

**PUBLIC ORDER MANAGEMENT**

# **Intervention in prisons**

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## Background

In fragile states emerging from conflict, it is essential to reinstate the rule of law as soon as possible. This requires the setting up of a legal system which will include the establishment of prisons.

The local detention conditions, the underlying political and social tensions in the considered countries or external causes may prompt detainees to carry on disturbances in the detention centres or even attempt of break-outs.

UN FPUs may be requested to support the Corrections service of the host state when these occur. In non-executive mandates they must be agreed and authorised by both the Head of the Mission and the government of the host state. However, even in the framework of an executive mandate, detention centres don't fall explicitly under the regular FPU's portfolio and as a consequence, such mission should be provided with the proper legal framework. For more details see the policy on FPUs.<sup>1</sup>

This module gives a basic framework that can be used to restore order and return the prisoners to the host state corrections officers.

### Aim

To understand the particular challenges and to apply the techniques in the tactical response to threatening incidents in prison.

### Learning outcomes

On completion of this module participants will be able to:

- Explain of the planning process
- Seal off the area and provide security for personnel and public
- Demonstrate the technique of safely entering a prison compound
- Demonstrate the technique of securing the prisoners.

### Training sequence

The material in this module is designed to be delivered over a 40 minute classroom based theory lesson, followed by 4 hours of practice, which should include assessment. This is on the assumption that the students have received no previous training in this subject.

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<sup>1</sup> Revised Policy on Formed Police Units in Peacekeeping Operations; March 1 2010, Chap D.1 2.

## Duration

Minimum Session time	Lecture/Presentation	Question/Assessment	Session Activities
5 hours	1 hour		4 hours
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 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 intervention in prisons (1 hour classroom lesson) = lesson 1
- Practice (4 hours of practical lessons) = lesson 2

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 as demonstrators and members of the public and prisoners

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 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 trainer in either domestic policing or a peacekeeping mission.

## Instructor Preparations

### Required Readings

- DPKO Policy on Formed Police Units in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations
- Basic Principles on the Use of Force
- Directives of Use of Force and SOPs

### General Preparations

Equipment:

1. Computer and PowerPoint slides for lesson 1
2. Projector and Screen for lesson 1
3. Crowd Control equipment for the practical element

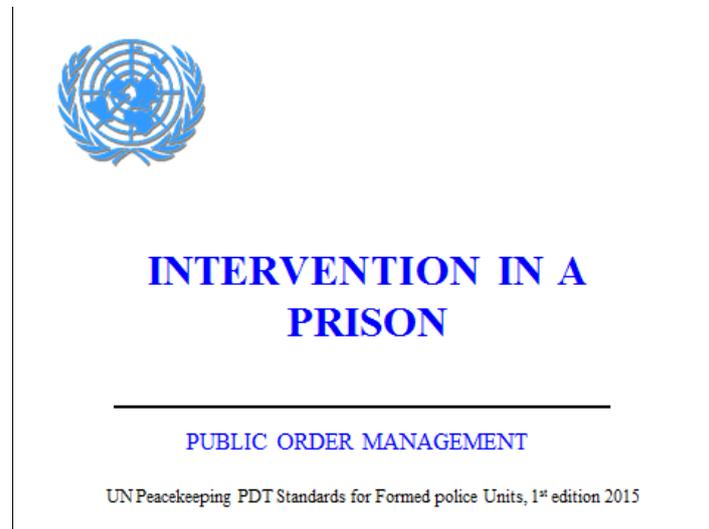
Training Area:

The initial lesson should be carried out in the classroom; however subsequent lessons will need a building, preferably on several levels with a number of rooms and a yard or enclosed open area, so that officers can practice all the techniques of searching for prisoners and conducting surrender.

