

AXIELPD
Met Operations 19 Initial Training Guide



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Chapter I

Introduction



About M019

- Most police officers in the UK do not routinely carry firearms. Where firearms support is needed, it is carried out by specially trained and accredited firearms officers known as authorised firearms officers (AFOs).
- Here are some examples of what an authorised firearms officer duties could include:
 - ❖ responding to high-risk incidents
 - ❖ taking part in proactive policing operations where intelligence suggests firearms support may be required
 - ❖ providing public reassurance at events
 - ❖ providing enhanced and ballistic medical aid to help save lives
- This guide provides essential information for your initial training. On the next slides, we have set out all the necessary information you require regarding; Equipment, Firearms Safety, Risk Assessment, Tactics and Legislation. Make sure to review it thoroughly, as it contains all the vital knowledge necessary to perform your role as an AFO effectively.



Authorised Firearms Officers

The Role of an AFO

- An Authorised Firearms Officer (AFO) are specially trained police officers who are permitted to carry and use firearms in the line of duty. AFOs undergo rigorous training and are authorised to carry firearms in situations where there is a threat to life or public safety.
- There are multiple levels of armed officers. Officers undergo rigorous selection and training to become a firearms officer. Their initial, and continued training, is dependent on the role they're operationally required to perform.
- Even though our armed officers attend thousands of incidents every year, their advanced levels of training in conflict resolution and de-escalation means that it is incredibly rare for an officer to have to discharge their firearm in order to achieve their policing aim. All firearms officers are trained to assess intelligence and threat assessments. They are accountable for any ballistic rounds that they may discharge in order to minimise any risk to the public.



ARO Equipment

Equipment carried on Persons

Armed Response Officers (ARO) in the Metropolitan Police, also known as Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs), carry a range of equipment to handle high-risk situations effectively. Here's a typical list of what they might carry:

- **Firearms:** This usually includes a primary weapon such as a semi-automatic pistol (e.g., Glock 17) and sometimes a secondary firearm, like a carbine or shotgun.
- **Ammunition:** Sufficient rounds for their firearms, often including different types of ammunition depending on the situation.
- **Body Armor:** Ballistic vests designed to protect against gunfire and other threats.
- **Less-lethal options:** Tasers, Batons and CS gas for non-lethal incapacitation and crowd control.
- **Personal Medical Kit:** Trauma first aid kits for treating injuries on the scene.
- **Communication Devices:** Secure radios and communication tools for maintaining contact with control rooms and other units.
- **Handcuffs and Restraints:** For detaining suspects safely.

The exact equipment can vary based on the specific role, operational needs, and the nature of the assignment.



Armed Response Vehicle Equipment

Equipment carried in Vehicles

Armed Response Vehicles (ARV's) in the Metropolitan Police is equipped with specialized gear to support Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) in responding to high-risk situations. The equipment typically stored in an ARV includes:

- **Firearms:** A variety of firearms, including semi-automatic rifles (),
- **Less-lethal options:** Baton rounds (rubber bullets), and CS gas or other irritants for crowd control and incapacitation.
- **Ballistic protection:** Officers have access to body armor, ballistic shields, and helmets to protect them from gunfire.
- **Breaching tools:** Equipment for forced entry, battering rams, these are carried to help officers gain access to locked or barricaded areas.
- **Bells Kits:** Advanced trauma care kits are available for treating serious injuries, including gunshot wounds, before medical assistance arrives.
- **Surveillance and optics:** Equipment such as night vision goggles, binoculars, and thermal imaging devices to aid in gathering intelligence and assessing situations from a distance.
- **Other tactical equipment:** Restraining devices for use in dynamic entry situations or when detaining suspects.
- **Miscellaneous Items:** Evidence bags and knife tubes are stored to assist in the recovery and preservation of evidence.

ARVs are mobile units designed to allow AFOs to respond quickly to incidents involving firearms or other serious threats.



Types of Armed Resources

AFO (Authorised Firearms Officer):

- An AFO is a police officer who is specifically trained and authorised to carry and use firearms. These officers are deployed in situations where the use of firearms might be necessary, such as responding to incidents involving weapons or high-risk situations. AFOs are equipped to handle a range of firearms and are trained in the tactical use of these weapons as well as in general police procedures.

SFO (Specialist Firearms Officer):

- An SFO is a more specialised type of firearms officer who undergoes advanced training beyond that of a standard AFO. SFOs are typically part of specialised units, such as those dealing with counter-terrorism or high-risk criminal operations. They possess advanced skills in tactical operations, crisis management, and the use of a wider range of firearms and equipment. SFOs are often involved in complex and high-threat situations requiring expert knowledge and precision.



Operational Command Structure

OFC (Operational Firearms Commander):

- The OFC is responsible for overseeing and managing firearms operations on the ground. This role involves making tactical decisions, coordinating the deployment of armed units, and ensuring the safety and effectiveness of operations involving firearms. The OFC typically leads operations where armed intervention is required and provides guidance to officers involved.

TFC (Tactical Firearms Commander):

- The TFC is responsible for the tactical planning and strategic oversight of firearms operations. This role involves assessing the situation, developing tactical plans, and ensuring that the operation aligns with broader strategic objectives. The TFC often works in conjunction with the OFC and other senior officers to ensure a coordinated and effective response to firearms incidents.

SFC (Strategic Firearms Commander):

- The SFC holds the highest level of command and provides strategic oversight for firearms operations. They are responsible for deciding whether firearms should be deployed and ensuring the operation complies with legal and ethical standards.

A photograph of two police officers in blue uniforms and tactical vests at a crime scene. One officer is kneeling on the left, wearing blue gloves and looking at a person lying face down on the pavement. The other officer is kneeling on the right, looking at a green and black bag on the ground. The scene is outdoors on a paved area next to a light-colored wall.

