**PUBLIC ORDER MANAGEMENT** 

# Attack with Firearms and Explosives



UN Peacekeeping PDT Standards for Formed Police Units, 1st edition 2015

### Background

Officers engaged in Public Order management are normally confronted by a crowd that can be hostile. It happens that demonstrators use items to throw at the police line such as rocks and bricks.

However, occasionally more violent means are used against the police, and in some cases, some hardliners among demonstrators may try to lure police into ambushes where firearms or explosives may be used against them. Members of the FPU need to be able to identify this situation and react accordingly.

It should be pointed out that this is not a common occurrence and officers should avoid overreaction or becoming fearful of Public Order situations over concerns of a sniper ambush. If they follow the guidance in this module, they will be able to quickly react and deal with the situation, mitigating the potential threats and damages.

#### Aim

To familiarize FPU members with the general tactical recommendations to be applied in case of attacks against the unit involving firearms or explosives during public order operations

#### Learning outcomes

On completion of this module the FPU members will be able to:

- · Consider the circumstances of attack involving firearms or explosives
- Apply and demonstrate the recommended tactics in case of attacks involving firearms or explosives
- Demonstrate the use/support of equipment and vehicles in case of attack involving firearms or explosives

#### **Training sequence**

The material in this module is designed to be delivered over 2 hours classroom based theory lessons, followed by 6 hours of practice, which should include, at least one hour for assessment. This is on the assumption that the students have received no previous training in this subject.

#### **Duration**

Minimum Session	Lecture/Presentation	Question/Assessment	Session Activities
time			
8 hours	2 hours	30 mins (included in the	6 hours
		lecture)	

Additional Options	Mission Specific	Optional film	Optional activity

#### Methodology

This module contains a PowerPoint theory presentation to explain and show the various techniques. However, the majority of this module should be taught in a practical manner using the following format:

- Explanation by the instructor
- Demonstration by the instructor
- Imitation by the students (with instructor correcting where necessary)
- Practice by the students until the technique is perfected

At the end of the final stage, the instructor will be able to assess if the student is competent in the technique having carried out continuous assessment throughout the preceding lessons.

The instructor should inform participants of the content, format and timing. Knowing what to expect, participants can improve their ability to focus on the subject and benefit better from the session.

- Attack against FPU during POM (2 hours)
- Practice (6 hours of practical lessons)

The practice should be carried out over a number of days and the instructors should be aware that the physically demanding nature of deploying the FPU in Public Order Management techniques must be carefully managed so that the students do not get fatigued as this is likely to lead to injury.

A number of the practical periods should be conducted in the form of exercises which should be carried out in as realistic situation as possible with the use of other officers acting at 'Mob crowd'. Blank ammunition should be made available.

When training a full FPU it is recommended that this module is taught to individual Platoons and then additional practice time is given to bring the whole FPU together for co-ordinated training.

Instructors are encouraged to add practical examples and mission specific information related to the specific deployment of participants, if known.

#### **Instructor Profile**

This module is best presented by an instructor who has practical experience in Public Order Management in peacekeeping operations and who could share his/her experience with the group. He must be practiced and skilled to be able to demonstrate the technique correctly. If there is more than one instructor, at least one of them should have practical experience as Public Order Management trainer in either domestic policing or a peacekeeping mission.

#### **Instructor Preparations**

#### **Required Readings**

- FPU Training Handbook
- · Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials
- . FPU Policy
- . Directives of Use of Force and SOPs

#### **General Preparations**

Equipment:

- 1. Computer and PowerPoint slides for lesson 1
- 2. Projector and Screen for lessons 1

3. Full public Order management equipment and vehicles for the practical section of the training for lesson 2

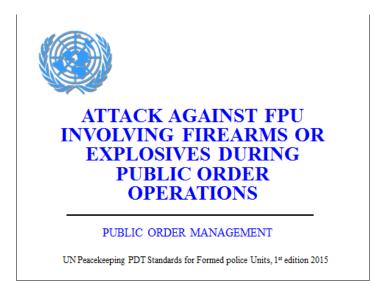
Training Area:

The initial lesson should be carried out in the classroom; however subsequent lessons will need a large open area where students can work as an FPU section and platoon. Once the 'open ground' tactics have been grasped by the students, the FPU will need to practice their tactics in a more urban situation. For this purpose, a 'ghost town' or public order village is ideal.

