

## RESTRICTED

capability and capacity of firearms resources to manage identified threats within covert operations including counter-terrorism.

### **Armed Surveillance**

- 5.67 Their primary function is in the provision of covert surveillance and they must have successfully undergone training in the carriage and use of firearms.
- 5.68 Where a decision is made to deploy an armed surveillance team which is not fully armed, the authorising officer must be satisfied that the armed resources are capable of effectively mitigating the threat

### **Mobile Armed Support to Surveillance (MASTS)**

- 5.69 Covert operations requiring armed support for contingency or planned interception need a higher level of tactical capability than that required to conduct armed surveillance. Such operations will require the deployment of armed resources in support of armed or unarmed surveillance, with the appropriate tactical capabilities to offer effective control measures to mitigate the assessed threat. This support is called MASTS.
- 5.70 Officers providing a MASTS capability will operate in covert vehicles, or on foot and in plain clothes. The minimum standards, which must be met, are contained in the National Police Firearms Training Curriculum (NPFTC).
- 5.71 There will also be occasions when it is appropriate to provide overtly armed officers in support of surveillance. Where covert operations are supported solely by an overt response, this will not be recognised or described as MASTS.

### **Technical Support Unit**

#### **Operations**

- 5.72 Also falling into this category is the armed support to Technical Support Unit operations. These may be staffed by either SFO, TST, ARV, SC&O11 or SC&O7 depending on the perceived threat level. Authorising Officers have a responsibility to assess the threat and use the most appropriate resource for any deployment, based on:
- The probability of the assessed threat occurring;
  - Potential impact of the assessed threat on the strategy and tactical plan;
  - Potential risks to individuals involved in the incident and the response.