

**PUBLIC ORDER MANAGEMENT**

# **Barricades**

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## Background

Members of a FPU must be able to deal with barricades when they are used by protestors during Public Order Management operations. This module deals with the variations that they are likely to come across and details the equipment and tactics required in order to be able to deal with any incident.

## Aim

To familiarize and enable FPU members with clearing barricades during public order operations

## Learning outcomes

At the end of this module the students will be able to:

- Assess a situation while facing a barricade
- Apply the tactical principles to clear a barricade
- Use the public order management equipment adequately

## Training sequence

The material in this module is designed to be delivered over two hours classroom based theory lessons followed by 13 and half 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 time	Lecture/Presentation	Question/Assessment	Session Activities
16 hours	2 hours	30 mins	13 hours 30 mins
Additional Options	Mission Specific	Optional film	Optional activity

## Methodology

This module contains one 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 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.

- Theory of barricades (two hours classroom lesson) = lesson 1
- Practice (13 and half hours of practical lessons) = lesson 2

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'

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. They must be practiced and skilled to be able to demonstrate the technique correctly. If there is more than one instructor, at least one should have practical experience as Public Order Management trainer in either domestic policing or a peacekeeping mission.

## Instructor Preparations

### Required Readings

- DPKO Policy on Formed Police Units in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations
- FPU Training Handbook
- Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials

## General Preparations

### Equipment:

1. Computer and PowerPoint slides for lesson 1
2. Projector and Screen for lesson 1
3. Full public Order management equipment for each officer for the practical section of the training.
4. APCs
5. Barricade clearing equipment
6. For the practice of the techniques, a mock crowd should be used in order to bring in realism, intensity, and evolving constraints.

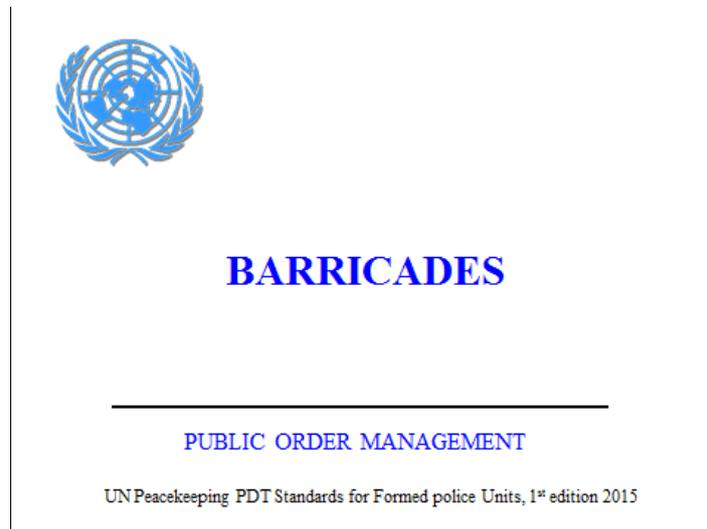
### Training Area:

The initial lesson should be carried out in the classroom; however initially subsequent lessons will need a large open area where students can work in buddy teams and as an FPU section and platoon. Once the basic 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.

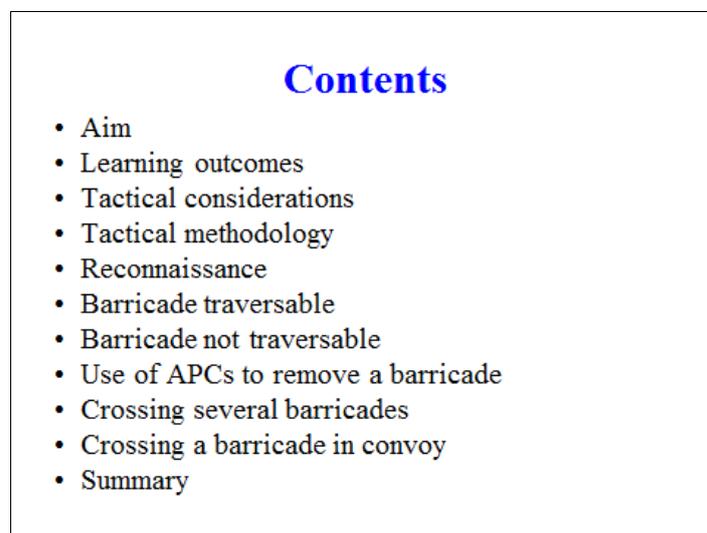
## Session notes

### Lesson 1 – Barricades (theory)

Contents:



Slide 1



Slide 2

## **Aim**

To Familiarize and enable the participants to clear barricades during public order management

Slide 3

## **Learning outcomes**

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

- Assess a situation while facing a barricade
- Apply the tactical principles to clear a barricade
- Use the public order management equipment adequately

Slide 4

## **Tactical considerations**

- Legal status
- Appearance and composition
- Type of barricades
  - Defended (Size, composition, attitude, position, nature)
  - Abandoned/unguarded
  - Traversable or not
  - Multiple roadblocks
- Environment
- Unit equipment
- Mission of the unit

Slide 5

Barricades are a tactic used by demonstrators to restrict the movement of the civil authority or the local community, as they obstruct the legal passage of the population along the highway. This restriction of the freedom of movement, under most legal systems, is illegal and provides the first legal framework to seize and dismantle the barricade.

Barricades can take many formats from a row of burning tires that can be easily crossed, to a full barricade made up from various items of street furniture and waste that stands over a metre in height.

The appearance of a barricade can be misleading and it can be much more dangerous than initially thought. There is a basic technique for dealing with barricades that will keep the officers safe, whilst at the same time attaining the objective of allowing the police to cross and dismantle the barricade.

From a Public Order Management perspective effective crowd control units face several types of barricades. Barricades can be defended by a number of protestors or abandoned /unguarded, traversable or not. More and more, FPUs have to deal with situations where several barricades are set up by demonstrators in a row. The objective is then to slow down or avoid the progression of the police forces to avoid any intervention.

The FPU commander should also consider the environment where the barricade is established. The barricade can be placed in town, on main roads, close to sensitive premises, surrounded by buildings (high positions) or in an open area.

After having considered the composition, the presence or not of demonstrators, the feasibility to cross the barricade, the unit should be equipped adequately to manage the situation. If officer feel the barricade cannot be defeated with the current resources at hand they should avoid at all cost attempting this, safety is paramount.

Finally, the mission of the unit will influence the tactical choice and methodology of the FPU commander. The unit can be tasked to remove completely the barricade or to intervene in specific part of the town, needing to cross only the barricade.

**Tactical methodology**

- Observation
- Use of tear gas if necessary
- The recce
- Booby traps
  - Types
  - Signs
- The breach
- Crossing the barricade
- Repositioning of the unit

Communication/  
coordination

**Tactical methodology**

Crossing the barricade must be guided:

- by night
- when the barricade is still on fire and smoke reduces the visibility
- when presence of sharp objects

Slides 6 and 7

The observation and analysis are the first step of the decision making process in public order management. The intelligence gathered from his observation will provide the FPU commander with a clear vision on how to act accordingly and direct his resources.

One of the dangers associated with barricades is that they may contain booby traps. These can range from explosives, to sharp blades or other implements meant to snare the officers if they try to traverse the barricade. The barricade may also be used to trick and ambush an FPU into luring the police up to the barricade where they may be attacked from rooftops or buildings around the barricade. Alternately they may be an ambush whereby a sniper will shoot at the police as they attempt to traverse or clear the barricade away.

There are some signs which may assist the police to decide if the barricade is a trap.

If demonstrators remain on the far side of the barricade but don't cross towards the police line there is a possibility that it may be booby-trapped. If a big barricade has been erected but there are no demonstrators around this could indicate the presence of either an ambush or bobby-traps. In the event something suspicious is discovered and the possibility of injury is great, the unit commander should make contact with the operational centre and request for specialized unit intervention.

In the majority of cases, a recce of the barricade should be undertaken to ensure that it is clear to traverse. Only a clear risk to the recce team would justify not doing so, in which case the police may have to isolate the barricade and deal with it at a later time once the general situation of disorder has been dealt with and order restored. This option will mean having to deploy officers to guard it and this can be difficult during a public order situation when resources are normally required to be actively involved in calming the disorder.