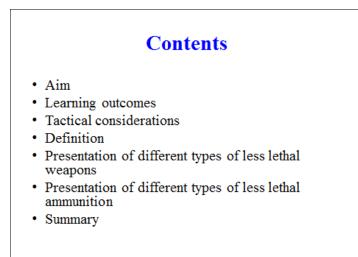
#### **Session notes**

# Lesson 1 – Attack against FPU including firearms or explosives during POM (theory)

Contents:



Slide 1



Slide 2

# Aim

To introduce the FPU to the general tactical recommendations to be applied in case of attack against the unit involving firearms or explosives during public order operations

Slide 3

# Learning outcomes

At the end of this module, the participants will be able to:

- Consider the circumstances of attack involving firearms or explosives
- Apply and demonstrate the recommended tactics in case of attack involving firearms or explosives
- Demonstrate the use/support of equipment and vehicles in case of attack involving firearms or explosives

Slide 4

#### Definition

- Firearms: any weapon especially pistols or rifles, capable of firing a projectile and using an explosive charge as a propellant
- Explosives: for the purpose of this presentation, explosives refer to grenades, rocket propelled grenades or other military weapons

#### Slide 5

The course deals with attacks against FPUs during public order operations. Most of the demonstrations are organized by groups representing the civil society in order to denounce mainly austerity, economic or political issues, or the non-respect of their rights. Armed individuals may take advantage of the situation and of the presence of a crowd to attack the local security forces and the FPUs deployed to ensure/restore public order.

These attacks can be made through firearms and/or explosives. FPUs faced shots in Haiti in 2010 during the presidential elections; hand grenades, instead, were used against FPUs in CAR in 2014 while removing barricades.

Slide 5 provides the definition of firearms and explosives likely to be used against FPUs.

Please bear in mind that, during the whole training session, the tactical response suggested for firearms attacks will be also valid for explosives attacks.

# **Tactical considerations**

- Legal framework and use of force
- Mission of the unit = police operations or escort
- Environment (urban or open area, buildings, accessible locations...)
   Equipment of the unit (trace of urbicles arms)
- Equipment of the unit (types of vehicles, armored or not, marksman rifle, protective equipment, bullet proof shields...)
- · Presence of marksmen in the unit
- Position of the shooter and intent (among a crowd, hidden position, single shot or burst...)
- Identification, research, arrest, training = tactics

#### Slide 6

The reaction to an attack will differ according to the mission. Units may be deployed in static position and in foot formations or they may be moving to the demonstration's location by vehicle. In the first instance, units are likely to be exposed to more risks. The execution of an escort carries already in its nature a higher risk of attack.

Within the framework of the mandated tasks, in support of the local security forces or in execution of the tasks defined in the FPU Policy, FPUs may be authorized to the use of force. In addition to the FPU Policy, the Directive on the Use of Force defines the exact conditions of its use.

The use of force and the tactical response will depend on the resources available and the environment of the attack location. The presence of a crowd, of building, high positions, etc. may influence the decision making on tactics. Also, if the appropriate equipment is not available (e.g., armoured vehicles, APCs, bullet-proof shields and vests, long rifles with googles), the operational and tactical capacity of the unit will be limited.

It is worth recalling the importance of identifying as soon as possible the position of the shooter and his behaviour. He may be among the crowd thus being able to dissimulate among it. Or, he may be hidden in a building and in this case it is crucial to identify the origin of the shooting in order to react accordingly. His intent is also to be considered as he may have shot once and then flee the scene or he may intend to continue shooting. The crowd's reaction may also have its importance as it can either disperse or react to the shooter, thus helping in his identification.