Chapter II

Firearms Safety and Knowledge



Firearms Safety

Weapon Safety on Scene

- **Overview:** Upon arriving at a scene where firearms are necessary, ensure proper weapon safety protocols are followed before drawing or pointing your weapon.
- **Key Guidelines:**
 - **Check the Direction:** Always verify that the direction you're pointing is safe before discharging your firearm.
 - **Inspect the Backstop:** Ensure that the area behind your target (your backstop) is clear. The backstop refers to what lies beyond your line of fire.
 - **Engage Safely:** Discharging your firearm is only acceptable if there is an immediate and severe threat to the public, such as a terrorist attack or an armed individual who has already caused fatal injuries.

Purpose: To ensure safety for all present by carefully assessing and controlling your line of fire and backstop before engaging with your weapon.



Firearms Safety

Weapon Safety During Transport

Overview: AFOs (Authorised Firearms Officers) usually do not transport suspects, however there may be rare instances when it is necessary and officiant.

Key Actions:

- **Secure Weapon Locker:** Ensure that your weapon locker is locked and secure during transport. If the locker is in the console of your ARV (if applicable), make sure it is properly secured.
- **Suspect Placement:** If your locker replaces the back seat, position the suspect so they are unable to reach or access the locker.
- **Double-Crewed Units:** Transport should only be conducted if you are part of a double-crewed unit.

Note: We purley suggest transporting your own subjects if deemed safe to prevent waste of other resources.



Firearms Safety

Custody

Overview: When transporting a suspect to the custody suite, it's crucial to follow specific safety protocols to ensure everyone's safety.

Key Actions:

- **Remove Firearm:** Before entering the custody suite, remove your firearm. This is to prevent any risk of the suspect gaining access to your weapon if they were to overpower you.
- **Location of Removal:** It is easiest to remove your firearm while at your ARV, ensuring it is secured and not on your person during the custody process.

Purpose: To ensure the safety of both officers and suspects by eliminating the risk of the firearm being accessed or used inappropriately during custody procedures.



Scene Contamination

Gunshot Residue

Gunshot residue (GSR) is crucial for firearms officers to understand. When a firearm is fired, GSR ends up on the officer handling it. Even if the gun isn't fired, the residue can still be present. On a scene involving a firearm, it's important to avoid contaminating evidence by touching too many items and to limit searches to those suspected of carrying a firearm.

As an AFO, be aware of the potential for GSR contamination and manage it carefully. If a serious threat requires your immediate action, it's more important to address that threat than to worry about contamination. However, if there's no immediate danger, try to minimize spreading GSR to preserve the scene.



Knowledge

Medical

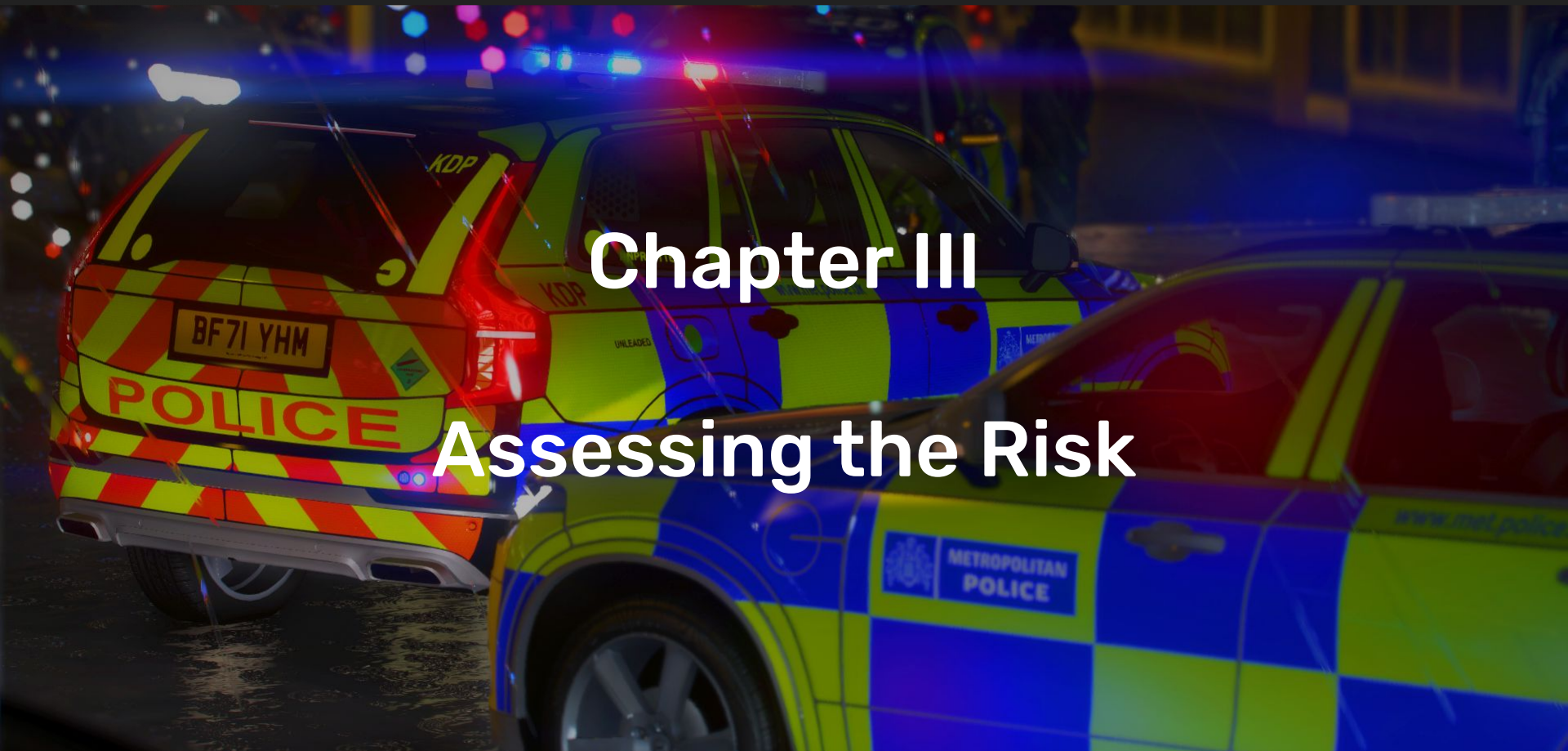
AFOs are highly trained to manage a range of injuries, including ballistic injuries, stab wounds, gunshot wounds, blast injuries, and crush injuries. When medical assistance is either en route or unavailable, AFOs use their expertise to minimize further harm and preserve life. As an AFO, you are equipped with the advanced skills necessary to administer critical emergency first aid.