The recce is also performed in order to identify the weakest point of the barricade and to open a breach for the crossing of the unit.

When dealing with barricades police need to be very careful in the positioning of the unit. Stopping too close to a barricade is a common and dangerous mistake. Similarly, once the barricade has been traversed they must not re-establish their cordon too close behind the barricade, as this will restrict their ability to manoeuvre and possibly block or restrict their line of retreat if that becomes necessary.

When it comes to crossing the barricade itself it is usually operated in teams or in buddy teams to avoid creating a larger breach. It needs to be conducted quickly, (at the double normally) in case of potential ambush. The crossing of the barricade can be operated with vehicles if necessary or according to the distance (distance, buildings, enough space for the vehicles, environment, junctions...).

When the barricade is still controlled by the demonstrators, the FPU must move the crowd way from the immediate vicinity of the barricade before crossing the barricade. This will reduce the risk of being pinned against the barricade if attacked. Opening more space will provide the cordon with greater manoeuvres capacity.

## The reconnaissance

- Recce composition
- Tactical consideration
  - Check for booby traps
  - Check for potential snagging
- Action on booby traps
- Action on barricade (open a breach)
- Recce is made from one side to the other one and vice versa

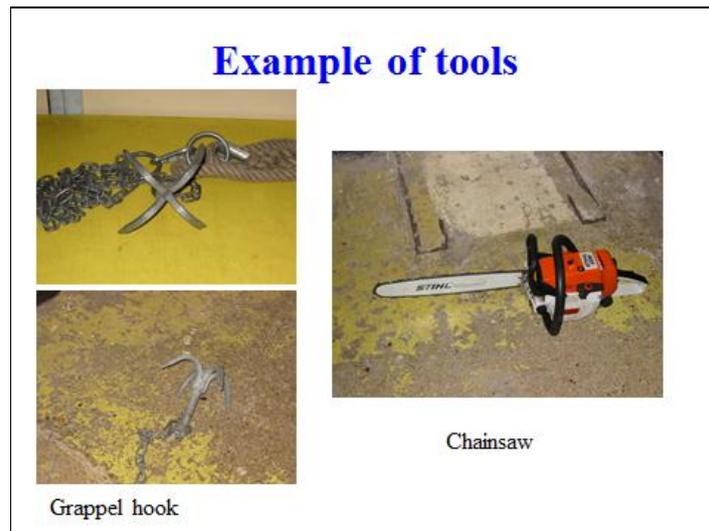
### Slide 8

The recce is made by one team and supported by another one. The remainder of the unit should be kept back from the barricade ready to support if necessary. Where possible, APCs should be used to protect the approach of the recce teams.

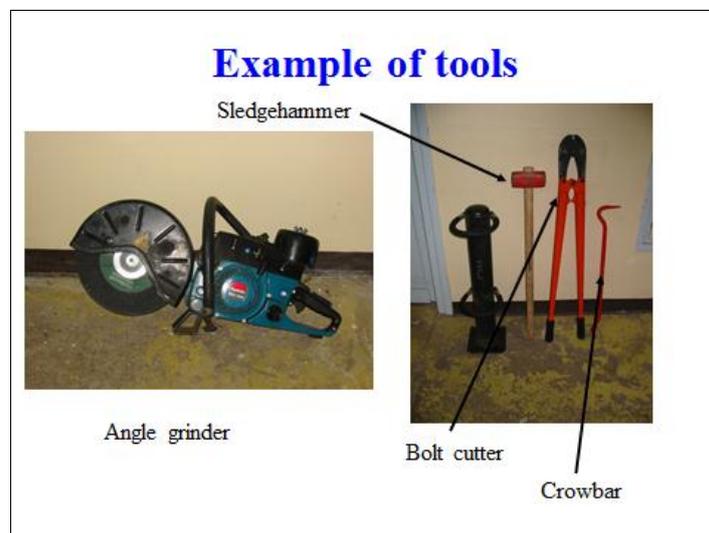
The key tasks for the recce team are, to determine if the obstacles are booby trapped, if they can be easily removed and where is the safest and weakest point to cross. The recce party will as well try to gather as much information as possible about the situation beyond the barricade.

