

**A. Purpose:**

1. To determine that a firearm is operating properly, and to obtain test specimens from the test firing process. In order to perform a microscopic comparison with a submitted firearm a minimum of two (2) test shots should be fired and the cartridge cases recovered. This recovery method utilizes the Snail® bullet trap which will render the test fired bullet suitable for comparative examinations. The purpose of using this trap is to function fire a firearm, or to recover a test fired cartridge case or shot shell, for comparative examinations. The Snail® bullet trap is usually used to function fire handguns, rifles, and shotguns.

**B. Responsibility:**

1. It is the responsibility of the examiner to ensure the Snail® bullet trap is suitable for use. He or she must first check to see if the fluid level is sufficient, the ventilation system is working properly, and the safety warning devices are functioning, before conducting any test firing in this safe designated laboratory area.

**C. Safety:**

1. Appropriate hearing and eye protection must be used.
2. The examiner must consider the practicality and/or desirability of wearing some form of bullet resistant clothing or additional face shield at his or her discretion.
3. No other person should be present in the water bullet recovery trap room during the test firing process, unless there is a condition that exists with the firearm in which the aid of another individual is necessary. This person will also take the same precautions by wearing eye and hearing protection.

**D. Procedure:**

1. Check the fluid level of the trap to ensure it is sufficient and that the muzzle cap is secure on the trap.
2. Turn on the warning light device for the hallway.
3. Turn on the exhaust ventilation so that it draws fumes from the room.
4. Load the firearm with two cartridges while the firearm is inserted in the muzzle port of the trap in a horizontal position. Once the firearm is in this position, the action of the firearm can be closed.
5. Test fire the firearm and render it safe and clear of ammunition before removing it from the trap.

**FA SOP-III-2 Snail Bullet Trap**

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Page 2 of 2

6. Retrieve the test cartridge cases from the floor of the room.

E. Equipment:

1. Horizontal Snail® trap

F. References:

1. Laboratory safety manual
2. AFTE procedures manual

G. Appropriate Appendices:

1. Appendix 1 -- Worksheets