Please [Click here](#) for a guide of Medical advice on scene.



Chapter III

Assessing the Risk





National Decision Model





National Decision Model

The national decision model (NDM) is suitable for all decisions and should be used by everyone in policing.

It can be applied:

- To spontaneous incidents or planned operations
- By an individual or team of people
- To both operational and non-operational situations

Decision makers can use the NDM to structure a rationale of what they did during an incident and why.

Everyone can use the NDM to review decisions and actions, and promote learning.

In a fast-moving incident, the police service recognises that it may not always be possible to segregate thinking or response according to each phase of the model. In such cases, the main priority of decision makers is to keep in mind their overarching mission to act with integrity to protect and serve the public. This is in line with the ethical principle of 'public service'.



“Threat, Risk, Harm”

Identify The Risk

“**Threat, Risk, Harm**”... a framework used for assessing and managing public safety concerns. Here’s a breakdown of these terms:

- **Threat:** The potential for a harmful event or action. This includes identifying individuals, groups, or situations that could pose a danger to public safety or security.
- **Risk:** The likelihood or probability of the threat materialising and causing harm. It involves evaluating how probable it is that the threat will occur and what factors might influence that probability.
- **Harm:** The actual impact or damage caused if the threat materialises. This includes assessing the potential consequences and severity of the harm that could result from the threat.

This framework helps assess situations comprehensively and prioritise resources and responses based on the level of threat, the risk of that threat occurring, and the potential harm it could cause.



Dynamic Risk Assessment

To evaluate the threat, risk, and potential harm, we need to perform a Dynamic Risk Assessment (DRA). This assessment is based on the responses to the earlier questions and focuses on the potential risks to:

- **The victim**
- **The public**
- **Unarmed police officers**
- **Armed police officers**
- **The subject involved**

Assessing these factors helps determine the priority of the situation. It is crucial for justifying our actions and decisions. The relative severity of each risk factor can influence the urgency and approach required.



Use Of Force

Police officers often face conflict situations, many of which are resolved through carefully chosen words and effective management of human interactions.

In some instances, varying levels of physical force are required, including, at times, the use of firearms by Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs). This proportionate response is a well-recognised and essential method for managing conflict within a democratic society.

The mere carrying or presence of an armed officer does not, in itself, amount to the use of force.

A police officer is considered to have used a firearm or less-lethal weapon when it is intentionally pointed at or discharged, under the following circumstances:

- The weapon is pointed or aimed at an individual.
- It is fired at a person.
- It is discharged in any operational scenario, including accidental discharge.

A Metropolitan Police officer in tactical gear, including a helmet with a checkered pattern and a vest, is aiming a rifle at night. The officer is positioned in the center of the frame, with a white metal fence and a dark car with a green stripe in the background. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a night-time operation.

Chapter IV

Firearm Deployment



Criteria for deployments of AFO's

The deployment of Armed Police Officers (AFOs) should only be sanctioned in the following circumstances:

- When the authorising officer believes there is a potential threat where officers may need to defend themselves or others from someone armed with lethal weapons.
- If an individual has immediate access to lethal weapons or poses such a serious threat that sending in unarmed officers would not be appropriate.
- As a precautionary measure for a specific operation.
- For the humane disposal of dangerous or suffering animals.

The phrase "reason to suppose" indicates that a lower level of certainty is needed to authorise the deployment of firearms officers, compared to what is required for actually drawing or using a weapon. Although the criteria for deploying AFOs is less stringent, the decision to use firearms or other forms of force still demands a higher level of proof or the presence of an imminent threat.



Declared Firearms Incident

A **Declared Firearms Incident** refers to an operational situation where the police formally recognise the need for armed officers to respond to a potential or confirmed threats involving firearms or other lethal weapons. This declaration enables the deployment of specially trained Authorised Firearms Officers to manage the threat.

Key Elements of a Declared Firearms Incident:

1. **Threat Assessment:** A firearms incident is declared when there is a credible belief that individuals or officers face an immediate threat from a person with a firearm, or there is a high risk of lethal violence.
2. **Authorisation Process:** A senior officer, typically a TFC or SFC, declares the incident based on an assessment of the risk and the need for armed intervention. This declaration authorises the deployment of firearms officers.
3. **Deployment of Armed Officers:** Once an incident is declared, ARVs are deployed to the scene to address the threat.
4. **Legal and Ethical Considerations:** Even in a declared firearms incident, the use of firearms must follow strict legal guidelines and be both necessary and proportionate to the threat posed. The deployment of firearms is a last resort aimed at protecting life.
5. **Post-Incident Review:** After the incident is resolved, a thorough review and investigation are conducted to assess the actions taken, ensure accountability, and learn from the event.

Declared Firearms Incidents are significant because they involve the use of armed police in potentially life-threatening situations, requiring precise judgment and strict control over the use of force.



Rendezvous Vs Straight to Scene

Rendezvous Points

For the setup of a Rendezvous Point (RVP), AFOs will gather at a location designated by either Metro Alpha or, if requested, the OFC. This RVP should be a large area, such as a parking lot or open field, suitable for firearms units and other emergency services to assemble and receive briefings. The RVP must be positioned so it does not have a direct view of the ongoing incident, be easily accessible for different vehicles, provide a reliable radio signal, be infrequently used, and be thoroughly searched if connected to a terrorist threat.