Part of this assessment is to determine the best point to push, drag or crash the barricade. At the same time checking there is no metal cable to obstruct vehicles. If there are any cables or sharp obstructions that will impede the passage on an APC then they should be removed using the specialised equipment carried on the vehicles (see next slide).

If the barricade is booby trapped then no attempt should be made to disarm it without specialised assistance, i.e. explosive ordinance disposal teams. In this case the barricade will need to be cordoned off and guarded until such time as it is made safe. The unit should withdraw to a safe distance where they will not be affected should the booby trap be activated.



Slide 9

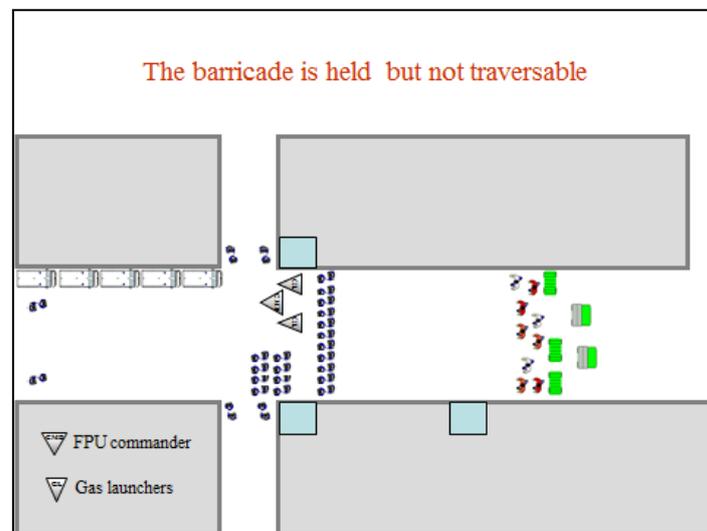


Slide 10

Slides 9 and 10 illustrated the type of equipment that will be necessary to remove barricades.

The grapple hooks are used to pull the barricade towards the unit to make a breach. The Angle Grinder and Chainsaw are designed for cutting through the barricade. Crowbars and sledgehammers can be used to smash items or pry them out of the way and the bolt cutters are useful for cutting cables. These can be especially useful where protestors have chained themselves to barricades to stop the police from dismantling them.





Slide 17 - 29

Slides 17 – 29 are animated to show the method of dealing with a barricade that is not traversable and occupied by demonstrators.

It should be also mentioned that in this case, the recce could be done from both side of the barricade, only if the demonstrators have left and that the demonstrators have release their pressure on the recce teams.

The recce on both sides of the barricade has to be made each and every time once through, this will allow a more in depth evaluation prior to completely dismantling the entire barricade.

🔗 **Instructors note:** Slides 17 - 29 are a series of animated slides which illustrate the method of dealing with a barricade that is not traversable and held by demonstrators, the PowerPoint version of the presentation on the resource disc must be used for this section of the lesson

## Use of APCs to remove and cross a barricade

### Aim

- Provide protection
- Identify potential crossing point
- Remove the barricade

### Slide 30

Most APCs can be very useful in crossing barricades, although both the FPU commander and the individual drivers need to be aware of any limitations the vehicles may have, particularly in regard to crashing barricades.

The APC can provide protection to the recce team as they approach the barricade so that they are not exposed to demonstrators or a potential ambush.

They can be used to identify potential crossing points as the vehicle being higher off the ground is easier to see over the taller barricades and the vehicle can manoeuvre around it safely.

They can be used to remove the barricade; this can be done in a number of ways, by dragging using a grappling hook or rope, by pushing a section of the barricade forward to form a breach, or simply by crashing through it forming a path for the officers.

APCs are capable of carrying a number of items of equipment which are ideal for assisting with the removal of barricades.

For observation and identification they have binoculars, search light, night vision devices. This is particularly important in low light conditions to identify potential threats that could be missed with the human eye.

