

**COMMAND STAFF TRAINING**

# **Security of UN Personnel**

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## Background

Whilst a Formed Police Unit will be deployed as such, there are elements of personal safety of which they need to be aware. When working in a Peacekeeping mission there are threats to an officer not normally encountered in domestic policing. This lesson deals with those extraordinary threats. These are by no means common but the individual officer must have a contingency plan if they occur in mission. The majority of the lesson relates to the action that an individual has to take, with the exception of the section relating to checkpoints.

## Aim

Familiarize the FPU with personal & tactical response to incidents which may put their personal safety at risk.

## Learning outcomes

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

- Identify how to ensure their personal safety
- Take appropriate action at a hostile checkpoint
- Have an awareness of measures to take if captured and held hostage
- React appropriately if bombed or shelled
- Deal appropriately with aggressive persons
- Sensitize other officers or UN staff and advise them in case of need.

## Training sequence

The material in this module is designed to be delivered over a 40 minute classroom based theory lesson, followed by 2 hours of practical, which should include assessment. This is based on the assumption that the students have received no previous training in this subject.

## Duration

Minimum Session time	Lecture/Presentation	Question/Assessment	Session Activities
2 hours 40 mins	40 mins	1 hour	2 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 is practically based.

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.

- Security of personnel (40 minute classroom lesson)
- Practice (2 hours of practical lessons)

The practical periods are best conducted in the form of exercises which should be carried out in as realistic situation as possible with the use of other officers acting hostile elements

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 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 should have practical experience as a 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
- UN Civilian police handbook chapter 6

- Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials
- Basic and advanced security training for UN staff

### General Preparations

#### Equipment:

1. Computer and PowerPoint slides for lesson 1
2. Projector and Screen for lesson 1
3. Vehicles weapons and equipment for practical exercises including 'rebel' uniforms

#### Training Area:

The initial lesson should be carried out in the classroom; however subsequent lessons will be ideally suited to an urban situation, for this purpose a 'ghost town' or public order village is ideal where Checkpoints can be constructed.

## Session notes

### Lesson 1 – Checkpoints (Theory)

Contents:

CONTENTS
• Aim
• Learning Outcomes
• Generalities
• Check point
• Hostage taking
• Bombing
• Loss of communication
• Summary

Slide 1

AIM
Familiarize the FPU with personal & tactical response to incidents which may put their personal safety at risk

Slide 2

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this module students will be able to:

- Identify how to ensure their personal safety
- Take appropriate action at a hostile checkpoint
- Have an awareness of measures to take if captured and held hostage
- React appropriately if bombed or shelled
- Deal appropriately with aggressive persons

Slide 3

### GENERALITIES

- Always maintain communication
- Maintain a continuous evaluation of the situation
- Gather information before entering an insecure area
- Always carry your radio
- Clearly identify staff and vehicles

Slide 4

As a general rule, members of the FPU and any sub unit, should at all times maintain communication between each other whatever the incident is that they are dealing with. One of the main dangers to a police officer in a peacekeeping mission is being separated from his unit. This is when he is the most vulnerable, especially being in a foreign county and not knowledgeable of the local culture, where the officer may not speak the local language and in a location which is not known to him.

Along with this communication, must be the ability to constantly evaluate and analyse the situation as it unfolds. As any police officer will know situations can change rapidly and it is only by using their individual policing skills that officers will be able to identify the signs that a situation may be about to deteriorate and there is danger present, either from a situation or from an individual. This danger may be directed at them, their unit or members of the general public.

Information is critical to any situation; officers should always gather as much information about a situation before they expose themselves to it. The JMAC, previous patrol reports or information from individual UN police officers stationed in the area are all sources of good information. The local community or the local police may be able to provide useful information but be aware that this may be unreliable. Officers should ensure that they are in possession of all the relevant facts before they expose themselves to a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation.

Officers should always carry their radio, individually issued or collective. Where the sub unit commander is in possession of the radio, then the unit should ensure that they remain close enough to that individual so that they can communicate accordingly. One of the biggest mistakes is to leave the radio in a vehicle when responding to a sudden or violent situation, leaving the officers unable to communicate with other members of the FPU, their Commander or their HQ. In case of an urgent need for medical evacuation or reinforcement, this can make the difference between life and death.

