



# ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS

## MINUTES

Minutes of the ACPO Armed Policing Working Group, Thursday 24 January 2013 held at Trevelyan Hall, St Matthews Conference Centre, 20 Great Peter Street, Westminster, London SW1P 2BU

### 1. Opening of Meeting/Attendance of Members/Representatives

**Security Classification**  
Restricted

**Disclosable under FOIA 2000**  
No

**Author**  
Sharon Pring

**Force / Organisation**  
ACPO Amred Policing Secretariat

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**Telephone**  
01905 331717

**There are attachments at paragraphs:**  
N/A

DCC Simon Chesterman	Working Group Lead
Mr John MacDonald	Staff Officer
*****	ACPO Armed Policing
Ch/Insp Richard Thomas	ACPO Armed Policing
C/Supt Chris McKeogh	West Midlands Region
Ch Insp John Holt	South West Region
ACC Charlie Hall	Eastern Region
Supt Leor Giladi	North West Region
C/Insp Ieuan Matthews	Wales Region
Cmdr Mark Streater	London Region
ACC John Campbell	South East Region
Supt Andy McDyer	North East Region
C/Supt Garry Sherwood	East Midlands Region
Supt Roy Marshall	PSNI
ACC Robert Chidley	MDPGA
Mr Kevin Nicholson	College of Policing
*****	Home Office
Supt Gordon Barr	ACPOS
Mr Steve Reynolds	IPCC
*****	CAST
*****	CAST
Ms Fiona Gaskell	HMIC
C/Insp Ian Kendall	CNC
*****	Home Office (Procurement)
Mr Jeff Smyth	Police Ombudsman NI
Ms Sue Warner	MPS (Senior Advisor, First Aid)
Mr John Terry	SFC Course/College of Policing

### 2. Apologies

ACC Garry Forsyth	West Midlands Region
Mr Mike Ismay	College of Policing
Supt Tony Ismay	South East Region
ACC Dee Collins	East Midlands Region
Mr Andy Latto	College of Policing
C/Supt Geoff Feavours	College of Policing
C/Supt Wildbore	BTP
Ms Deborah Glass	IPCC
Mr Graham Beesley	IPCC
*****	CAST
ACC Rod Hansen	South West Region
C/Supt Paul Main	ACPOS

3. **Minutes of last Working Group Meeting (25<sup>th</sup> September 2012)**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at [REDACTED] were approved as a true record.

4. **Matters Arising (Action Log)**

The Action Log was discussed and updated accordingly.

25.9.12 – Action 2 – Copy of up to date Regional Mobilisation Plans to AP Secretariat.

25.9.12 – Action 3 – Verbal update delivered.

25.9.12 – Action 4 – Agenda

25.9.12 – Action 6 - Discharge

5. **REVIEW OF CURRENT WORK PROGRAMMES**

**Firearms Interoperability: Direction of Travel/Secretariat Update**

**High Risk Tactical Advisory Group (HRTAG)**

**Smoke**

Update in respect of national capability for specialist firearms officers to move through O2 depleted (smoke filled) environments in order to mitigate ongoing threats in high risk armed operations. This piece of work is ongoing .

**EOD**

A further meeting has taken place involving HO/MOD and ACPO AP. A point has been reached whereby it is accepted that SO15, whilst willing to help, do not have the capacity to provide SLA to the rest of the country. There has been some exploration into working with 11 EOD to provide additional capacity outside of the MET. This project is ongoing.

**Specialist Tactical Firearms Command**

Good progress has been made by the PG. A mature draft of a new Specialist Firearms Command Development Programme has been developed. PSNI and MPS intend to be initial deliverers. Other volunteer delivery forces sought. Next stage will be to develop protocol for establishing the Regional (crime) and National (CT) cadres of commanders.

**Live Fire CQC Training**

Legal advice has been obtained and is being considered by DCC Chesterman.

**NPFTC Module A2 – Role Profiles – Richard Thomas**

The A2 Role Profiles Module within NPFTC has been amended and expanded during an extensive review process, conducted over a 12 month period. The purpose of the review was to further improve operational interoperability through clearer national standards and simplification and streamlining of the role profiles. Extensive consultation has taken place which has included key practitioner groups, some SME focus groups, all CFIs and APWG members. Key changes have included;

- the introduction of a national resource standard section, which details the relevant resources, weaponry, munitions and equipment that should be available to the relevant officer/team when operating cross boundary.
- Removal of Tactical Team and MASTS Driver profiles.
- Introduction of Basic and Standard MASTS profiles and 2 x levels of Rifle Officer (Standard and Tactical)

The final version of A2 has been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. Members were in agreement of formal sign off of this document.

**Action. RT to arrange for publication of refreshed A2 on POLKA and a supporting national circular.**

**CTSFO Network – National Resource.**

DCC Chesterman updated the group in respect of the current capability and capacity of the national CTSFO network. He also provided an overview of potential future developments.

