



## **Incident Summary**

Officer A was inside one of the bedrooms of his residence. Officer A sat on the couch and prepared to clean his service pistol.

He unholstered his pistol from its holster, removed the fully-loaded magazine from the magazine well and a live round from the firing chamber.

After cleaning his pistol, Officer A inserted a fully loaded magazine into the magazine well and pulled the slide back, which loaded a round into the firing chamber. According to Officer A, he wanted to practice and forgot that his gun was loaded. While seated, Officer A aimed his pistol toward his bedroom wall and pressed the trigger to practice with it. Upon pressing the trigger, he unintentionally discharged a round in a southeasterly direction, which impacted an interior wall. There were no injuries or witnesses.

## **Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners' Findings**

The BOPC reviews each Categorical Use of Force incident based upon the totality of the circumstances, namely all of the facts, evidence, statements and all other pertinent material relating to the particular incident. In every case, the BOPC makes specific findings in three areas: Tactics of the involved officer(s); Drawing/Exhibiting of a firearm by any involved officer(s); and the Use of Force by any involved officer(s). All incidents are evaluated to identify areas where involved officers can benefit from a tactical debriefing to improve their response to future tactical situations. This is an effort to ensure that all officers benefit from the critical analysis that is applied to each incident as it is reviewed by various levels within the Department and by the BOPC. Based on the BOPC's review of the instant case, the BOPC made the following findings.

### **A. Tactics**

The BOPC found Officer A's actions to warrant a Tactical Debrief.

### **B. Unintentional Discharge**

The BOPC found Officer A's unintentional discharge to be negligent, warranting administrative disapproval.

## **Basis for Findings**

### **A. Tactics**

- In its analysis of this incident, the BOPC noted the following debriefing point:

## 1. Preservation of Evidence.

Immediately following the unintentional discharge, Officer A removed the magazine from the service pistol, unloaded one live round from the firing chamber, and placed them on top of a folding table located next to the couch. Officer A is to be reminded that preservation of evidence is vital to ensuring that the investigative process is completely thorough and accurate.

- Although Officer A was off-duty, and there were no identified tactical concerns, Department guidelines require that personnel who are substantially involved in Categorical Use of Force incidents attend a Tactical Debrief.

Officer A's tactics were not a factor in this incident; therefore, they were not reviewed or evaluated. However, Officer A was directed to attend a Tactical Debrief that included discussions pertaining to the above Debriefing Point along with designated topics.

In conclusion, the BOPC found Officer A's actions to warrant a Tactical Debrief.

## B. Unintentional Discharge

**Officer A** – (pistol, one round)

In this instance, while attempting to practice with his service pistol after cleaning it, Officer A failed to conduct the required chamber check to verify the condition of his service pistol prior to pressing the trigger. Officer A's actions caused the unintentional discharge (UD) of the firearm.

The BOPC evaluated the circumstances relevant to Officer A's unintentional discharge and determined that his actions were negligent in nature, warranting administrative disapproval.