The focus should be put on the training of units in case of attacks. This will help on adopting a method of response and avoid the dispersal of the unit without respecting the basic principles of safety.

Each phase has its importance as well as each member in his respective role -

marksmen, drivers, fire supports, team leaders, platoon commanders etc.

# **Tactical considerations**

In case of shot or use of offensive hand grenade against the unit

- Broadcast immediately the information to the unit
- Unit splits and takes protection
- Basic target identification (observe, report, target recognition and if necessary appropriate use of weapon) = position of the fire support elements
- Isolation of the threat and screen the unit (shooter/suspect) by using tear gas or smoke canisters

#### **Tactical recommendations**

- Seek cover at the same time
- Assistance to wounded
- Report to the operational centre
- Warnings if a crowd is still present around the suspect
- Decision making process: tactical decision according to the unit equipment and type of threat

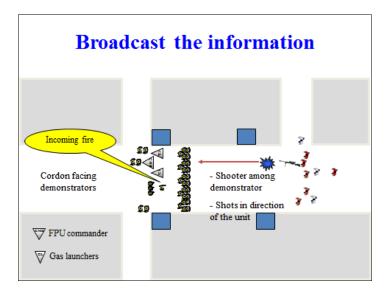
#### Slides 7 and 8

The slides 7 and 8 define the tactical response to adopt in case of attack. The response will be composed by different tactical phases that constitute a toolkit and can be applied to any type of attacks.

Bearing in mind the necessity to react very quickly for all involved officers, it is highly recommended that all FPU members are trained on every single phase of the tactical response that is going to be detailed in the following slides.

# **Broadcast the information**

- FPU officers may not have heard the shot, particularly when it is a single shot
- In such case, the first police officer who noticed it announces "Incoming fire" or "Offensive grenade"
- The officer in command gives an immediate order "Protection" by voice and radio
- The team leaders echo the order



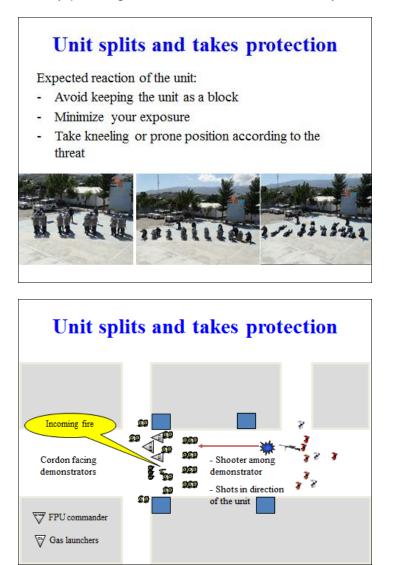
Slides 9 and 10

Public Order Management is often chaotic and noisy. It can be confusing for commanders and conflicting reports can be received from sub unit commanders via the radio. As a result, the first challenge is for the unit commander to understand they are being shot at.

The first phase relates to the broadcast of information. In the past, it occurred that FPUs were attacked during public order operations and police officers were injured by shots. In those occasions, the FPU Commander was not timely informed about the wounded officers and therefore was unable to take the appropriate decision/action. It is therefore crucial to broadcast the information about an armed individual among the crowd or on an isolated position so as the information is broadcast to every member of the unit and the level of attention is raised.

The first officer noting an injured officer in the unit and/or hear a shooting must shout "incoming fire' or 'offensive grenade' so to alert his team leader. The latter ensures

that the unit commander has received the information. In this case, the team leader can himself repeat the information by shouting at his turn, by broadcast the information by radio if the unit is appropriately equipped or – if the Commander stands close to him – by passing the information to him directly.





As soon as the unit realizes that a shooting occurred, the first reaction should be to minimize the risk.