### **National Mapping of Capability and Capacity**

C/I Richard Thomas and [REDACTED] met with Supt Jo Rogerson and other PNICC staff on 5.12.12. Existing work around AP skill sets and national representation of this was explained. PNICC felt that this methodology and representation (or something very similar) might well be appropriate across a number of police specialist skill sets. PNICC are very shortly to embark on a national data collection exercise around specialist skill sets. RT has provided the definitive AP skill set requirement and MH has provided an analyst within PNICC the methodology used to date. Once the next data collection exercise has completed the AP results will be shared initially with AP Regional Leads. This will link to the work re modelling specialist firearms capability & capacity under CC Shaws project.

### **National Firearms STRA / Regional STRA**

CoP held a days input on amended STRA guidance. The guidance for forces has changed very little apart from some terminology, however, that which relates to regional STRAs and the national picture has changed considerably. Andy Latto and JM have worked to streamline the process whereby the regional leads are now requested to provide an executive summary and a short appendix which identifies those key findings and recommendations that they consider should be dealt with regionally and those which they are wishing to submit to the centre for national consideration.

Most forces have to have their STRA as part of their licensing process and update the training element onto the CoP database. At the CoP day at Bramshill on 16 January, JM sought the views of those present (all forces represented) as to timings for regional STRAs. Indications were that regions should be in a position to be able to provide regional STRAs by the first week in April.

The national position would then be that upon receipt of this much reduced documentation; JM would produce an aggregated key findings document which identified those national issues. The national picture would take account of that from the regions, HMIC recommendations, IPCC, Coroners inquests, public enquiries, strategic policing requirement, interoperability and environmental/horizon scanning.

**Action: ACPO AP Secretariat to send circular to regional leads requesting Regional Firearms STRA's by 1.4.13.**

**Action: Regional Leads to ascertain they are in a position to produce Regional STRAs by 1.4.13.**

### **National Police Firearms Mobilisation Plan**

RT and [REDACTED] have sent out a questionnaire through PNICC as part of some work being conducted under Conflict Management around water borne, mounted section and firearms. This will be the higher end of armed policing but actually will have an impact upon the mobilisation plan.

### **Expansion of Role of PIM**

A small cross discipline practitioner group (Armed Policing, Police Pursuits, Self Defence & Restraint, Public Order and Custody, supported by Professional Standards, IPCC and Police Federation) has been established to explore the development of mutually complimentary post incident procedures for each of the thematic areas. The group will also explore how the current Firearms PIM course content, as contained within the National Police Firearms Training Curriculum, could be developed or extended to meet the needs of the wider procedures and their application.

### **Single System of Search**

#### **➤ National Roll Out Update**

Currently the majority of forces have trained and embedded the Single System of Search. The remaining forces are on track to have achieved this by the scheduled completion date of 1.4.13.

➤ **Siege/Dynamic Intervention**

ACPO AP has been commissioned to lead a national cross discipline review of siege doctrine and guidance. It is intended that this work will include the review of Module D9 NPFTC (Dynamic Intervention), in light of the introduction of the SSS. Final details are being agreed between AP, TAM & C2, however it is likely that small project team will commence work 1.4.13.

**Officers Accounts**

- **Compelling officers to be interviewed**
- **Conferring – Duggan Judicial Review**

A JR for the above was heard with John Beggs acting on behalf of ACPO. At this hearing, ACPO's position with regards to current guidance was upheld. However, this is the subject of appeal

**Action: ACPO AP Secretariat to provide an update at the next meeting.**

**Review of paragraph 5.19 – separation of firearms command and SIO Roles**

This amended paragraph was circulated to the working group who dealt with this matter with NPIA and AP Secretariat. Feed back received was that this addressed the issue that had been raised by the MPS. This amendment will be incorporated within the annual review of the APP which will be published in April.

**Armed Support to Public Order (ASPO)**

ASPO NPFTC content has now been published on POLKA for standard 4 month consultation period. However, during this period forces are encouraged to make STRA based decision on local/regional operational requirement and where relevant commence training & operational roll out. The Firearms Command elements form part of this year's annual CoP refresher package which has been published on POLKA. Further work continues in respect of harmonisation of LL and PO AEP role profiles. This will enable forces to develop a PO AEP capability within their ARV structure, should they so require. Members should note that the NPPOTC content has been signed off by POPS TTEWG and is now mandatory training for all Level 2 PSU officers nationally.

**6. STANDING ITEMS:**

➤ **List of National Circulars circulated following the ACPO Armed Policing WG held on 25.9.12**

A list of national circulars that have been circulated post the last meeting were circulated to members prior to the meeting. What will be of note is that from 2013 LLW and AP circulars are individually numbered. Those relating to AP will read 01AP/2013 and those relating to LLW will read 01LL/2013 as well as being on separate headed paper.

