

(Translation)

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政府總部
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GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
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16 April 2008

Mrs Sharon TONG
Clerk to Panel on Security
Legislative Council
3/F Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs TONG,

**Cases of Dropping of Handguns by Marine Police Officers –
Supplementary Information**

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Security held on 8 January 2008, a Member requested the Administration to provide further information on the two cases of Marine Police officers dropping their guns in 2007.

The first incident occurred on 16 June 2007. On that day, four police constables were on board a small craft performing general patrol duty. In the sea off Black Point in southern Deep Bay, one of the officers noticed that his service sidearm (a revolver) was missing. The second incident occurred on 24 November 2007. On that day, three police officers travelled on board a small craft to perform logistics and support duties. When the small craft reached Deep Bay, one of the Senior Police Constables found that he had lost his holster and service sidearm (also a revolver). After both incidents, police divers were sent to the scenes to conduct underwater searches but they were unable to recover the lost revolvers.

After conducting thorough investigation into the two cases, the Regional Crime Unit of the Marine Region determined that the revolvers concerned were lost, but there was no criminal intent nor any indication of foul play. The Police are handling matters relating to the personal responsibilities to be shouldered by the relevant officers in accordance with established disciplinary procedures.

After the two incidents, the Marine Region has conducted field tests on the same model of holster involved and confirmed that the revolver does not fall from the holster when the holster is secured properly. The Weapons Training Division has also examined the same model of holster and confirmed that it is suitable for continued use by Marine Police officers. In order to prevent occurrence of similar incidents, the Marine Police Region has instructed officers at the rank of Chief Inspector at Marine Divisions to enhance checks to the same model of holsters to better ensure that revolvers are secured in the holsters after the revolvers are issued to Marine police officers and during small craft patrol.

Yours sincerely,

(Apollonia Liu)
for Secretary for Security

c.c. Commissioner of Police (Attn: Mr Austin Kerrigan)