In case of attack, the FPU Commander should order the unit to split and to take protection. This means reducing the exposure of police officers' corporal mass.

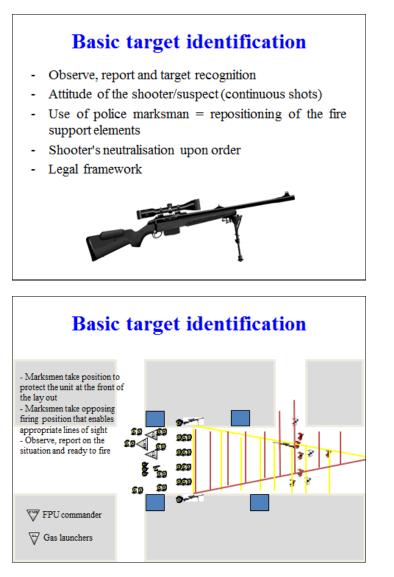
If the unit is in a block, the shooter has more chances to reach more FPU members. Therefore members must split in order to take distance one from the other and reduce the chances to be a target.

While taking a protective position, it is necessary at the same time to identify the

position of the shooter and to follow his/her progression. This visual contact will allow the marksmen to take position so to be able to respond in case of a new armed attack.

The protective position is primarily the kneeling position. If the shooting continues, the prone position is immediately to be adopted. The prone position is mandatory in case of an attack by an explosive.

This approach is recommended when the unit is fully deployed (moving 100 police officers at the same time to reach cover would not be easy) and when immediate protective measures are to be put in place.



Slides 13 and 14

Once the protective position is adopted, the unit needs to observe and determine the origin of the shooting or launch of the grenade. The observation and target

recognition is crucial as the unit may still be under an unknown threat. Once the identification is done, the visual contact with the suspect shooter must be kept in order to report to the FPU Commander (or his officer in charge). This will facilitate his decision making and allow him to give instructions to fire support elements about their (re)positioning. This is a tactical decision that will enable the unit to defend itself in case of new attack.

As experienced in past occasions, during a demonstration, the shooter will only shoot once or twice and will use the crowd as a shield in order to hide himself. His main goal will be not to be identified and 'neutralized', while creating panic and fear in the unit. He is fully aware that his action will create a reaction in its positioning. He also knows that he will create a negative reaction from the crowd which may decide to target him directly.

Marksmen should take an appropriate position in order to shoot without collateral damages. The preferred position should be a high one, on the top of a building or the top of a police vehicle. In any case, if threats are foreseen or known, marksmen should be pre-positioned immediately upon arrival on the ground. If marksmen cannot place themselves on high positions, they will have to face the unit, if possible, or remain at the same level of the unit, but never on its back.

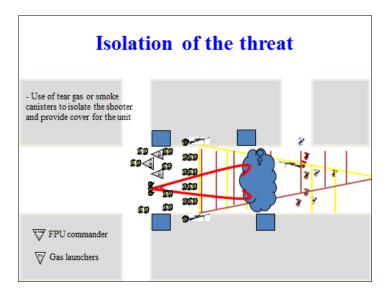
Marksmen should be on opposite position and never on the same side of the road (firing positions). They should be able to cross fire considering that their observation zone should cover 180 degrees.

If the shooter is still active and the threats for the unit and the crowd are still present, the FPU Commander may decide to use lethal force for self-defence, as prescribed by the DUF and the FPU Policy. In any case, the order on use of force should come from the FPU Commander. The FPU Commander and the marksmen should consider the background and the environment of the shooter in order to avoid creating greater or more serious damages than those created by the shooter. If the use of lethal force is not possible, the unit commander will try to isolate the threats. Please refer to the two following slides.

