

## RESTRICTED

### Deployment of AFOs

- 5.0 AFOs are considered as being 'deployed' when they are required to conduct a specific task during which the possession of a firearm, with appropriate authorisation, is a required element. This includes when they self deploy as provided for under the guidance set out in this manual.
- 5.1 The MPS provides authority for the issue and carriage of firearms by the following means
- Standing Authority
  - Planned Authority

### Standing Authorities

- 5.2 In the MPS the Assistant Commissioner Specialist Crime and Operations (ACSC&O) is responsible for the Firearms Standing Authorities. These permit the issue and carriage of firearms by MPS AFOs in identified OCUs, where the AFOs are engaged in specific duties, where a threat and risk assessment deems this appropriate, and where the issue and carriage of firearms is an integral part of those duties (This also covers CoLP AFOs on attachment to the MPS in designated OCUs). Within the MPS there are five armed OCUs subject to standing authority. They are SC&O19, SO1, SO6, SO14 and SO18. These authorities are managed on behalf of the AC SC&O by Commander Armed Policing and are reviewed on an annual basis.
- 5.3 The full list of standing authorities is held by the **FPU** and can be viewed on the FPU Intranet page. Any enquiries in relation to this authority should be directed to the FPU by telephone or email .The issue and carriage of firearms by MPS AFOs which fall outside of these standing authorities will require specific authorisation.
- 5.4 The deployment of AFOs should only be authorised in the following circumstances:
- Where the authorising officer has reason to suppose that officers may have to protect themselves or others from a person who:
    - Is in possession of, or has immediate access to, a firearm or other potentially lethal weapon, or
    - Is otherwise so dangerous that the deployment of armed officers is considered to be appropriate.

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- As an operational contingency in a specific operation based on threat and risk assessment.
- For the destruction of animals that are dangerous or suffering unnecessarily.

### ACPO APP Armed Policing 2012

- 5.5 The use of the words 'reason to suppose' sets the level of knowledge required about the existence of a threat justifying the deployment of AFOs at a far lower level than that which would actually justify their use.

### **Spontaneous or Authorised**

- 5.6 Spontaneous incidents are those incidents that take place without warning, the circumstances of which demand that armed support to the initial police response must be considered. This includes armed protection duties. Additional Guidance is available within the **ACPO APP Armed Policing 2012**.
- 5.7 Authorised operations are all other operations not falling within that (Spontaneous) definition. This includes armed surveillance duties.
- 5.8 When a spontaneous firearms incident occurs, the Firearms POD at CCC must be informed on [Sensitive] without delay and the appropriately selected, trained and accredited Tactical Firearms Commander will immediately take command of the incident and where appropriate, liaise with the BOCU Duty Officer who will take on the role of Bx community and resources.
- 5.9 A note of the time and date the TFC is informed along with their call sign must be entered on the CAD message created for the incident. In all cases advice should be sought from an authorised SC&O19 Tactical Adviser through the SC&O19 CCC Pod [Sensitive]
- 5.10 The officer taking the role of Tactical Firearms Commander in this first instance is responsible for reviewing the available information and deciding if the incident is to be declared a "firearms incident", and authorising the deployment of armed officers. A note that the TFC is authorising the deployment of firearms officers should be made on the CAD.
- 5.11 If the armed officers have self-deployed, then the TFC must review this decision and either approve their deployment or withdraw them.
- 5.12 Should the incident subsequently become protracted, there may be a need to establish a dedicated command facility to manage the operation. The TFC will contact an SC&O19 SFC through the co-ordinating office in order for them to assess the incident and where necessary provide a TFC and SFC. This ensures