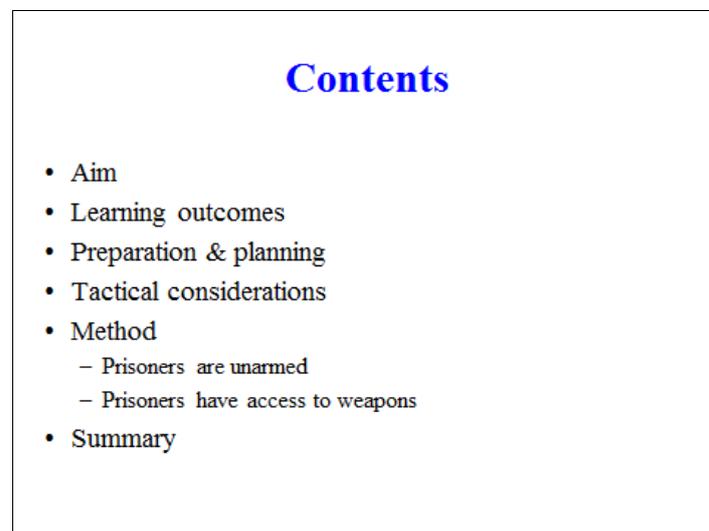
Session notes

**Lesson 1 – Intervention in prisons (Theory)**

Contents:



Slide 1



Slide 2

## Aim

Familiarise and practice the FPU in the tactical response to threatening incidents in prison

Slide 3

## Learning outcomes

On completion of this module participants will be able to:

- Have an awareness of the planning process
- Seal off the area and provide security for personnel and public
- Demonstrate the technique of safely entering a prison compound
- Demonstrate the technique of securing the prisoners

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## Intervention in a prison

### Preparation and Planning

- Theoretical preparation
- Material preparation
- Tactical preparation



## Slide 5

Intervention in a prison is a complex and potentially dangerous operation. It should not be taken on unless there has been sufficient preparation and planning and the unit are trained in the drills required to restore order inside the prison.

There are three areas that should be considered from the start; these are the theoretical planning, which will include the legal basis for the UN action, the material planning which will ascertain the level of equipment necessary and finally the tactical planning which will result in the Operation Order and the deployment of the FPU.

**Intervention in a prison**

**Theoretical preparation =**

**Legal framework**

- Host State request
- Law
- UN decision and policy
- Use of force
- Intelligence gathering



## Slide 6

Theoretical preparation will start following a request from the host state; this will normally have come through the government from the director of the prison or detention centre when in a non-executive mandate. Should it be an Executive mandate, then the request may come from the head of the Rule of Law, (PDSRSG ROL).

The first key element for the officer in charge is to make sure there is a legal framework within the host country to allow the FPU to carry out their role in restoring order in the prison. This will provide a legal protection for the unit if it is required to use force (see below).

From the UN perspective it will be for the Head of mission or the Police Commissioner to decide on the deployment of FPUs. No FPU commander should commit to such an operation without reference to the Police Commissioner.

Following the decision to commit to the operation, the commander must ensure the level of force that can be used under the support of the law. Intervention in a prison can require the use of deadly force in certain circumstances; the operational commander must ensure that his officers are protected by the law if they are required to resort to that extreme.

**In any case, the intervention will be operated in support of the local security forces.**

The next key stage is Information gathering. This must be as detailed as possible and will include the following:

Prisoners – strength (numbers involved), attitude, weapons (if any), photos (particularly of ringleaders or known violent criminals), diseases, previous situations (those involved and the result), leaders, and behaviour, potential target among the detainees, (the unrest can be a decoy to harm a specific detainee).

The prison guards – weapons, deployment, effectiveness, and methods of communications, hostages, “bad blood between specific guards and detainees. ..

The prison itself -

- External and internal maps
- Key points:
  - Weaponry
  - Kitchens
  - Workshops
  - Roof access
  - Infirmary
  - Control room
- Escape points, weak points and liabilities.
- Access points and high positions around the prison
- Systems:
  - Electrical
  - Fire prevention (sprinklers)
  - Ventilation
  - Evacuation
  - Communication
  - Surveillance (CCTV)

According to the mission, the police commissioner can make an official request to the military component or the Chief of Mission Support the deployment of a helicopter.