### **Isolation of the threat**

The use of tear gas or smoke canisters should follow in order to isolate the suspect and screen the unit

- The officer in command gives the order "Launch/throw gas/smoke canisters"
- The team leaders echo the order.
- Hand gas canisters and launcher canisters have to be used according to the distance



Slides 15 and 16

This tactical phase has two main objectives: 1. Isolate the suspect; 2. screen the unit.

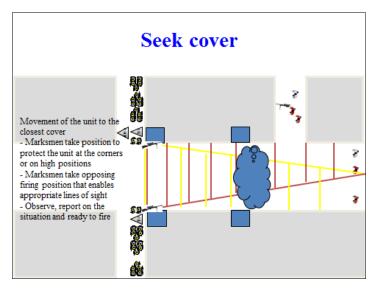
The isolation of threat will be carried out through the use of tear gas or smoke canisters. The use of tear gas will have an impact on the crowd, namely its dispersal.

The shooter will follow the movement of the crowd or he will flee the scene.

Tear gases have to be launched towards the crowd as well as the shooter, if possible. In any case, the use of tear gas and smoke canisters will create a screen to the unit, it will blind the shooter while at the same time giving the necessary time to seek cover.

#### Seek cover

- The objective of the officer in command is to put the unit under cover
- The use of gas or smoke may not have the expected effect on the suspect/shooter but should at least hide the unit behind a screen
- The officer in command announces "Take cover. Move backward or forward or both" according to the environment



Slides 17 and 18

Although in a protective position, behind a screen created by the smoke, the unit may still be exposed to additional shooting or grenade explosion. Therefore the effect created by the smoke will give the unit the time and the chance to seek cover in order to effectively protect itself.

For this reason, cover spots will have to be identified by the unit commander as soon as on the ground of the intervention. These spots will have to be identified according to time, speed, distance and effectiveness. Cover spots should be located in front or at the back of the unit.

**Instructors note**: be ready to answer to any questions raised by the trainees and to explain in detail why the unit should move.

While the unit seeks cover, marksmen remain in their position and protect the movement of the unit.

Also, when under cover, observation still remains crucial and the attitude of the shooter must be continuously controlled and analysed.

### Seek cover: support of vehicles

- Vehicles can be used for protecting the unit
- FPU drivers must be trained on how to manoeuvre this type of situation
- Vehicles have to be close to the unit
- Police officers can also move to the vehicles for cover
- Priority should be given to the APCs if available in the unit
- Consider the protective equipment for the drivers in case of use of light vehicles

#### Slides 19 to 26

If FPU vehicles are located close to the unit, the FPU Commander may use the vehicles as a cover. The FPU Commander will have to choose among the following options: bring the vehicle towards the unit or instruct police officers to approach the vehicles for cover.

The use of APCs should be considered as a priority. In case of light vehicles, the practise is to position spare bullet-proof jackets within the driving cabin.

Slide 21 – Vehicles come from both sides of the road, they take position in front of the unit, protecting the unit and placing themselves in an 'arrow-shape' in the middle of the road.

Once the protection vehicles have taken this position, another vehicle starts to move and take place in the opposite direction.

Units are ready to embark once instructed and to leave in the opposite direction.

Slide 22 – Second option: similar manoeuvre, quite similarly position but one APC is positioned in the middle, facing the shooter/threat.

Slide 23 – APCs cover the unit, take immediate position driving forward one beside the other, facing the threats. The unit can then take position behind the APCs.

Slides 24 - 26 are animated slides which illustrate various options on seeking cover. The PowerPoint version of the presentation on the resource disc must be used for this section of the lesson.

# Assistance to the injured person

Police officers or civilians may have been wounded during the shooting

In this case, the injured person(s) must be removed to a safe area where proper care will be provided

- See lesson plan on "First Aid" and techniques on Emergency Casualties Evacuation



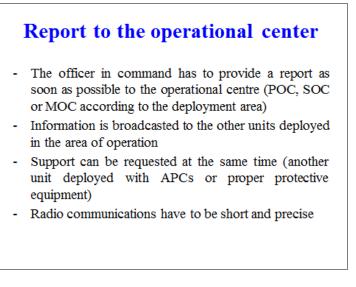
Slide 27

Any wounded person/officer must be moved while the unit is taking cover.