They can carry both individual and unit equipment including the chainsaws, hooks etc. discussed earlier.

They also carry rescue equipment in the form of fire extinguishers and first aid kits

They have additional weaponry in the form of gas launchers, hand canisters, and firearms if required.

Many APCs are equipped with winches which allow opening a barricade by dragging different entangled obstacles. This requires specific security measures since the cable, (or rope) may not be strong enough and might break suddenly. In such case, the broken cable may act as a whip that can easily injure a member of the team. Therefore, safety requires that no officers standing the danger zone during this operation. The danger zone is defined as the area within the radius equivalent to twice the length of the cable.

Lastly they will have radio communication in both national and organizational levels which will enhance communication.

**Coordination**

- FPU commander
- APC platoon commander
- Section and team leaders
- It is critical to have a radio network between the APCs and the FPU on the ground, (security).

Slide 31

In order to use APCs in these circumstances coordination is key, the FPU Commander must be able to communicate with the APC Platoon commander, the Section and Team leaders, and the radio network is the ideal medium for ensuring that all aware of what is happening. There must always be a radio network between the APC driver and the commanding officer on the ground for security reasons. Most of the APCs have a very limited peripheral vision and they sometime have to drive as “blind: (going through a barricade, paint on the windshield, smoke, darkness...). The coordination with the unit on the ground aims at avoiding accident and guides the APCs if need be. In the same perspective, there should never be troops walking between two moving APCs, since officers may easily be injured.

When executing the manoeuvre in an APC the following points should be noted:

The first key point is to observe, what is the barricade made of? Wood, cans, cables, vehicles etc. Was the barricade set up before or at the arrival of the unit? Are there people around it? Is it dry or burning?

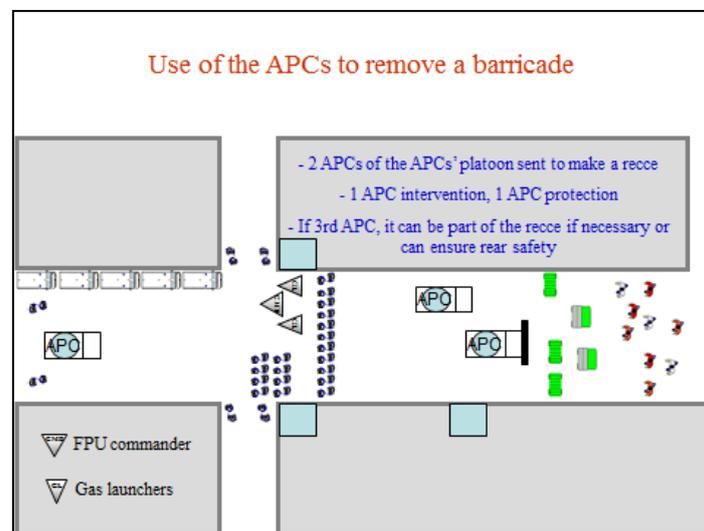
Always conduct a recce, time invested will play a huge role in terms of success or failure. A support group must be ready to keep any demonstrators back with the aid of CS gas if necessary.

The recce must determine if obstacles are booby trapped or fixed and also the best method for breaching it, i.e. pushing, dragging or crashing. If it is burning vehicles need to be kept at a distance of 100 meters to reduce the potential fire risk to the Petrol tanks. The recce must report back

When opening of the breach the FPU Commander must coordinate with the platoon leaders and the recce team

Crossing over the APCs take position beyond the obstacle, cover and report back, the platoons following directly by foot or by vehicle. There may be a need to channel the unit through the barricade if there are poor visibility conditions or the presence of sharp objects which may cause injury.

The commanding officer must bear in mind that the route might have many other barricades ahead and he may also need to exit the area via this same route. It is advisable to prevent future use of the very same materials by cutting cables, trees, and obstacles when possible and moving them away from the immediate area. This will make it more difficult for demonstrators to reconstruct a barricade.