A same request can be made to the international security forces present in the

country if any.

The use of a helicopter will bring accurate information on the location of the prisoners within the prison, their attitude, on their armament and on the condition of the prison (doors open, holes in the walls...), presence of injured or dead persons.

The police commissioner needs also to prepare a medical evacuation plan with the presence of ambulances before the intervention and to identify the units that will provide the ambulances. The support of the Red Cross can be also requested.

**Finally, he will ask for the presence of the local authorities on the ground. The head of the local police and the prosecutor presence should be considered as a priority.**

### Intervention in a prison

**Material preparation**

- Vehicles
- Entry
- Protection
- Lighting
- Handcuffing
- Weaponry
- Communication means
- Megaphone



Slide 7

Material preparation includes both individual and collective equipment that will be required for a successful intervention.

Entry equipment may be required but are dependent on the method of entry, so all or some of the equipment listed may be required. For example if there will be a need to cross obstacles or enter higher or lower levels of the building the following should be considered:

- Ladders
- Ropes
- Snap links
- Harnesses

For breaking into rooms and cells the following will be necessary:

- Hammers
- Breaking bar

- Door breaker
- Bolt cutters

The next element is the protection equipment that will be required; this will be dependent on the intelligence regarding how dangerous the prisoners are assessed and any weapon(s) they may be in possession of. The following list is suggested although not exhaustive:

- Vehicles
  - Priority to APCs
  - Trucks to transport equipment or remove equipment from the prison
  - Busses in the event prisoners need to be evacuated from the prison
- Megaphone for the warnings and initiation of the negotiations
- Crowd control:
  - Small shields
  - Ballistic shields
- Fire:
  - Fire extinguisher
  - Fire blanket
- Medical:
  - First aid kit,
  - Medical unit
  - Gloves
- Lighting:
  - Collective:
    - Search lights,
  - Individual:
    - Personal lights
    - Torches
- Handcuffing
  - Metal handcuffs
  - Plastic handcuffs
- Weaponry
  - Assault/sniper rifles – for use on towers & roofs
  - Gas launchers - for use in external perimeter & exercise yard.
  - Side Arms – officer's personal protection
  - Non-lethal weapons:
    - Police batons
    - Taser
    - CS/OC spray
    - Flash ball (distraction device)

However, in the planning preparatory phase, it is critical for the commanding officer to be imaginative but also conservative in his approach. As a consequence, regardless of the plans he is putting together, he should give orders to bring all equipment available for the FPU, (even some borrowed to other units) in order to be able to address unexpected challenges without delay in their implementation.

## Intervention in a prison

### Tactical options to be considered

- Secure the surroundings of the prison (large area)
- Secure the immediate accesses to the prison (immediate roads)
- Liaise with local authorities and other security forces on the ground = mobile command post
- Start negotiations after identification of prisoners representatives
- Identify immediate worse case scenario and prepare a team/plan ASAP

## Intervention in a prison

### Tactical options to be considered

- Decide for intervention if negotiations failed
- Define the limit of intervention success and cost of failure
- Identify alternate secure facilities in case none involved prisoners need evacuation
- Determine medical priorities (medical teams in standby)
- Decide methods/means of intervention
- Consider use of force options

## Intervention in a prison

### Definition of tasks

- Cordons
- Funneling
- Intervention
- Guard
- Reserve



## Slides 8 to 10

Finally this is the time for the Tactical Preparation phase following which the unit commander will issue its Operation Order.

On the spot, the police commissioner or his representative (chief of operations, deputy chief of operations or other designated person) establishes a mobile command post (if not already existent) in order to gather all security forces representatives and prepare the intervention. All the operational aspects are discussed and roles are distributed according to the tasks and the unit capacities (equipment and manpower).