When firearms units arrive at the RVP, Metro Alpha will provide a briefing on their assigned incident channel, covering incident details, risk assessment, and the necessary tactics. After the briefing, the units will leave the RVP and head to the scene, following the strategies and instructions from Metro Alpha and the OFC to effectively manage the situation.



Rendezvous Vs Straight to Scene

Straight to Scene

A Straight-to-scene deployment is commonly used when the immediate intervention of Armed Officers is crucial due to threats to the public, police, or the suspect. This approach is often necessary in situations such as active shooter incidents, hostage situations, or when the duty officer assesses that delays could significantly compromise the effectiveness of the AFOs.

In these scenarios, Metro Alpha will send firearms units directly to the incident site. The designated OFC will be appointed and receive a briefing from Metro Alpha while en route. This briefing will provide details about the incident, the associated risks, and the recommended tactical approach. Upon arrival, the firearms units are expected to promptly execute the tactics provided by Metro Alpha and the OFC without waiting for further reinforcements.

If deemed appropriate, units may pause to receive the briefing and then proceed to the scene as directed by the OFC. Unmarked units should aim to arrive first to carry out a discreet assessment of the situation before marked units take action.



Authorisations

Self-Authorisation

Self-Firearms Authority refers to the authority granted to individual officers to use their firearms in self-defense or to protect others from immediate and serious threats. This type of authority is typically invoked in situations where the officer is confronted with an imminent threat that necessitates the use of force to ensure safety.

Key aspects include:

- **Self-Defense:** Officers with self-firearms authority are empowered to use their firearms when they believe their own life or the lives of others are in imminent danger.
- **Immediate Threat:** The use of firearms under this authority is based on the officer's real-time assessment of the threat. It is used when there is no time for prior authorization or planning.
- **Operational Protocols:** While self-firearms authority allows for immediate action, it is still subject to strict guidelines and protocols. Officers must act in accordance with the principles of necessity, proportionality, and legality.
- **Situational Judgment:** Officers must make quick decisions based on the immediate circumstances, ensuring that any use of firearms is justified and appropriate given the threat level.

Self-Firearms Authority ensures that officers can respond effectively and swiftly to dangerous situations where their personal safety or the safety of others is at risk.



Authorisations

Standard Firearms Authority

Situations that are planned and authorized according to established procedures and protocols. This involves pre-approved operations or scenarios where firearms are deemed necessary based on assessed risks. It includes routine responses where the use of firearms is anticipated and prepared for in advance, ensuring that all actions align with established guidelines and risk assessments.

Key aspects include:

- **Routine Operations:** Officers with standard firearms authority are authorized to carry and use firearms during regular patrols, planned operations, or specific duties that involve a known or assessed threat.
- **Pre-Approved Procedures:** The use of firearms under standard authority is governed by established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and operational guidelines, ensuring that their deployment is consistent with legal and operational standards.
- **Risk Assessment:** Firearms authority is granted based on a thorough assessment of the threat and risk levels associated with the operation, ensuring that the deployment is both justified and proportional to the situation.

This type of authority helps to ensure that the use of firearms is controlled, predictable, and in line with the established safety and operational procedures of the Metropolitan Police.



Authorisations

Spontaneous Firearms Authority

Spontaneous Firearms Authority in the context of the Metropolitan Police refers to the emergency and immediate authorization for officers to use firearms in situations that arise suddenly and unexpectedly. This type of authority is crucial for responding to urgent and unforeseen threats, where there may not be time for prior planning or standard procedures.

Key aspects include:

- **Immediate Response:** Spontaneous authority allows officers to act quickly in response to an urgent threat that emerges suddenly, such as an active shooter situation or a rapidly evolving incident involving firearms.
- **Emergency Situations:** This authority is used in scenarios where an immediate threat is identified, and officers need to make swift decisions to protect themselves, the public, or other officers.
- **Ad Hoc Authorization:** Officers may be granted spontaneous authority by a commanding officer or decision-maker on the scene, based on the real-time assessment of the threat and situation.
- **Dynamic Risk Assessment:** In these situations, officers must quickly evaluate the level of threat and determine the appropriate use of force, following the principles of necessity and proportionality.

Spontaneous Firearms Authority ensures that officers can respond effectively to high-risk incidents where rapid action is required, even if there was no prior planning or authorization.



Authorisations

Special Firearms Authority

Special Firearms Authority in the context of the Metropolitan Police refers to the specific authorization granted for the use of firearms in exceptional or high-risk situations that are not covered by standard or spontaneous procedures. This type of authority is used for complex or critical incidents that require additional oversight and justification.

Key aspects include:

- **Exceptional Circumstances:** Special Firearms Authority is used in scenarios that involve unique or particularly high-risk elements, such as large-scale operations, major counter-terrorism incidents, or situations with unusually high levels of threat.
- **Enhanced Oversight:** This authority typically involves a higher level of approval and scrutiny. It may require additional layers of authorization from senior officers or specialized units within the police force.
- **Special Operations:** Examples include operations involving high-profile targets, complex hostage situations, or large-scale public events with heightened security concerns.
- **Detailed Planning:** Special Firearms Authority often involves detailed operational planning and coordination to ensure that all aspects of the operation are managed effectively, including the use of firearms.

The aim of Special Firearms Authority is to ensure that firearms are used in a controlled and justified manner in situations where the normal procedures do not fully address the unique risks and complexities of the operation.



Post Incident Procedure

The Post Incident Procedure is a crucial procedure that should be conducted when deemed safe. When a firearm is deployed, there is a 4-step procedure required before the officer who has fired their weapon is permitted to return to duty, if approved by the active OFC.

R = **Return**: Return to your marked safe point (usually your vehicle).

U = **Undress**: Disarm yourself by removing any weapons on your person, including live ammunition, and safely securing them inside your vehicle's locker.

