired several shots at the off-duty officer and wounded him.

The incident occurred in a parking lot at Lakepointe and Harper on the east side about 2:25 a.m. just after Officer Edward Eades, of the police auto pound, pulled into the lot with a woman companion.

Eades, 43, told investigators that he and the woman had been in a nearby bar, the Mystic Lounge, and he had walked the woman to her car some three blocks away and then driven her car back to where his own car was parked.

Police said that Eades stopped the car in the lot and then heard someone shouting and swearing at him. When he stepped out of the car to investigate, a man yelled "Move the car, bitch," at him and then pulled a small .25-caliber automatic pistol and fired several times at the officer.

Eades was hit in the left arm and right thigh, but managed to pull his own gun and

fire twice at the man, identified later as Samuel Wright, 22, of Detroit. Wright was dead at the scene with a chest wound.

DETECTIVES SAID Wright's brother Frank, 26, who lives in an apartment overlooking the parking lot, said he saw his brother fire first at Eades. Eades was not in uniform.

Eades, who officers said was upset and crying because he had killed a man, was listed in temporarily serious condition at St. John Hospital.

Sgt. Marvin Johnson of the homicide section said Eades had never fired his service revolver before, other than during practice at the firing range.

Johnson, a former partner of Eades', said that he and Eades once cornered a knife-wielding robbery suspect and that Eades would not shoot the man when he advanced with the knife.

While Eades aimed his gun at the man, Johnson got behind the suspect and hit him on the head with a blackjack to subdue him.

"He never liked using a gun," Johnson said.