

INTRADPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 02-12  
16.3

May 24, 2012

**TO:** Metropolitan Division Personnel

**FROM:** Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division

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

The following Divisional Order supersedes all previous Divisional Orders and correspondence from either Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau or the Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division (Metro), regarding semi-automatic and automatic modes of fire for the Colt M-4 carbine, Heckler & Koch 416-D, Heckler & Koch MP-5, and Fabrique Nationale d'Herstal Special Operations Forces for Combat Assault Rifle (FN SCAR) 17 platforms, which fire 5.56x45mm, 9mm, or 7.62x51 ammunition respectively.

**NOTE:** The terms automatic and sustained mode of fire are interchangeable as it relates to more than one round being fired with a single trigger press.

All four platforms are currently deployed by Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) personnel with semi-automatic and automatic capabilities. The Colt M-4, Heckler & Koch 416-D, and MP-5 platforms are reserved for close-quarter engagements, while the FN SCAR-17 is reserved for Aerial Platform Shooting or secondary sniper support.

**Colt M-4 Carbine or Heckler & Koch 416-D (5.56x45mm)  
FN SCAR-17 (7.62x51mm)**

Special Weapons and Tactics personnel shall normally deploy and operate the aforementioned weapon systems, except the Heckler & Koch MP-5, in the semi-automatic mode of fire. When a need arises to transition from the semi-automatic to automatic mode of fire, prior authorization shall be received, when feasible, from the Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division, Assistant Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division, or a staff officer from Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

If an officer is unexpectedly faced with compelling reasons or exigent circumstances that require the weapon be transitioned from semi-automatic to automatic mode of fire, and prior authorization is not feasible or practical, he/she shall be responsible for articulating said need as soon as the emergency has been abated or at a later appropriate time. Factors in granting authorization or creating a spontaneous need to transition the weapon from semi-automatic to automatic may include, but are not limited to:

- Extreme officer-safety concerns or presence of a significant threat requiring operation in a sustained mode of fire;

- Type of crime involved or propensity for violence toward law enforcement;
- Multiple or well-armed suspect(s);
- Presence of superior weaponry and/or body armor;
- Suspect(s) violent criminal history, background, or association with a criminal/terrorist organization; and
- Fortified or difficult venues.

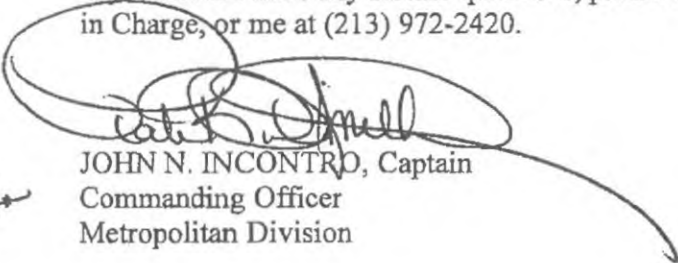
**Heckler & Koch MP-5 Sub-machine pistol (9mm)**

The terminal ballistic properties of a single 9mm round fired at the human torso may not provide immediately desired or adequate levels of incapacitation. However, the likelihood of immediate and effective incapacitation greatly increases when delivered in rapid succession via multiple-round bursts or sustained mode of fire. Moreover, the MP-5's delayed roller-locking bolt system, as well as 9mm ammunition allow the weapon to be fired in a sustained mode of fire, while remaining easily controllable and accurate. Consistent with the National Tactical Officers Association adopted recommendations for the MP-5, requisite approval to transition from semi-automatic to automatic modes of fire is not applicable, but Metro personnel will be held accountable for the number of rounds fired and adherence to the Department's Use of Force Policy.

Special Weapons and Tactics personnel shall continue to focus on marksmanship development, and adhere to monthly qualification standards and weapon proficiency in both semi-automatic and automatic modes of fire. Requisite training and qualification standards shall include:

- Completion of the SWAT 40-hour MP-5 course with a minimum 95% qualification score.
- Followed by the SWAT 24-hour rifle course with a minimum 95% qualification score.

If you should have any further questions, please contact Lieutenant Ruben Lopez, SWAT Officer in Charge, or me at (213) 972-2420.

  
JOHN N. INCONTRO, Captain  
Commanding Officer  
Metropolitan Division