D = **Don't**: Do not drink, eat, or do anything that could affect results on a breathalyzer or drug analyzer, as you will be required to provide a specimen of breath and saliva.

E = **Evaluate**: You will be assessed and have an overall evaluation of the deployment of the firearm with the active OFC, who will determine if you are still suitable to return to duty. You will be tasked with summarizing the incident to the OFC with justification and reasoning and then to complete a PIP form before returning to duty if granted.



Communication To Control

This section is relevant only when MET Control is active and outlines how you, as an officer, should communicate with control. For Trojan assets, MET Control is referred to as “**Metro Alpha**,” and officers should address communications as “**Metro Alpha Trojan XXX**,” always stating the recipient of the transmission first.

In the event of a shooting, you must call “**Metro Alpha Trojan XXX, urgent message: shots fired. Please initiate LAS to {road name}. Suspect is/has {injury observations}**.”

From the Metro Alpha side, if you are deployed to a scene requiring firearms, you will receive a briefing on the appropriate actions for the deployed officers and be assigned an OFC/TFC, provided the correct personnel are available.



Chapter V

Tactics

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Vehicle Tactics

Reinforced Stops

- **Overview:** A specialized tactic for firearms officers, similar to a T-PAC, used for pre-emptive actions or moving stops.
- **Key Considerations:**
 - **Crossfire Risk:** Be mindful of potential crossfire in close-quarters situations. Positioning and communication are critical.
 - **Coordination:** Ensure clear communication and roles among officers.
 - **Threat Assessment:** Evaluate risk and adjust tactics based on the subject's behavior and weaponry.
 - **Safety Measures:** Use cover effectively and maintain a strategic distance.
 - **Flexibility:** Adapt tactics as the situation evolves for a safe resolution.

Purpose: To address high-risk scenarios with precision and safety.



Vehicle Tactics

Armed Vehicle Extraction

- **Overview:** Similar to a Reinforced Armed Stop, but involves forcefully removing suspects from a vehicle.
- **Key Considerations:**
 - **Crossfire Risk:** Manage crossfire risks carefully in close-quarters. Ensure proper positioning and communication.
 - **Execution:** Officers on scene will physically remove suspects from the vehicle.
 - **Coordination:** Maintain clear communication and roles among officers.
 - **Safety Measures:** Use cover effectively and be aware of the vehicle's surroundings.
 - **Flexibility:** Adjust tactics as needed based on the situation's dynamics.

Purpose: To safely and effectively extract suspects from a vehicle in high-risk scenarios.



Dealing with suspects on foot

Firearms Enquiry

- **Overview:** The most basic level of firearms deployment. Officers approach suspects equipped with essential gear, such as a carbine and less-than-lethal options like a bean bag launcher.
- **Key Points:**
 - **Equipment:** Carbine and less-than-lethal options (e.g., bean bag launcher).
 - **Legal Basis:** Conducted under Section 47 of the Firearms Act.
 - **Authority:** Allows constables to search suspects for firearms without a warrant.

Purpose: To perform a straightforward search for firearms while maintaining readiness with appropriate equipment.



Dealing with suspects on foot

Contain and Call out

- **Overview:** Utilized when a suspect is barricaded inside a property. Officers use their vehicles for hard cover while giving commands.
- **Key Actions:**
 - **Containment:** Position vehicles to create a secure perimeter around the property.
 - **Cover:** Use vehicles as hard cover to protect officers.
 - **Communication:** Issue clear and direct commands to the suspect(s) from a safe distance.
 - **Coordination:** Maintain communication with all involved units for effective management of the situation.

Purpose: To secure the area and safely manage negotiations with a barricaded suspect.



Dealing with suspects on foot

Armed Intervention

- **Overview:** Deployed when a suspect is seen with a weapon or firearm. Officers use vehicles as blockades and draw their firearms to challenge the suspect.
- **Key Actions:**
 - **Blockade:** Position vehicles to create physical barriers and control the area.
 - **Firearms Drawn:** Officers will draw their firearms and be prepared to engage.
 - **Challenge:** Issue commands to the suspect(s) to surrender or comply.

Purpose: To neutralize the threat posed by a suspect armed with a weapon while maintaining tactical control of the situation.



Hostage Negotiation

Pt 1.

The premise of hostage negotiation is to safely resolve situations involving hostages or barricaded individuals through communication, without the need for force. The primary goal is to protect the lives of hostages, suspects, and police assets by de-escalating the situation and achieving a peaceful surrender. Hostage negotiation focuses on peaceful, patient, and methodical techniques to resolve high-stress situations, always prioritising the preservation of human life.

Key Principles of Hostage Negotiation:

1. **Preservation of Life:** The primary objective is to ensure the safety of the hostages, the negotiators, and even the perpetrator. Negotiators work patiently to avoid the use of lethal force.
2. **Establishing Communication:** Negotiators aim to open a line of communication with the hostage-taker, building trust and rapport. Effective communication is critical for gathering information, understanding motives, and gaining control of the situation.
3. **De-escalation:** By maintaining calm and showing empathy, negotiators attempt to reduce the emotional intensity of the situation. This helps the suspect think more rationally and consider non-violent outcomes.