1- First priority consists of securing the prison exits and the surroundings.

The Commander will need to decide on the location of cordons. The external cordon will may be the responsibility of the Host State police, in order to keep more FPU officers assigned to more critical part of the mission. However, when the number of available officers allow, it is better to have all enforcing officers coming from a sole service, (host-country or FPUs) and placed under a single Authority in order to improve the coordination of the operations. In any case, the outer cordon will have to be both inward and outward facing, to stop any attempt to infiltrate to enable a breakout and inward facing, to ensure that none of the prisoner escapes.

Dependant on the extent of the disorder, there may be a need to have additional cordons inside the prison as well as outside. Isolating the disturbed area remains a key element of the operation.

2- Second priority: start the negotiations and identify leaders/spokespersons

It will be the responsibility of the host country to negotiate with the prisoners. If requested by the prisoners, the police commissioner or his representative can represent the local authorities during the negotiations phase.

The negotiations can be made from a vehicle with a megaphone or a meeting outside the prison can be arranged with some prisoners in order to receive their claims.

Spokespersons are identified among the prisoners and have to represent all categories of prisoners.

Solutions have to be provided by the local authorities.

If no solutions are found, the intervention is decided.

- 3- Support to the intervention element: identification of the unit element which will be responsible to set up a funnelling cordon within the prison in order to take control of all prisoners

There will be a need to place a funnelling cordon inside the prison to take the subdued prisoners from the intervention team as they surrender or are detained. This funnel will need to guide them out, search them and then hand them over to the guards, (FPU officers or host country correction officers) so that they can be processed back into the justice system. It is also important that they are counted through to ensure that all inmates are accounted for. It is also essential that before being handed over, all inmates are searched by the FPU officers, that the injured ones are provided with medical care and this has to be documented. It is as well advisable to take a picture of each of the detainees, in order to prove who actually has been “processed” by the FPU and if they sustained any specific injuries.

The handover to the national Authorities has to be formally conducted, through a “statement or release or handover”<sup>2</sup>. The Human Right Affairs office of the UN Mission has to be reported these handover procedures and given a copy of the handover documents in order to conduct a follow up of the detention to make sure detainees wouldn’t be submitted to retaliations and violations of their human rights.

- 4- Designation of the intervention element

The first police officers entering the prison should be from the local security forces. The UN police just provide the local police with operational support (except if the local security forces are not present or not operational). Before any intervention, high positions of the prison have to be held by police officers equipped with long rifle and gas launchers.

The Intervention element must be arranged, so that there is an initial intervention team that may have to break in the prison, and the first elements must be prepared for a significant use of force against them by the detainees and consequently, they have to be equipped with appropriate protective gears, what may include flak jackets.. The protection element must be ready to deploy to use force, either to support the first contact elements or to support their withdrawal in case the level of violence would be too high. The use of CS gas should be kept as a last resort since, because of the contained characteristics of a prisons, detainees cannot escape the smoke what is likely to create stampeded and a panic. However, it is possible to use CS foam, against the elements struggling directly against the contact line of the intervention teams.

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<sup>2</sup> “Statement or release or handover”; annexe C from the Interim Standard Operating Procedures on Detention in United Nations Peace Operations, 25 January 2011.

Every time FPU officers are about to enter and invest a new area, the commanding officer should ask the detainees to surrender. Even though, few are likely to do, it is always as many who will not be opposing the law enforcement officers. It is important to bear in mind that regaining ground in a prison during such operation isn't the only goal. Regaining control, subduing and checking prisoners is also part of the mission. Once prisoners are arrested or surrender, they are handed over to arrest teams to secure and search the prisoners and take them to the funnelling officers for channelling the detainees out of the operation area, in the guarding area.