There is never any reason to hide the fact that the FPU is deployed as a UN Peacekeeping Unit all personnel should be clearly identifiable at UN personnel in uniform wearing UN flashes, blue berets, caps or helmets as appropriate and wearing UN covers to their body armour when appropriate. If this can sometimes makes these officers targets, it can also be their protection and guarantee their legitimacy. All vehicles should be painted white with the letters 'UN' clearly displayed. Flags should be used to emphasise the units UN identification. In addition, all personnel must carry their UN identification both on and off duty when outside of their camp or compound. UN personnel should never conceal their identity and should be willing to prove it when asked, remembering that all peacekeepers benefit of the protection provided by the article VII of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, approved by the General assembly in 1946, providing a protection somehow similar to the one attached to the status of diplomats.

## PERSONAL SAFETY

- Do not carry too much money
- Do not carry high value items
- Avoid carrying private notebooks or photos
- Always be passive in your attitude
- Never provoke or promise anything you are not able to provide



### Slide 5

Either on or off duty officers should avoid carrying a lot of money, since a large amount is likely to raise awareness among people around which may target the officer as a potential robbery victim.

Along with money, high value items such as expensive watches and jewellery should also be avoided for the same reasons. It could also be perceived locally as offensive/provocative by the wealth it displays compared to the surrounding poverty.

Personal items such as address books, diaries and personal photographs should also be avoided as they will give potential criminals useful information which may have lasting effects on the individual.

Finally officers should never promise anything that they cannot deliver, for example offering to send UN negotiators to assist a local militia in order to cross a checkpoint without confirmation from UNHQ will jeopardise any subsequent UN unit's dealings with that militia unit and is likely to bring the UNs image into disrepute. Similarly on an individual level, officers when off duty in the local community must not promise anything that they cannot deliver, particularly if it is done to try and coerce locals to fraternise with them. Not only is this likely to be contrary to the discipline code (particularly if sexual relations are the result) it can also be dangerous as it may lead to officers being involved with criminal elements who may resort to robbery, violence or hostage taking.

**CHECKPOINTS**

- Potential risk
- Controlling authority
- Permanent or temporary
- Unknown details



Slide 6

Unless it is controlled by the UN, crossing a Checkpoint in a peacekeeping mission is always likely to carry some risk. This section is designed to instruct officers on how to minimise the risk and deal with any potential eventualities.

These checkpoints can be held by military, militias, police, rebels, or bandits all of whom may have their own agenda and attitude towards the UN peacekeepers.

Checkpoints may be permanent or temporary in nature. If they are permanent there may well be information held in the JMAC. However, control of these can change, so officers must always be cautious and not assume that just because one group was running the checkpoint on one occasion, they will still be there the next time.

Perhaps the biggest risk to the officers is that in most cases they will be unaware of the strength, attitude and nature of the unit running the checkpoint.

**APPROACHING A CP**

- Reduce speed
- All round observation
- Report to convoy
- Lock the doors
- Use roof lights on the vehicles
- Clearly identify personnel and vehicle

Slide 7

On the approach to a checkpoint it is vital to slow down, so as not to give the impression that the vehicle will attempt to 'run' the barrier and not stop.

All the occupants of the vehicle must be alert and maintain all round observation in case the checkpoint is being used for an ambush. They should also ensure that all doors are locked and the windows are up. The vehicle commander will lower his window to talk to the checkpoint staff but should be careful not to lower it too far. There should not be the ability for anyone to reach in and take hold of the occupants or any property or documents inside.

If the vehicle is part of a convoy, the officers must report back to the remainder of the convoy to warn them of the checkpoint so that they can stop short and await the update from the leading vehicle that it is safe to continue through.

On approaching the checkpoint, the vehicle should make use of warning lights to indicate that they are a UN police vehicle. At night, they must be careful not to dazzle the personnel at the checkpoint and they should turn off their headlights on approach. However, roof lights should still be used to indicate they are a UN vehicle.

Once at the checkpoint the officers will clearly identify they are a UN police unit on official UN business.

AT THE CP

- Remain in vehicle
- Negotiation
- Communication with HQ
- Protocols
- Remain vigilant
- Be patient!!

Slide 8

Officers should only get out of their vehicle only if absolute necessary, they should show ID or other documents if necessary but this should be done through the window of the vehicle. Identification documents shouldn't be handed over, just showed,...as long as safely possible.

If negotiation is required, the senior officer present must take charge. If the vehicle is part of a convoy, the convoy Commander should be contacted on the radio, explained the situation and if possible, he will come forward to negotiate. Where there is an issue regarding the passage through the checkpoint, the commander must be firm in the negotiation and state that the UN have freedom of movement in their area of responsibility and must be allowed to pass. This can be smart to use the service of a reliable interpreter, in order for the commanding officer to diffuse a part of the pressure and have more time to adjust his negotiation moves.

