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- 6.71 Whenever an operation is stood down, CCC must be informed so that the job can be removed from their 'active' list. If the same job is recommenced at a later time then a new armed operation number **must** be obtained by the above procedure. This does not include standing down merely for refreshment breaks. Operations that continue for more than 24hrs and are subject to a SFC review will not require a new armed operation number if they are authorised to continue.
- 6.72 SFCs taking command of previously authorised operations are responsible for reviewing the deployment of AFOs, documenting that review and formally assuming command of the operation. The SFC will then be responsible for confirming the authority to deploy armed officers by completing **Form FA3/3A**.
- 6.73 For protracted operations and those operations that continue beyond a 24hr period (other than armed court security), **Form FA3A** - repeat authorisation should be completed. This provides evidence of continuing review and assessment. For guidance on armed court security please see **Chapter 11**.
- 6.74 When officers from a specialist OCU carry out a static operation on a BOCU, it will be the responsibility of the SFC of the operation to inform the most senior officer available on the BOCU concerned.
- 6.75 When such an operation becomes mobile then the SFC must inform the most senior available officer on the BOCU where the operation culminates as soon as operationally practicable, either personally, by means of a secure phone, Airwave, or through their branch office.
- 6.76 A SFC or TFC's ability to effectively perform their respective command function depends on them having:
- Knowledge of the circumstances and available intelligence
 - The ability to communicate
 - Appropriate Tactical Advice being available
 - A suitable environment from which to exercise the command function.
- 6.77 It is the responsibility of the officer accepting command to ensure the above conditions are met.
- 6.78 Where the information and intelligence of an on-going operation changes to such an extent that it may require a different type of armed resource, it should be redirected to the SC&O19 co-ordinating office. This is to ensure availability and efficient use of MPS armed resources.
- 6.79 Outside of normal office hours, it is the responsibility of the SFC for any authorised firearms operation to inform the appropriate on duty Link Superintendent of the existence of the operation. This can be done through the Pan London Supervisor when requesting the Armed Operation Number.

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- Makes decisions within their agreed level of responsibility, including seeking approval for any variation in agreed tactics within their area of responsibility;
- Must ensure clear communication channels exist between themselves, the TFC, and those under their command;
- Should consider declaring and managing the event as a critical incident;
- Should be available to those under their command, however they should allow them sufficient independence to carry out their specific role in accordance with the strategy and tactical plan;
- Should ensure decisions taken are recorded, where possible, to provide a clear audit trail.

Tactical Advice & Firearms Tactical Advisers (FTA)

6.87 This function is provided by an officer who:

- Advises on the capabilities and limitations of the AFOs and other police resources being deployed;
- Advises the SFC or TFC on the implication of any tactical parameters which have been set;
- Advises on the available tactical options for consideration by the SFC and TFC within the existing strategy and any tactical parameters set;
- Advises the Firearms Commanders on the tactical considerations, contingencies and implications for each tactical option;
- Should be in a position to assist and advise the TFC at all stages of the operation;
- Provides tactical advice reflecting the existing threat assessment;
- Ensures that advice given is recorded (**Form FA5**).

6.88 The role of a Tactical Adviser is to advise and not to make command decisions. The responsibility for the validity and reliability of the advice lies with the Adviser, but the responsibility for the use of the advice lies with the commander.

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Tactical Advice

- 6.89 All spontaneous and authorised operations require the provision of tactical advice. The only Role Profiles which have the capability (by virtue of their occupational competence) and are accredited to provide this within the MPS are
- ARV,
 - TST
 - CT SFOs.
- 6.90 The function of the SC&O19 Pod within CCC enables this function to be carried out 24/7 for all spontaneous deployments of AFOs with recourse to an on-call CTSFO Firearms Tactical Advisor (FTA) for either developed incidents or authorised operations. Occupational competence as an FTA is achieved through the successful completion of a 2 week Spontaneous FTA Course as accredited by the College of Policing.
- 6.91 A FTA can only give advice on a tactic that they either are or have been occupationally competent (i.e. passed a course based on the relevant NPFTC training module for the tactic). If they have previously been but are no longer occupationally competent (i.e. due to injury preventing them undertaking refresher training) they must have maintained their proficiency in the given tactics.
- 6.92 Within the MPS, firearms Tactical Advice will be sought through the SC&O19 Pod at CCC. Tactical advice for Authorised Operations will be sought from the on-call CTSFO Tactical Adviser, again via the SC&O19 Pod in CCC **Sensitive**
- 6.93 When Tactical Advice is given, the TA will complete the Form FA5, tactical advice form. A copy of this will be kept in the SC&O19 Pod, one emailed / faxed to the enquirer, and one posted on the 'SC&O19 Daily Events' forum. Form **FA5** is for authorised operations and **FA5A** is for spontaneous operations.

Command Support

- 6.94 Command support is a useful element of the command structure. Depending on the complexity of the operation, and the availability of support staff, all firearms commanders must consider the availability and necessity for;
- Intelligence liaison;
 - Tactical Advisor;
 - Hostage and Crisis Negotiator;
 - Logistics Support;
 - Post Incident Manager(s);
 - Media Support