#### 5- Identification of internal rooms. Preparation of an alternative solution

In this regard, it is important to identify previously different rooms where the prisoners will be searched (one room) and kept (second separate room) before reintegrating the jails. The search has to be performed in a methodical way, without room for improvisation and amateurism. Clothes have to be removed and searched.

It is vitally important that the prisoners, once subdued are under guard at all times, disorder in a prison is an opportunity for an escape and the officers should be alert to this throughout the operation. It is as well essential to remember that, as soon as the prisoners are subdued, they fall under the FPU's responsibility and they should be protected from threats and or violence from various sources. This should be implemented as well when the inmates are detained in the guarded area. Women and minors should be kept separated from male detainees, in order to avoid any kind of violence against them.

During the protest, prisoners could have damaged parts of the prison and possibly vital areas required to operate. This needs to be considered in the event inmates need to be displaced to another location within the facility while work can be completed to secure the prison.

In case of such an event the movement of prisoners has to be properly prepared with a clear itinerary highlighting various aspects such as transportation, meals, medical, additional staff and so forth. The officer in charge has to schedule the vehicles rotations in order to move all the prisoners securely. Escorts have to be provided.

#### 6- Reserve element

Finally the Reserve element must be organised what requires the definition of a suitable waiting location from which it can be deployed rapidly to any area that it may be required.

## Intervention in a prison

### Tactical choices

- Timing of the intervention
- Place of the intervention
- Simultaneous or staggered



### Slide 11

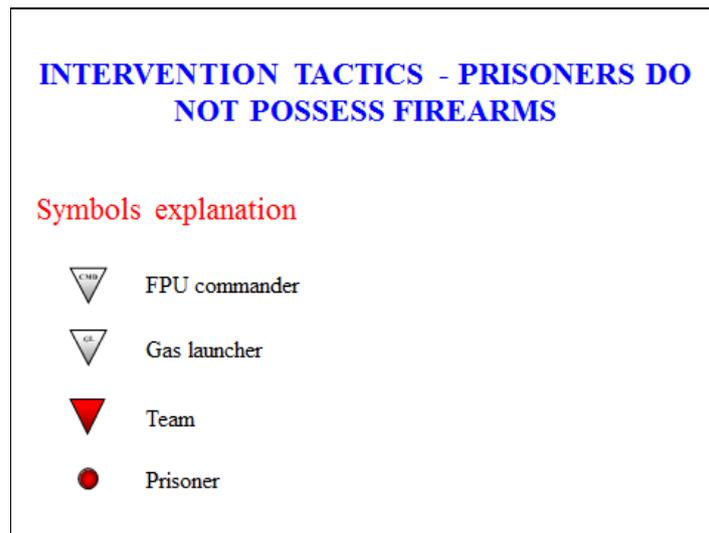
Finally the Commander will have to make his tactical choices. Key to this is the timing of the operation which will depend on different factors. The most favourable moment for the operation depends of the circumstances, the level of threat and emergencies. It can be preferable in some cases to try to surprise the detainees but in some other cases, it is better to display an impressive force in order to regain control on the prison without having to resort to the use of force. It is as well important to take into consideration the reasons why the prisoners create disturbances. In many countries where peacekeeping missions have been deployed, the living conditions in the prisons are dreadful and the reasons for demonstrating can sometimes be close from self-defence, (detainees starving to death or thirsty in jail for instance). This has to be factored in for the planning of the operation.

The critical phase of the planning will focus on the area of the building that requires the immediate attention. This usually is associated to a breach of the perimeter or an entrance or exit point that requires access control and the appropriate resources.