➤ **Procurement**

The MPS are planning some work in relation to weapons carried and future procurement. From a national and interoperable perspective the two issues to officers carrying two weapons (SLP and carbine), and standardisation of future weaponry. It was agreed that these should be considered from a national rather than individual force perspective in order that interoperability and operational requirements were addressed.

**Action: A working group to consider future weapons carried by AFO's to be established. Mark Streater to lead this work on behalf of AP. An update would be provided at next AP Working group meeting.**

➤ **Armed Support to Covert Operations (ASCO) SFIC**

Garry Forsyth (chair of ASCO) has commissioned a review of the NPFTC MASTS content and the Surveillance and Firearms Integration Course. A joint (AP & Surveillance) PG will conduct this work. An Inaugural meeting will take place on 20 &

21 Feb 2013. It is not anticipated that this review will require any up or re-skilling of existing staff, but is simply intended to further improve the product for future delivery and provide more detailed guidance in respect of refresher training requirements.

➤ **IPCC Update**

A verbal update was given regarding ongoing/completed investigations.

➤ **CAST Update**

The CAST weapons database has been recently updated as a result of the annual refresh of information from forces. A summary presentation will be given at the next APWG. It was agreed that if forces were to consider trialling new weaponry/systems, they should notify AP Secretariat and CAST who may be able to refer them to work already done in respect of that weaponry.

**Action: AP Secretariat to issue a national circular to all forces informing them to liaise with AP Secretariat and CAST if considering a new weapon system.**

➤ **College of Policing Update**

**a) First Aid D13 Module**

The proposal is that ACPO First Aid will lead on this. They will get advice from National Trauma Expert and other experts. Forces will seek local experts to deliver locally. D13 mapped to modules 2, 3, 4, 5. If no courses available locally ACPO First Aid will advise on course costs delivered by other forces.

**Action: AP Secretariat to issue a national circular to all forces informing them of the current position in respect of NPFTC Module D13.**

**b) Controlled Evacuations Module D1.2**

The Operation Release guidance has been developed into a NPFTC module and is published on POLKA for its consultation period. It has become a mandatory module for ARV officers and above.

**c) Changes to Tactical Advisor Course**

The Tactical Advisors course currently is made up of 2 modules. Feedback from those delivering the courses is that 2 modules not working well. It was agreed that this course reverts to 1 course of approx 2 weeks.

d) The Tactical Firearms Commander Reaccreditation Group sought agreement to increase this to 4 days. Much has changed since original accreditation 4 yrs ago. It is envisaged that it should be able to revert to 3 days in 18 months to 2 yrs. It was agreed that this re-accreditation should move to 4 days. However, this was to be revisited in 18 months time.

**Action. AP Secretariat to ensure the re-accreditation of Tactical Firearms Commanders is diarised for inclusion in the September 2014 APWG agenda.**

➤ **Incidents of Note**

There are no incidents of note since the last meeting.

➤ **Inquests/Inquiry**

**Dale Burns – non firearms – LLW**

The inquest is scheduled for wc 28 January 2013. An issue raised within force to the coroner was anonymity which looked like it was going to delay the process and went to JR.

**7. RECENT CORRESPONDENCE/ISSUES RAISED**

➤ **Incidents of Police use of Firearms**

Despite ongoing reminders to forces some forces are not notifying the Secretariat of the police discharge of firearms.

**Action: The 'Proforma for Police Discharge' form is to be circulated with the minutes to prompt forces to notify ACPO AP instances where the police discharge firearms.**

➤ **Operational Firearms Command Log**

An officer from MPS has circulated to other forces with a view to this being a National Log. This is a matter for individual forces and not a national requirement at present.

**Action: To be added as an agenda item at HRTAG in April.**

➤ **The use of Police Staff in the role of TFC**

A request had been received Surrey Police to use police staff within their force control room as Firearms Commanders. Key stakeholders were consulted within including Police Federation and Police Superintendents' Association and neither supported the proposal. The matter was raised on 10.12.12 at the ACPO Uniform Operations Business Area meeting and the view of those present was that they would not support the use of a member of police staff being used to perform the role of a Tactical Firearms Commander. SC communicated this stance to the Surrey Police..

**8. Update regarding the Grenade and High Explosive Practitioner Group**

A verbal update was provided at the meeting.

**9. SFC/TFC/TA Logs**

This item is now complete. Hard copy/hand written logs have been distributed. An electronic version also distributed. However there were some technical issues surrounding the version of word used by individual forces. These were considered an issue for forces to address internally.

**10. Any Other Business**

None

**11. Dates for Future Meetings**

**21 May 2013 – Police Federation HQ, Leatherhead, Surrey (pm - time tbc)**

**24 September 2013 – Allsop Room, West Mercia HQ (pm - time tbc)**