Civilians have to be removed if the unit/team acts under screen and if shooting and launch of explosives are over. If a civilian is not reachable, he/she needs to keep the prone position until first aid reaches the area.

In case of intervention of the first aid, the goal of the intervention is not to check the physical conditions of the victim but to remove his/her body from the scene.

Emergency techniques need to be applied. Please refer to lesson plan on First Aid.



#### Slide 28

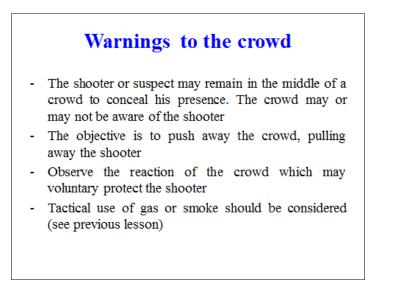
In the above mentioned cases, the officer in command has to provide a report to the operational centre as soon as possible. Units must be kept informed of what

happens in their area of operation. Broadcast of information can avoid additional threats to other units who may engage in the same area of operation in order to secure the area and limit access to it. Decision must be taken in order to minimize the risk for the police officers and the population.

The report to the Ops Centre may also aim at requesting support from other units which are more adequately equipped to respond to the situation.

Radio communication must be short, concise and precise, in order to leave space to all units to report information.

Report methodology has to be applied – I AM – I SEE – I REQUEST... ('I' rule).



#### Slide 29

Please refer to Lesson Plan on Crowd Control Orders.

This phase will occur when the unit has taken cover or when the shooter has been detected before he uses his firearm. In this last case, warning the crowd will inform it, provoke a reaction from it – dispersal - and influence the shooter attitude and/or behaviour. If the shooter has used his firearm, warnings are made in order to inform the crowd of the potential use of force/lethal force by the unit and to observe the reaction of the crowd.

# **Decision making**

- The decision can be taken by the commander to approach the shooter and try to arrest him
- Before any decision, he must analyse the situation and the feasibility to send teams for intervention. After analysis, decide appropriate orders and contingencies
- Prepare the appropriate equipment before any movement (rifle, binoculars, radio, communication means, tear gas launcher and less lethal weapons)
- Use vehicles for protection, APCs in priority
- In case of use of light vehicles, protect the drivers (helmet, individual and additional flack jacket)

#### Slide 30

If the unit is adequately equipped, the decision can be taken to intervene and arrest the shooter. Please take note that this action can be decided if the unit is well trained; bullet-proof equipment, helmets, shields, jackets must be available before any movement/decision. The environment is also to be taken into consideration, knowing that hostilities can arise while the intervention element is moving.

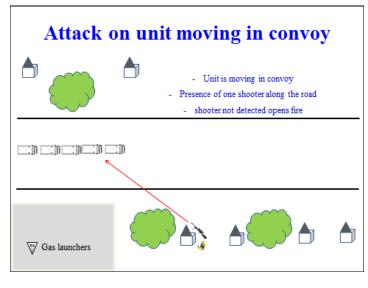
# Decision making

- Intervention element maintains all around observation
- Intervention element is composed of a recce element and a reserve element
- Permanent and mutual support
- Use of appropriate tactics (vehicle or foot progression)
- If possible, place a support element in a high position under the command and control of one officer

#### Slide 31

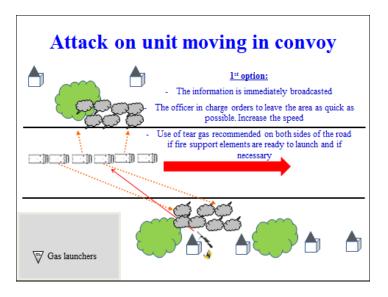
If the intervention is decided, please refer to the Lesson Plan on Tactical Progression and the roles of the different elements, as defined in the lesson, i.e. intervention, protection and support.