Communicate with HQ to inform them of the situation and whether or not there are any instructions in place for dealing with the incident. This may depend on the faction or group which are holding the checkpoint.

There are certain protocols that must be adhered to; no group, either legitimate or otherwise, has the right to search UN vehicles and the officers should not allow this to happen. Nor should they hand over any documents, be they maps, reports, or ID, they should be firm but avoiding anything like showing impatience, being upset if these issues arise.

If officers have to get out of the vehicle, they should keep a radio with them so that they are able to remain in contact with the others.

All officers must be vigilant and carry out a detailed observation. They should note the numbers of persons at the checkpoint, types of weapons they are carrying, and any other useful information, as this will need to go into an incident report for the benefit of the JMAC and units which will have to go through the same points later on.

AFTER CROSSING THE CP

- Remain vigilant
- Convoys cross as one
- Do not stop
- Commander last

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Once through the checkpoint, the officers must remain vigilant, it may have been a

diversion to slow them down.

If in convoy, then the Commander will negotiate for it to cross the CP in one block in a single column, with a close distance between vehicles.

The officers should not stop, once through the CP until they are out of sight. Even then, it is better that they put a distance between themselves and the checkpoint before stopping.

If the convoy Commander is on the ground, he should embark in the last vehicle to be sure of the safe passage of the whole convoy. This however should be avoided since once most of the convoy has gone through, the commanding officers loses a lot of his deterrence.

KEY POINTS

*DO NOT:*

- Arrive at the CP at high speed
- Stop at a distance to observe
- Continue if ordered to stop
- Force away through
- Be impatient
- Leave vehicles
- Waste your time in long discussion

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The following key points will help getting a smooth passage through any checkpoint.

As already covered, the vehicles should slow down and not arrive at the CP at high speed since it would give the impression that they are not going to stop.

They should not stop at a distance where they can be seen by the CP staff and observe. This is likely to raise suspicion at the CP. It is better to either stop and observe where the convoy cannot be seen or to slowly arrive at the checkpoint, having prepared and shared with the rest of the convoy, a contingency plan letting everybody know what to do and what to avoid.

Drivers must not continue if ordered to stop, this is highly dangerous, as is attempting to force their way through the CP, it is unlikely to work and may bring fatal

consequences, shootings, mines or detention.

Patience is a virtue that will see officers through a checkpoint. They may have to listen to people manning the checkpoint giving their point of view but, provided they are willing to listen and remain polite, they are likely to be safely allowed across the CP.

Officers should never leave vehicles and certainly never leave them out of sight to go and visit checkpoint building.

Finally, whilst officers should be polite and patient, they should not waste time in long discussion at the CP. It is always dangerous to get involved in political talks. The principal of neutrality of the UN operations should be borne in mind...

### HOSTAGE TAKING

- Cooperate
- Inform of your impartiality
- Vehicle Hijacking
- Emergency communication
- Watch and observe

Slide 11

In case of a vehicle hijacking, the officer should try to take out personal and duty documents, either with the agreement of the hijacker or before they get out of the vehicle, but only if it is safe to do so.

Where possible the officer should try to broadcast an emergency communication: “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday”, giving their location and as briefly as can be a description of the situation.

Whilst detained, they should watch and observe taking note of all the details of the

hostage takers for later use by the JMAC. Any hostage taking or hijacking of UN personnel is a very serious matter and the International community will put severe pressure on any group or faction that does so. The officers should remain calm and await their eventual release. They should never consider that they have been forgotten as they will not be. However, dependant on the hostage takers, sometimes release has to be negotiated over a period of time.

### QUESTIONING UNDER THREAT

If threatened by a determined and dangerous person :

- Maintain a conversation in a calm manner do not become aggressive
- Focus on details and try to gather information on the aggressor
- Report to HQ



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There may be occasions when UN personnel are threatened. This may be by rebel groups or factions or it may be by persons purporting to represent the authorities. It may occur when the officer is on or off duty and it may be at checkpoints or other semi-official locations.

It is important to remain calm, not allowing the threatening individuals to provoke a similar response as this is often the pretext they are waiting for to justify the use of violence. The officer should point out that they are a member of the UN and produce ID to back this up. They should remind the individual that they are impartial and there to keep the peace.

They should also remember as many details as possible so that they can complete a full incident report at a later stage and it needs to be submitted to HQ and the JMAC as soon as possible after the incident. This has to be conducted discretely in order to be perceived as provocative or plotting an escape or retaliations.