Slide 32 – 50

Slides 34 – 52 are animated to show the method of dealing with a barricade with the use of APCs

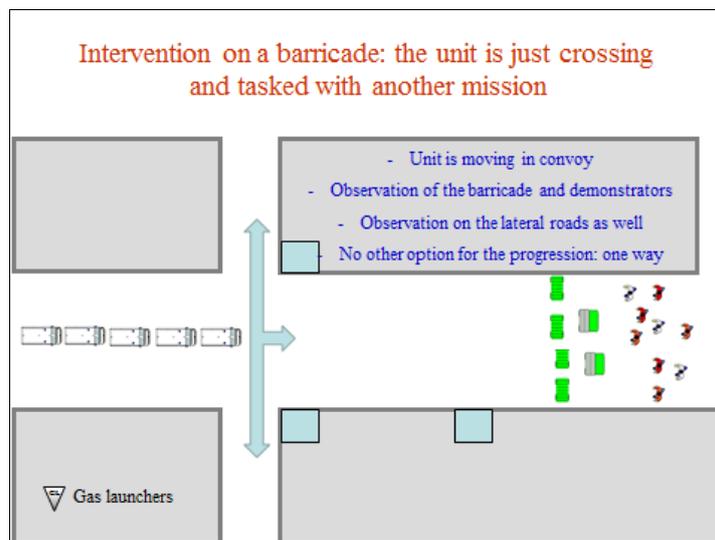
**Instructors note:** Slides 32 - 50 are a series of animated slides which illustrate

the method of dealing with a barricade with the use of APCs. The PowerPoint version of the presentation on the resource disc must be used for this section of the lesson

### Specific cases

- Unit in convoy facing a barricade
- Unit facing several barricade
- Intervention on a barricade in an open area
  - No presence of demonstrators
  - Presence of demonstrators

Slide 51



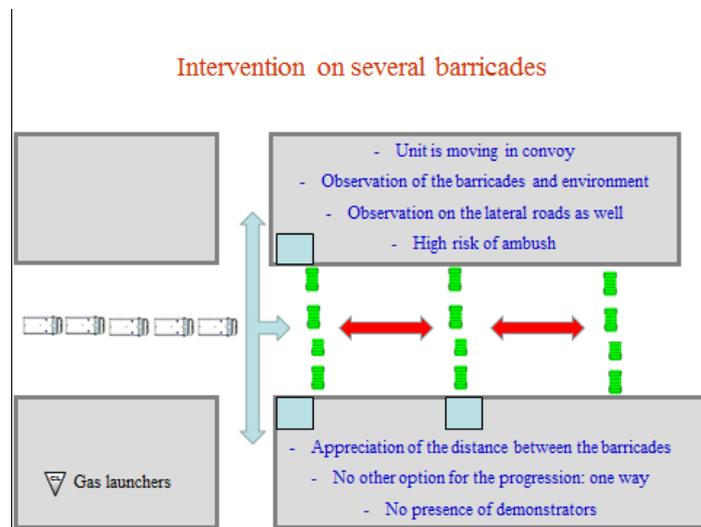
Slides 52 to 58

Slides 52 – 58 are animated to show how a unit moving in convoy crosses a barricade

The priority is given to the removal of the obstacles. The unit needs to cross the barricade to have access to the location of its next mission.

In this case, the vehicles are used to bring the recce teams as close as possible and offer a “kind” of protection.

If the demonstrators possess a strong resistance, the unit may need to withdraw and inform the operational centre. A decision can be taken to task another unit or to redirect the unit even if the unit takes additional time to reach the location.