If APCs are available, priority should always be given to the use of these vehicles.



Slide 32

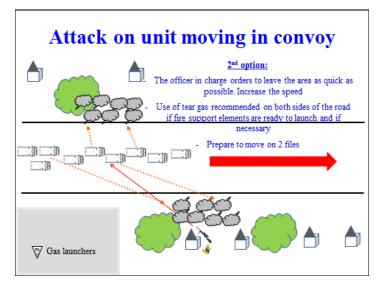
This slide describes the case of the presence of a shooter along the road who open fire against a unit moving in convoy.





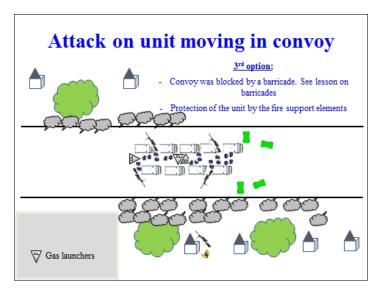
Once the information is broadcast, units move forward and leave quickly the scene. If possible, the use of tear gas or smoke canisters is recommended in order to create a screen, blind the shooter and create a diversion that allows the unit to move forward.

The gas is launched on both sides of the road, as the origin of the shooting cannot be determined.



Slides 34 and 35

If units are exposed to risk over a long period of time, as it may take time to move from the hostile area, it is recommended that the convoy move on two files, mutually protecting.





The convoy may be blocked by a barricade.

Obstacles must be removed, as described in the Lesson Plan on Barricades.

In this situation, the convoy will automatically position itself in two files, offering protection to the police officers between the two files.

In the case of us of light vehicles, it is recommended to get out of them. Remaining in the vehicles is recommended only in the case of APCs' availability.

Same tactic as above, use of tear gas to blind the shooter and to screen and position

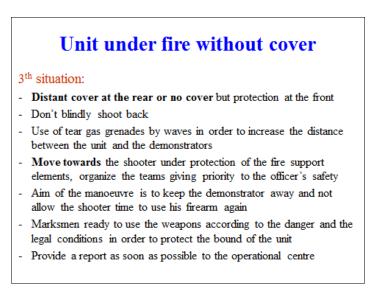
#### of marksmen

As soon as obstacles are removed, police officers embark under the protection of the marksmen, who will be the last ones to embark the area.

Unit under fire without cover
Different scenarios
1 <sup>st</sup> situation: - The vehicles arrive immediately
- Follow the tactical recommendations "Seek cover: support of FPU vehicles".
2 <sup>nd</sup> situation: - Potential protection at the rear, too distant at the front
- Tactical withdrawal: follow tactical recommendations "Seek cover"

Slide 37

Slide 37 recalls the two situations already outlined above: "Seek cover" with support of vehicles or tactical withdrawal.



# Unit under fire without cover

3<sup>th</sup> situation:

Request for additional support or support of APCs when in secured area
Make sure that no police officer or civilian has been wounded
If injuries, first aid and emergency casualty evacuation
Warnings to the crowd if necessary

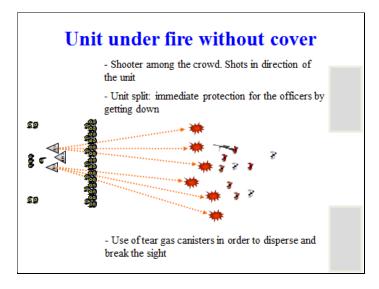
<u>Reminder</u>: movement forward if no other option. Police officers can remain on prone position if security conditions are not fulfilled and shooter is still firing. Insist on the role of the fire support element

Slides 38 and 39

Units can be deployed in open areas and being exposed to threats without benefitting of any cover. Vehicles are not available and cover at the rear is too distant.

Slides 38 and 39 describe the tactical response to adopt in this scenario.

