

INTRADPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 09-02

April 16, 2009

**TO:** Metropolitan Division Personnel

**FROM:** Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division

**SUBJECT:** SEMI-AUTOMATIC AND FULL-AUTOMATIC MODES OF FIRE

The following Divisional Order supersedes all previous correspondence from either Special Operations Bureau or the Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division (Metro), regarding semi-automatic and full-automatic modes of fire on the Colt M-4 carbine when deployed by Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) personnel.

On January 6, 2009, a Use of Force Review Board (UOFRB) was convened to review the SWAT Officer-Involved Shooting (OIS) now commonly referred to as the "Welby Way incident," Force Investigation Division No. 011-08. A comprehensive OIS investigation and subsequent presentation to the aforementioned UOFRB revealed the need to revisit established protocols for deployment of the Colt M-4 carbine by SWAT personnel.

**Colt M-4 .223 Caliber Carbine**

During entry team operations or while in close-quarter environments, SWAT personnel shall deploy the Colt M-4 .223 caliber carbine in the semi-automatic mode of fire. If faced with compelling reasons or exigent circumstances requiring the weapon be transitioned from semi-automatic to full-automatic mode, prior authorization shall be obtained when feasible. Only the Metro Commanding Officer or designee is authorized to grant this approval. Authorization shall be granted when extreme officer-safety concerns arise or a significant threat requiring operation in full-automatic mode is present. Factors for such a decision may include, but are not limited to:

- Type of crime or violence involved;
- Number of suspects;
- Suspect(s) criminal history or background;
- Superior weaponry or presence of body armor;
- Venue.

If unexpectedly confronted by compelling reasons or exigent circumstances, SWAT personnel may transition their weapon from semi-automatic to full-automatic mode without prior authorization. However, full articulation as to the reasons behind that decision will be required at an appropriate time.

Special Weapons and Tactics personnel shall continue to focus on the development and maintain proficiency in both the semi-automatic and full-automatic modes of fire.

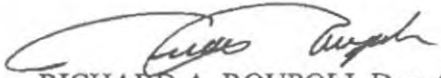
**Heckler & Koch MP-5 Sub-machinegun**

The MP-5 sub-machinegun shall continue to be operated in the semi-automatic and full-automatic modes of fire consistent with adopted training practices and operational procedures for SWAT.



DENNIS H. KATO, Captain  
Commanding Officer  
Metropolitan Division

APPROVED:



RICHARD A. ROUPOLI, Deputy Chief  
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