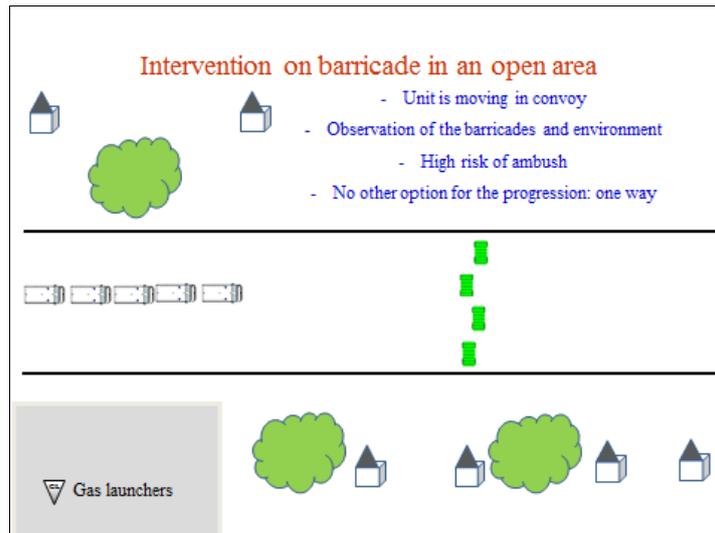
Slides 59 to 67

Slides 59 – 67 are animated to show how a unit moving in convoy crosses several barricades

The distance between the barricades will affect the decision making process. The unit commander will have to consider the best tactical choice according to the situation.

Two aspects have to be considered by him:

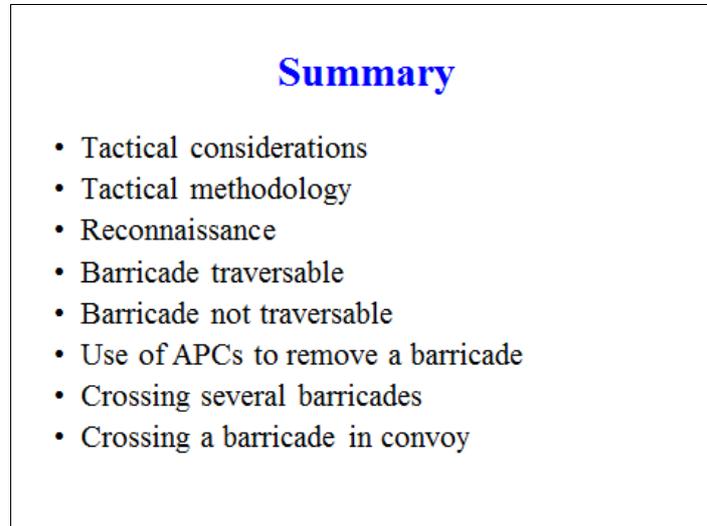
- The distance between the barricades
- The distance between the recce teams and the unit



Slides 68 to 79

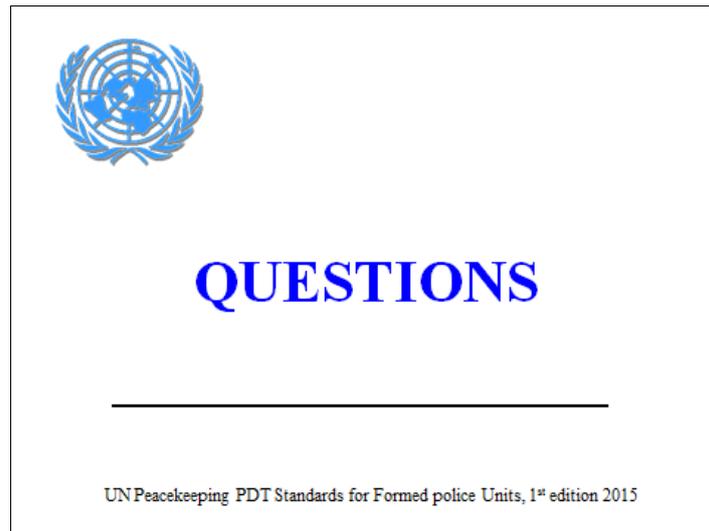
Slides 70 – 81 are animated to show how a unit moving in convoy deals with barricades in an open area with or without demonstrators

In this case, it is important that the unit takes the best protection. This protection is offered by the vehicles that are placed in order to propose a cover to the officers.



Slide 80

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



Slide 81

## **Lesson 2 – Barricades (practical element)**

There are thirteen and half hours of practice recommended for these subjects 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.

The APCs must be made available to practice the manoeuvres. Again this must be done in a realistic manner and the APC drivers must have the ability to practice the various techniques for removing or traversing the barricade.