GENERAL POLICE ORDER
CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE

EFFECTIVE DATE: DECEMBER 9, 2004
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SUBJECT: WEAPON CLEARING TRAP

ASSOCIATED MANUEL: RELATED ORDERS: 1.3.16, 2.1.03

CHIEF OF POLICE: Michael McGrath, Chief

Substantive changes are italicized

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for the use of weapon clearing traps at all Cleveland Division of Police facilities.

POLICY: Firearms shall be charged and cleared in a safe manner. The clearing trap is not for discharging weapons and shall be used only for its designed purpose.

PROCEDURES:

I. Use of the clearing trap

   A. To clear a firearm, the magazine must first be removed. The barrel shall be inserted into the clearing trap approximately one inch and the slide pulled rearward, ejecting any possible round.

   B. To charge a firearm, a full magazine must be inserted in the firearm. The barrel shall be inserted into the clearing trap approximately one inch and the slide pulled rearward. Upon holstering the firearm, the magazine shall be removed and topped off to the magazine’s maximum capacity and then re-inserted into the firearm.

II. Clearing trap maintenance

   A. The Officer-in-Charge (OIC) shall inspect the clearing trap monthly for any obstruction or foreign object that may have been placed in the trap and remove such to properly maintain the device.

   B. A log shall be maintained by the OIC for any firearm’s discharges into the clearing trap.

      1. Maintenance is required after 200 discharges have been recorded. The OIC shall notify the Ordnance Unit to perform the maintenance.
2. The discharge of any weapon into a clearing trap requires an Integrity Control Section call-up and a Firearm Discharge report. (Refer to General Police Orders 1.3.16 Integrity Control Section Call-up and 2.1.03 Firearm Discharge Investigations).

C. Questions on the use or maintenance of the trap shall be directed to the OIC of the Ordnance Unit.

MM/ajg
Policy & Procedures Unit