Moving forward has to be considered as the last option. In this case the role of the fire support elements is essential.



Slides 40 to 42

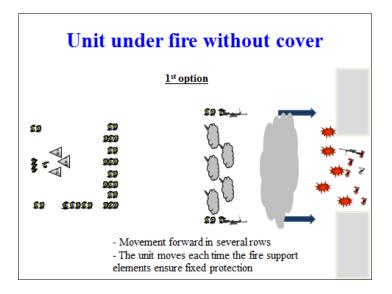
The FPU deploys in a cordon in front of a group of protestors, with the vehicles parked out of range to the rear of the cordon. A shot is fired at the police cordon from the direction of the demonstrators.

As already described, the units split, take immediate protection, use tear gas and marksmen are taking position. The unit must try to locate the shooter if he is still in

the area; officers should be using tactical scanning to attempt to locate the shooter. The observer should try to locate the sniper/shooter, and especially if he tries to move. According to the situation, suppressive fire may be ordered by the Commanding Officer, in order to prevent the shooter to change location and carry on shooting. He can also be fixed by the use of canisters to prevent him to sneak out of his shooting position.

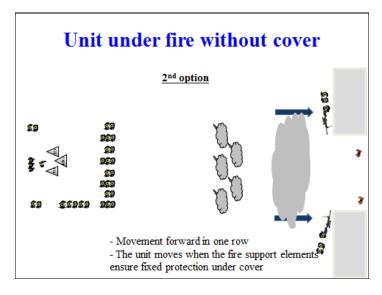
Marksmen will move forward using the principle of tactical progression. The rest of the unit keeps its controlled position, while gas launchers protect the movement of the fire support elements, to disperse the crowd and create a smoke screen.

Weapons are brought into ready position. If there are sniper trained officers with the FPU, they should be deployed. The FPU Commander can use them to identify and neutralise the threat. However, care must be taken that the correct target is engaged. Officers must always be mindful of the legitimate use of Force. A deadly shot should always be ordered by the FPU Commanding Officer in compliance with the proper legal framework, meaning fulfilling the conditions of legitimate defence, (Immediate and actual threat, necessary deadly use of force, voluntary and immediate reaction, useful and proportionate use of force).



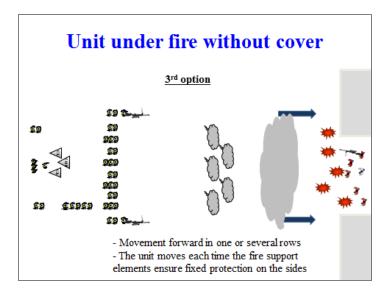
Slides 43 and 44

The unit moves each time fire support elements progress, and increases the distance between the different elements of the formation. Additional tear gases are launched in order to protect the progression of the fire support element and the rest of the unit.



Slide 45

The FPU Commander decides that the fire support elements progress until they ensure fixed protection under cover. The rest of the unit keeps its protective position in kneeling or prone position and it joins the fire support elements when the situation is under control.



Slides 46 to 48

The animated slides illustrate the third option, when fire support element ensures the protection of the unit. The rest of the unit take position on the sides under the protection of the fire support element.

#### Summary

- Learning outcomes
- Definition
- Tactical considerations
- General recommendations in case of attack involving firearms or explosives
  - Unit deployed
  - Unit moving in convoy
  - Unit under fire without immediate cover

Slide 49

The officers should be given a summary of the key points of the lesson before being asked if they have any questions.



Slide 50

# Lesson 2 – Attack against FPU including firearms or explosives during POM (practical element)

There are six hours of practice recommended for this subject which should be carried out at the discretion of the instructor. The practice should be in a realistic situation such as a public order village or 'ghost town' and a 'mob' crowd should be available to act in an appropriate manner where necessary armed with soft balls or similar projectiles. Red guns and blank ammunition should be available for this lesson.