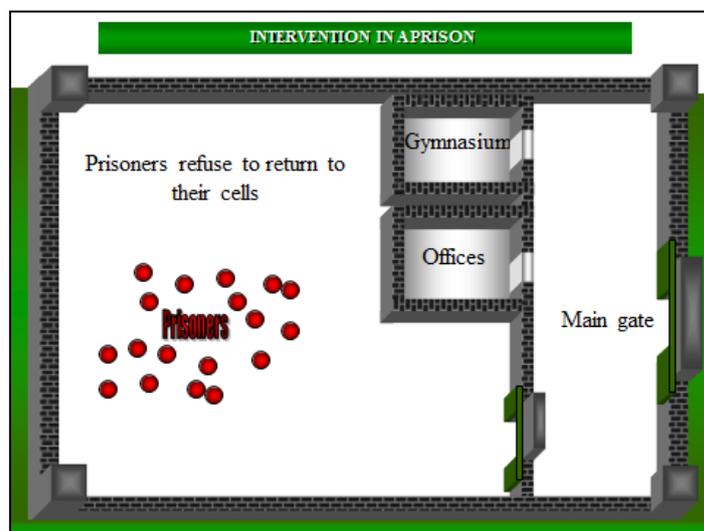
Where a multiple entry is required, the decision to whether the intervention will be simultaneous or staggered is dependent on several factors. The size of the prison, the number of inmates and personnel will dictate your progress and whether or not a simultaneous approach is possible. However, such solution requires an excellent coordination which takes very well trained units and a very capable commanding officer, reliable radio-communication and a site which is not too large. Night operations make it even more complex and dangerous. In any case, the commanding officer must have under his eyes a map of the operating area where he can define the different zones through a "navy battle grid, (a,b, c,d,e...on one side and 1,2,3,4,5. on the other side). This will make much easier the reporting process and allow a better understanding of the ground gained by the platoons.

The gaining movement is usually slow to keep it thorough. The containment of

zones, one after the other is the rule. Especially in a prison of modern design, the different areas are separated and have limited access points usually only through a central staircase, (a star-like design) which makes the mastery of this staircase a critical point since it conditions the access to the different areas. It allows limiting the spread of the riots. It is important for the commanding officer to remember that for a large correction centre, the prison shouldn't be considered as a whole, but rather as different entities, with their specific populations, risks, dynamic and histories.



Slide 12



Slides 13 to 23

If prisoners are present in different locations of the prison, one platoon will start to search all the rooms of the prison, from the top to the bottom of the buildings

Make sure that the prisoners are prevented from accessing armoury/weapons

stores, if they have got access to any weapons the platoon should be equipped with a bullet proof shield for the first contact elements. .

**INTERVENTION TACTICS - PRISONERS IN POSSESSION OF FIREARMS**

- Bullet proof shields
- Isolate
- Report
- Request support



Slide 24

If the prisoners are believed to be in possession of firearms the operation becomes highly dangerous and the intervention platoon should be equipped with bullet proof shields and flak jackets. In case it appears that some prisoners have managed to get firearms, there must be an immediate strategic withdrawal of the contact units until adequate protection is available for the all the involved officers...

Isolate the area and secure all the exits, the prison should be contained and snipers and armed officers should be deployed in positions of cover for this purpose. As always negotiation should be used to effect the surrender of the prisoners rather than to use deadly force.

The Commander must report to Headquarters and to the local authorities as the operation in case he may have to resort to deadly force.

Same procedure should be followed in this case regarding the establishment of a mobile command post and of negotiations.

Where they are available a SWAT team should be deployed in support, either as reserve element or as first entry elements, in order to scout the areas deemed as most exposed.

## Summary

- Preparation & planning
- Tactical considerations
- Method
  - Prisoners are unarmed
  - Prisoners have access to weapons

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



## QUESTIONS

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UN Peacekeeping PDT Standards for Formed police Units, 1<sup>st</sup> edition 2015

Slide 26

### **Lesson 2 – Intervention in prisons (practical element)**

There are four hours of practice recommended for this subjects which should be carried out at the discretion of the instructor. The practice should be in a realistic situation, preferably in a large building with a number of rooms over several levels and a courtyard or external contained area to simulate a prison yard.

A number of officers/instructors will be required to act as role players so that the unit can practice various drills.

The unit's assessment should form part of this practical element.