



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PAX 501

Jody P. Weis, *Superintendent of Police*

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As Superintendent, one of my primary goals has been to support officers in the field. In an effort to educate, assist, and better prepare officers, I ordered the Department's Research and Development Division to both update the 50 year-old directives system and increase the electronic accessibility of the Department directives.

In September of 2009, the Comprehensive Policy Review project began. Since then, the total number of General Orders has been reduced from 219 to the approximately 90 most critical orders. Other directives delineate the procedures and processes which officers and supervisors can refer to for guidance and explicit directions.

To most Department members, perhaps the most welcome change is that the directives will no longer be "year of issue"- based; each subject / topic will have a permanent placement in the directives system. Some terms of reference remain the same: General Orders, Special Orders and Department Notices. Others are new: Employee Resources and Uniforms and Property.

The directives have also been organized using thematic sub-categories (e.g., Preliminary Investigations, Processing Persons, Processing Property) for the purpose of making it easier for members to find and retrieve the documents they need to perform their jobs.

Following from feedback received from the field, and to ease usage, all prior revisions and modification to the directives will no longer be displayed. Members will only see the existing policy and procedures in their most current and up to date form. No more will the directives contain strikeouts and inserted historical AMFN revisions.

Additionally, the current Automated Directives application will be replaced with a new application that will be available via the internet and intranet, as well as on vehicle based Portable Data Terminals. The new system will offer more flexibility to document management features and performance, it will have a greater search capability, the organizational structure will be clearly defined, and officers will be able to link documents for easy cross-referencing.

While the look, location, and delivery system changes, the policies and procedures you are already familiar with will not; the new directives system is NOT changing any Department policy. Instead, the new directives system may be viewed more as major reconfiguration of the directives into a more understandable format.

A preview of the new Department Directive System (DDS) can be found at <http://directives.chicagopolice.org>. This initial roll out of the Department Directives System is being announced to give you the opportunity to test its functionality and provide feedback. The preview test site is expected to last one month. Any suggestions to enhance the project or identification of bugs or problems during this time are welcomed and should be directed to the Research and Development Division (RandD@chicagopolice.org).

Until the new Department Directives System is officially instituted, the existing Automated Directives continues to be the official repository of Department directives.

Thank you for your service and, as always, be safe.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Weis".

Jody P. Weis
Superintendent of Police