TAKEN PRISONER

- Reason of your capture
- Keep your calm
- Repeat your impartiality
- Do not resist
- Remain healthy and get sleep
- Trust the effort of the UN and other nations to obtain your release



Slide 13

If an officer is taken prisoner, he should immediately try to discover the reason for his imprisonment, particularly if it is by an official in authority in the host state. He should immediately request that the UN HQ is contacted and a representative attends.

The officer should remain calm, and not provoke their captors, mask his emotions and continue to inform them that they are an officer of the UN, they are impartial and there to maintain the peace. Continue to remind the captor that and request a member of the UN is summonsed and remind them that UN personnel are subject to immunity.

Do not resist needlessly, conserve energy and await contact from the UN. Do not make any attempt to escape and continue to protest that you are being held contrary to international law.

It is important to remain healthy and get sleep in case the process to secure your release takes some time. Working out is also a good way to keep you own sanity, stamina and self image. It also shows the officer isn't morally "broken". This is likely to be respected by the hostage takers.

Try not to worry too much and trust the effort of the UN and other nations to obtain your release.

**BOMBING-SHELLING**

Reasons for bombing/shelling

- Intentional shelling
- Unintentional shelling



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Officers may be subject to bombing or shelling. Bombing is normally from the air and delivered by aircraft or a helicopter, shelling is normally from the land and is delivered by artillery or mortars. The first thing the officer must ascertain, is why they were shelled or bombed as it will fall into two categories.

Intentional shelling or bombing is where the UN unit has been specifically targeted and it is normally to encourage them to leave the area. This may be for several reasons and the commander will need to report back to HQ, as soon as possible, as it may have been to hide some other activity that is being conducted against another faction of part of the population. A similar threat can also be imminent to other locations and it is important they can take protective measures, (helmets, flack jackets, run to shelters...).

Unintentional shelling or bombing occurs where the unit is in a conflict zone, and the unit conducting the shelling or bombing is carrying out a routine which has just happened to coincide with a UN patrol.

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS ON BOMBING

- Take cover
- Check Personnel
- Locate direction of the shelling
- Report to HQ
- Remain in cover and await support

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Initially it is important to take cover unless it is possible to drive away from the bombing or shelling.

There should be a check that all Personnel are uninjured. If any injuries are sustained then they should be immediately treated. However the injured should not be evacuated until it is safe to do so, except for vital situations.

If it is possible, the officers should try to locate where shelling is coming from or if bombing the type of aircraft or helicopter that is being used and how many. If possible the officer should count the number of round/bombs that fall as this will all be useful information for the JMAC. This information should be communicated to the HQ asap, in order to get either a high level negotiation to have it stopped or counter measures being taken, (counter batteries shelling, bombing against the attacking position...).

In all circumstances anyway, the incident should be reported to HQ as soon as possible.

If the shelling continues all officers should remain in cover and await support.

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### LOSS OF COMMUNICATION

**Generalities:**

- A good radio network
- Radio procedure
- Frequency of reporting

**Task of the Operation Centre:**

- Contact with patrols
- Continuously call the patrol's call sign
- Report to HQ (duty officer)



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A good radio network is essential for all types of missions, especially in emergency situation. However, there will be occasions where the communication facility is lost. This may be because of faulty equipment, lack of replacement batteries, or just specificities of the location which make radio communication difficult.

Knowledge of the radio procedure and frequency of reporting is essential to all officers in mission; they must be aware of all protocols, available frequencies and call signs.

In the Mission Operation Centre they must be aware of the procedure is communication is lost.

They will maintain contact with all patrols to identify and search for any missing ones.

If they are unable to contact a patrol they will continuously call the patrol's call sign until they get a response or the unit is located.

They will report all such occurrences to the Mission HQ duty officer.

## SUMMARY

- Generalities
- Check point
- Hostage taking
- Bombing
- Loss of communication

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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

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## Practical Element

There are two 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 for an urban environment a public order village or 'ghost town' would be useful, alternately an area where the unit can create a full checkpoint, although this will take time and resources.

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

The use of simulated ammunition can be used to imitate bombing or shelling with the use of 'thunder flashes' or stun grenades.

Probably, the best method of training officers in this subject matter is to use a simulation exercise in small groups, centred on them arriving at a checkpoint. All the issues raised, regarding operating at a checkpoint should be tested. Officers should be spoken to harshly by the staff at the checkpoint and threatened. Taking them hostages and held in confinement for a short period in as realistic situation as possible will help to prepare for the worst possible scenario and give them the opportunity to explore their feelings and emotions in the afterwards debrief..

Caution must be exerted on the role actors who play the hostage takers as they must only threaten violence and not actually use it, there is no reason for the students to be injured during training and create useless traumas. The purpose is to make trainees better prepared not anxious about this type of event happening.