Hostage Negotiation

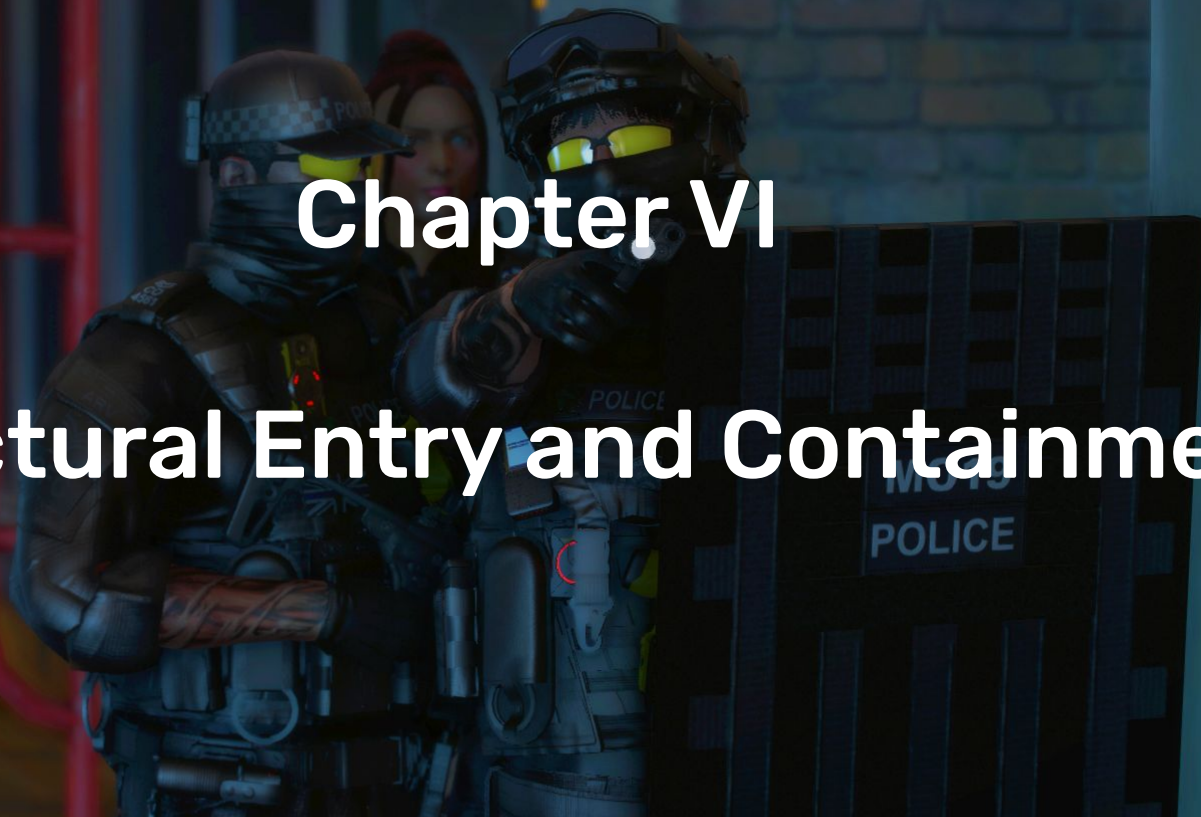
Pt 2.

4. **Understanding Motivations:** Negotiators work to identify the underlying motives and demands of the hostage-taker. Whether it's emotional distress, a political cause, or criminal intent, understanding these motivations helps to shape the negotiation strategy.
5. **Time is an Asset:** Time often works in favor of the negotiator. As time passes, emotions may cool, and hostages are less likely to be harmed. Delaying the resolution gives negotiators more opportunity to build rapport and explore peaceful solutions.
6. **Behavioral Influence:** Through conversation and psychological techniques, negotiators aim to influence the hostage-taker's behavior, encouraging them to release hostages or surrender. Offering small concessions or meeting non-violent demands may be part of this strategy.
7. **Containment:** Police secure the area to limit the hostage-taker's options and prevent further escalation. Containment also keeps the public and officers safe while negotiations take place.
8. **Team Effort:** Hostage negotiation is usually carried out by a specialised team, including a primary negotiator, intelligence officers, and tactical units. The team works together to gather intelligence, assess risks, and ensure that all options are considered.
9. **Last Resort - Tactical Intervention:** If negotiations fail and there is an immediate risk to the hostages' lives, a tactical resolution (such as a rescue operation) may be used, but this is a last resort.



Chapter VI

Structural Entry and Containment





Containment of a building

When officers are tasked with containing a building with a suspect inside, their approach follows strict protocols to ensure the safety of officers, the suspect, and the public. The containment of a building is a critical tactic designed to control the situation, limit the suspect's movement, and allow for negotiation or tactical resolution.

Key Steps in Containing a Building:

- **Establish a Secure Perimeter:**
 - AROs will position themselves strategically around the building to control all entry and exit points. This ensures the suspect cannot escape or endanger the public.
 - Officers will typically cover all sides of the building to prevent the suspect from fleeing, using cover for protection while maintaining visual contact with the building's access points.
- **Use of Cover and Concealment:**
 - AROs will use vehicles, natural structures, or other objects for cover to protect themselves from potential gunfire while maintaining sightlines on the building.
- **Control Communication:**
 - Establish a command post where the Tactical Firearms Commander (TFC) can oversee the operation, coordinate ARO positions, and manage the flow of information.
- **Isolation of the Suspect:**
 - Officers will aim to isolate the suspect inside the building, limiting their ability to communicate with or reach anyone outside.
 - If possible, power to the building may be cut to reduce the suspect's ability to use technology or communicate with others.



Containment of a building

- **Safe Zones for Civilians:**
 - Evacuate any nearby civilians to prevent them from becoming involved or injured. Establish a safe zone away from the building and the line of fire.
 - Ensure media and the public are kept at a safe distance to avoid interference with the operation.
- **Communication with the Suspect:** Negotiators will often be brought in to establish communication with the suspect, either through loudspeakers, phone, or other means. The aim is to resolve the situation peacefully by persuading the suspect to surrender.
- **Assessment and Use of Force:**
 - The Strategic Firearms Commander (SFC) will continually assess the situation and determine whether further force is required.
 - Any decision to enter the building or use force must follow the principles of necessity, legality, and proportionality.
- **Tactical Intervention (if needed):**
 - If negotiations fail or if there is an immediate threat to life, a tactical intervention may be authorised. This could involve breaching the building, using less-lethal options to subdue the suspect.
 - AROs would enter the building under strict command guidance, following protocols for clearing the building room by room.
- **Post-Incident Procedures:**
 - After the situation is resolved, the building will be secured, and the suspect, if apprehended, will be taken into custody.



