

Further information

[Health and safety risk assessment](#)

The risk assessment will cover the hazards and risks associated with the location of the operation, the subject, any potential victims, the public and any hazards arising from the tactical options proposed.

A risk assessment should be carried out for each viable tactical option.

The formality and complexity of the risk assessment will depend on the time and information available.

Briefing

Further information

[Briefing and debriefing](#)

All staff involved in situations where AFOs are deployed must be given as full a briefing as possible. The briefing should include the objectives and tactics that have been authorised. The level of additional detail given will depend on the circumstances prevailing at the time and the time available.

1. Tools for briefing

The key headings in NDM should be used as a basis for briefing and debriefing officers. This has the advantage of providing continuity of approach during the planning and operational phases of a deployment. The use of the NDM in this way also enables any additional information to be reviewed or updated as the situation develops.

Other models such as the IIMARCH model can be used to develop the content of the briefing.

Officers providing briefings should stress the aim of any operation including, specifically, the individual responsibility of officers and the legal powers relevant to the deployment.

2. Effective communication of the briefing

The tactical firearms commander should ensure that AFOs and other deployed officers are briefed using the most appropriate means of communication. Commanders should confirm their lines of communication to officers (AFOs and unarmed) once they have been deployed.

3. Briefing content

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