

The briefing should outline the intended course of action and incorporate a range of contingencies. These should provide officers with as much clarity as possible for the role that they may have to undertake and any tactical parameters which have been set.

The tactical firearms commander should ensure that information, intelligence and detail of reliability is included in the briefing where it is relevant to the working strategy.

The National Intelligence Model provides guidance on how commanders can assess the reliability and strength of intelligence.

Where time permits, briefings should inform officers of the procedures to be followed at the conclusion of the event to which they have been deployed. This should include the procedures to adopt in respect of prisoner handling, scene preservation, evidence collection and return to a location where post-deployment procedures will be undertaken. These may range from officers making notes and completing records, through to structured debriefing, as well as attending to organisational and welfare issues. See post-deployment.

Officers conducting briefings should be mindful that the content of the briefing may directly affect the response of armed officers to any subsequent perceived threat from a subject.

#### **4. Who should conduct the briefing**

Tactical firearms commanders should consider drawing on the expertise of other staff in briefings, where this may be of assistance (eg, operational firearms commanders and intelligence officers).

In some circumstances, it may be desirable for operational firearms commanders to brief their teams on specific tasks following the briefing by the tactical firearms commander. The tactical firearms Commander must be made aware of any such briefings.

#### **5. Keeping a record**

A record should be maintained of all briefings, including the persons present and information given. The method of recording may include:

- contemporaneous notes
- use of formal briefing documents
- audio recording
- ICT systems
- command and control logs.

As far as practicable, the most comprehensive method of providing an accurate record of the briefing should be used. Where officers are being briefed while travelling, or are in a remote location, consideration should be given to using radio or telephone recording to

provide a record of the briefing. The absence of secure communication may, however, place constraints on this option in situations where classified information is being referred to.

## **Operational deployment**

AFOs must be continually updated with information relevant to their role during their deployment.

Officers should, whenever possible, confirm their arrival at the scene of an incident or at a pre-determined rendezvous point. This will ensure that commanders are aware of the location of AFOs. It is also important from a personal safety perspective.

On arrival at the scene officers will undertake roles as directed. There will, however, be circumstances in which officers are required to make their own assessment of the situation and act accordingly. This will extend to identifying, locating, containing and, where possible, neutralising the threat posed.

## **Medical assistance**

When planning operations where AFOs are being deployed, tactical firearms commanders should consider where and how emergency medical aid would be provided if this is required. This should be based on risk assessment and may, in addition to the availability of officers trained in relevant first aid, include placing an ambulance on standby.

Forces should ensure that agreements are in place with local emergency healthcare services to provide medical support to police operations, including those involving the deployment of AFOs.

## **Community impact assessment**

### **Further information**

APP on [community impact assessments](#)

The strategic firearms commander should consider the need for a community impact assessment, the extent and formality of which will depend on the nature of the situations in which the police are involved and the time available. On some occasions the community impact assessment will be a dynamic process undertaken simultaneously by AFOs, local officers and all those in command roles.

Whenever time permits, however, a comprehensive community impact assessment should be completed in order to:

- identify community, diversity and human rights issues which may be affected
- consider action to retain or promote community confidence and reassurance in the police action.