Barricaded suspect

When Armed Response Officers are required to enter a building with a barricaded suspect, their approach involves careful planning, coordination, and execution to ensure the safety of all involved. Entering a building with a potentially armed and dangerous suspect is one of the most high-risk scenarios, so it follows strict protocols and involves specialised tactics.

Here's a 9-part outline of how AROs should approach such a situation:

1. Initial Assessment & Intelligence Gathering:

- Before entering, AROs will gather as much intelligence as possible about the suspect, the building layout, potential weapons, hostages (if any), and other risks.
- The Tactical Firearms Commander (TFC) will oversee this phase, coordinating with negotiators, intelligence officers, and any surveillance units to assess the threat.
- If possible, any exits and key entry points will be identified to determine the best approach for entry.

2. Negotiation and De-Escalation Attempts:

- AROs will not immediately force entry. Instead, negotiators will attempt to communicate with the suspect to persuade them to surrender peacefully.
- During this time, AROs remain in containment positions around the building, ready to act if the situation escalates or becomes more dangerous.
- If the barricaded suspect refuses to cooperate or if lives are at immediate risk, a forced entry may be authorised.

3. Tactical Planning for Entry:

- Once the decision is made to enter, a detailed tactical plan will be drawn up. This involves planning the method of entry, determining the roles of each ARO, and deciding on the equipment and tactics to be used.
- Key considerations include:
 - **Breaching Techniques:** Methods for forcing entry into the building will be planned, whether it involves using battering rams, explosives, or other breaching tools.
 - **Less-Lethal Options:** The team may be equipped with less-lethal tools like tasers or baton launchers to reduce the chance of a lethal confrontation.



Barricaded suspect

4. Entry and Building Clearing Tactics:

- **Dynamic Entry:** A coordinated and rapid entry is often used to surprise the suspect and gain control of the situation quickly. The AROs will enter using a combination of cover fire and stealth, depending on the circumstances.
- **Room Clearing:** The officers will systematically clear the building, room by room, following specific tactics such as:
 - **"Pieing":** This technique involves officers moving gradually around doorways and corners, minimizing their exposure while clearing their field of view.
 - **Search and Secure:** Officers will search each room carefully, ensuring that it is clear of threats before moving to the next.
 - **Communication:** Officers will maintain constant communication with each other and their commanders to update them on progress and any encountered threats.
- **Containment of the Suspect:** The goal is to corner the suspect in a position where they can be safely detained. If the suspect is actively engaging in violence, officers may have to use firearms or other force to neutralise the threat.

5. Use of Equipment:

- **Ballistic Shields:** Officers may carry ballistic shields to provide protection as they move through the building.
- **Body Cameras:** Officers will be equipped with body cameras to record the operation for post-incident review and accountability.

6. Engagement with the Suspect:

- If the suspect is encountered during the entry or clearing process, officers will attempt to de-escalate the situation verbally, encouraging the individual to surrender peacefully.
- If the suspect presents a weapon or immediate threat, AROs are trained to use proportionate force, which could involve firearms, Tasers, or other less-lethal options.



Barricaded suspect

7. Hostage Situations:

- If there are hostages involved, officers will prioritise their safety. This could involve special techniques to isolate the suspect from the hostages, including diversionary tactics or precision use of force.

8. Post-Entry and Arrest:

- Once the suspect is subdued, they will be handcuffed, searched, and taken into custody.
- Medical attention will be provided to the suspect, hostages, or officers if necessary.

9. Post-Incident Procedure:

- After the building is secured and the suspect is in custody, the operation will be followed by a post-incident review to assess the officers' actions, gather evidence, and investigate the incident.
- Officers involved in the entry and clearance may be required to give statements, and the event may be reviewed by senior officers to ensure that protocols were followed.

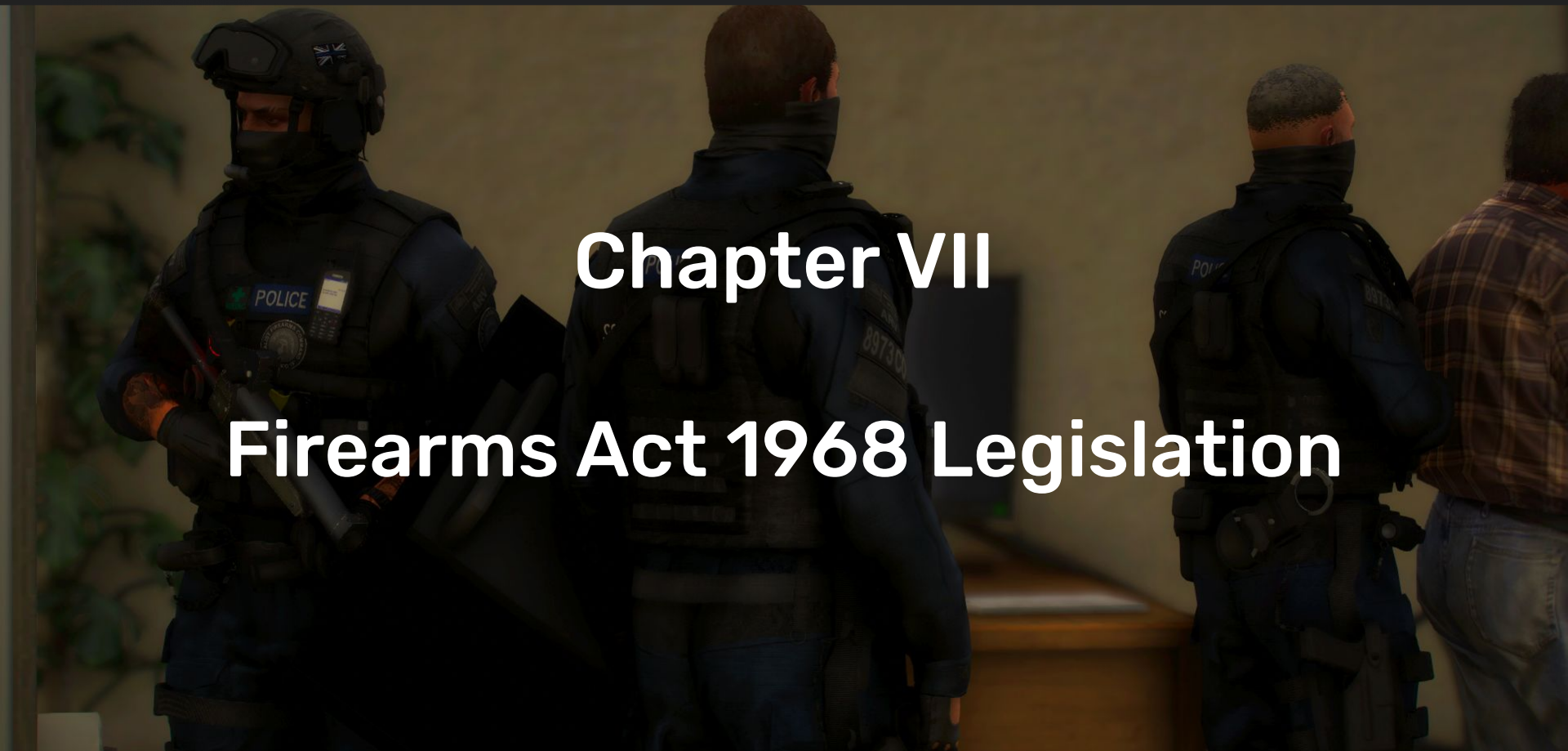
Key Considerations:

