

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 09-09
16.3

December 2, 2009

TO: Metropolitan Division Personnel

FROM: Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division

SUBJECT: DEPLOYMENT OF SPECIAL PURPOSE AMMUNITION

Special Purpose Ammunition is defined as Armor Piercing (AP) ammunition and Armor Piercing Incendiary (API) ammunition. Armor Piercing (AP) ammunition is manufactured with a hardened steel or tungsten penetrator surrounded by a traditional copper jacket. Upon impact with a hardened target, the jacket is destroyed, but the penetrator continues its forward motion, penetrating the target. Armor Piercing Incendiary (API) ammunition is manufactured with a tungsten penetrator surrounded by a high explosive material and tipped with an incendiary material. Upon impact with the target, the incendiary material ignites the high explosive material which burns an opening through the armor, allowing the penetrator to pass through the armor.

Metropolitan Division (Metro) has AP and API in .50 caliber for deployment in the Barrett M82 sniper rifle. Metro also has AP ammunition in 9mm for use by the MP-5 submachine gun. The 9mm AP ammunition is capable of penetrating Level III soft body armor.

Currently, the deployment of the .50 caliber Barrett M82 requires approval from the Commanding Officer of Special Operations Bureau or his designee prior to deployment. The authorization for deployment of .50 caliber AP or API ammunition shall be obtained in conjunction with the approval for deployment of the rifle.

The authorization for the deployment of the 9mm AP ammunition shall come from the Officer in Charge (OIC) or Assistant OIC of Metro Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Platoon.

Testing and evaluation of AP ammunition will be ongoing by SWAT personnel to identify the most advanced products available in support of the SWAT mission. As other ammunition is identified which would enhance the capabilities of SWAT, amendments will be made to this order to incorporate other ammunition. Protocols will be codified in the SWAT Procedures Guidebook which is currently under revision.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Sergeant Dave Christian or Sergeant Lee McMillion, Metropolitan Division, at (213) 972-2420.



DENNIS H. KATO, Captain
Commanding Officer
Metropolitan Division