- **Safety First:** The priority throughout is to ensure the safety of the public, officers, and even the suspect, with the aim of resolving the situation as peacefully as possible.
- **Proportional Use of Force:** Any force used must be proportionate to the threat posed by the suspect.
- **Coordinated Teamwork:** AROs work as a coordinated unit under a clear command structure, with specialised roles and constant communication to ensure a successful outcome.



Chapter VII

Firearms Act 1968 Legislation





Section 1 - 20

- **Section 1** - Requirement of firearm certificate.
- **Section 2** - Requirement of certificate for possession of shotguns.
- **Section 3** - Business and other transactions with firearms and ammunition.
- **Section 4** - Shortening the barrel of a shotgun to a length less than 24 inches.
- **Section 5** - Weapons subject to general prohibition.
- **Section 6** - Power to prohibit movement of arms and ammunition.
- **Section 7** - Police permit.
- **Section 8** - Authorised dealing with firearms.
- **Section 10** - Slaughter of animals.
- **Section 16** - Possession of firearm with intent to injure.
- **Section 16A** - Possession of firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.
- **Section 17** - Use of firearm to resist arrest.
- **Section 18** - Carrying firearm with criminal intent.
- **Section 19** - Carrying firearm in a public place.
- **Section 19A** - Having small-calibre pistol outside premises of licensed pistol club.
- **Section 20** - Trespassing with firearm.



Section 21 - 57

- **Section 21** - Possession of firearms by persons previously convicted of crime.
- **Section 21A** - Firing an air weapon beyond premises.
- **Section 22** - Acquisition and possession of firearms by minors.
- **Section 24** - Supplying firearms to minors.
- **Section 24ZA** - Failing to prevent minors from having air weapons.
- **Section 24A** - Supplying imitation firearms to minors.
- **Section 25** - Supplying firearm to person drunk or insane.
- **Section 30** - Revocation of certificates.
- **Section 31** - Certificate for prohibited weapon.
- **Section 32** - Certificate for prohibited weapon.
- **Section 46** - Power of search with warrant.
- **Section 47*** - Powers of constables to stop and search.
- **Section 48** - Production of certificates.
- **Section 57** - Exception for airsoft guns.



Section 47 in detail

Section 47 grants an AFO the power to stop and search someone they suspect might be armed with a firearm, with or without ammunition. This also includes anything related to a firearm, such as ammunition.

This search should be conducted like any regular stop and search with GOWISELY in mind. However, it is recommended to carry out this search with extra caution due to the potential threat. It is always advised to never conduct one of these searches alone unless absolutely necessary.

G = Grounds for the search (the reason for the search, e.g., reports from members of the public)

O = Object of the search (the item they are looking for, e.g., a firearm)

W = Warrant card if not in uniform

I = Identity (name, except in terrorism-related searches or other cases where giving a name may endanger the **officer**, in which case their warrant or identification number)

S = Station where the officer is based

E = Entitlement to a copy of the search record now or within the next 3 months

L = Legal power or authority used for the search

Y = You are detained for the purpose of a search

A background image showing two police officers in tactical gear at night. The officer in the foreground is wearing a blue helmet with a checkered pattern and a black balaclava. They are standing in front of a police vehicle with blue and yellow reflective stripes. The scene is illuminated by blue and yellow lights.

Chapter VII

Documentation



Forms

Use Of Force Form

A Use of Force form should be completed whenever physical force is used, such as holding someone down due to aggressive behavior, using PAVA, deploying a dog, or using a taser. This includes situations where, for example, the taser is unsuccessful or misses its target. The form will require a brief summary of the incident and your general justifications, taking into account factors like DRA (Dynamic Risk Assessment).

While completing the form doesn't suspend your duties, you may be asked by a member of the brass to fill it out before finishing before going back on duty. If not, make sure to complete it when you are free or before going off shift, when you return to the station. Afterward, the form should be submitted to a member of the brass for review and signature, provided there are no concerns on their part.



Forms

Post Incident Procedure Form

A Post Incident Procedure (PIP) Form is mandatory for any officer who has discharged a firearm. This form ensures a detailed review of the incident, documenting key aspects such as the date, time, location, and the officer's actions and justifications for using the firearm.

Note: [See page](#) for more information on PIP Forms.



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