# **POLICE TACTICS & TECHNIQUES**

# **Checkpoints**



# Background

Members of an FPU are likely to have to carry out checkpoints in both executive and non-executive missions, in the former, as part of their general duties in maintaining the peace and in the latter in their role of protecting UN Staff and facilities where checkpoints will be situated at the entrance to UN buildings to control access.

There are various different types of checkpoint, from those that are fixed to those that are temporary, and they need to be capable of dealing with pedestrians or vehicles or both. The modules on searching suspects and searching vehicles should be used as revision for this topic.

# Aim

To familiarize the FPU members with planning and safely conducting checkpoint operations

# Learning outcomes

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

- Explain the goal of a checkpoint
- Identify tactical considerations
- Describe the different zones of a checkpoint
- Conduct vehicle and pedestrian checkpoints
- React to incidents at checkpoints

# **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 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
4 hours 40 mins	40 mins	1 hour	3 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 barricades (40 minute classroom lesson)
- Practice (4 hours of practical lessons)

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 pedestrians and road users

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 of them 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
- 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. Vehicles

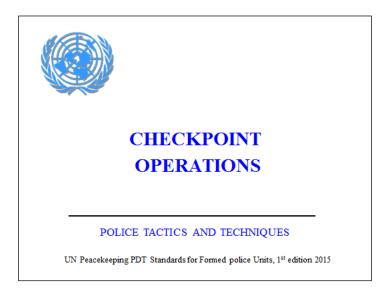
Training Area:

The initial lesson should be carried out in the classroom; however subsequent lessons will need a large open area where students can construct checkpoints 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.

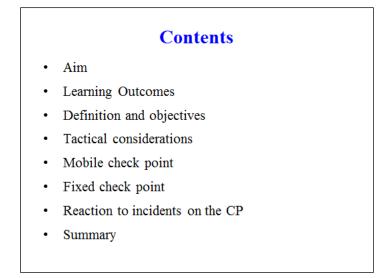
# **Session notes**

# Lesson 1 – Checkpoints (Theory)

Contents:



Slide 1



Slide 2

# Aim

To introduce the FPU to planning and safely conducting checkpoint operations

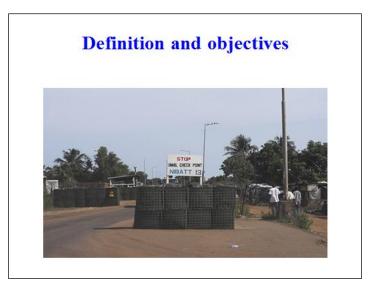
Slide 3

# Learning outcomes

On completion of this module the participants will be able to:

- Provide a definition and the goal of a checkpoint
- Identify tactical considerations
- · Describe the different zones of a checkpoint
- · Conduct vehicle and pedestrian checkpoints
- · React to incidents at checkpoints

Slide 4



# **Definition and objectives**

A checkpoint is a military and police tactic involving the set up of a hasty roadblock in order to disrupt unauthorized or unwanted movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

The checkpoint aims to monitor and control the movement of people and materials in order to prevent violence or attack, or investigate and identify offenders.

# Slides 5 and 6

A checkpoint is an area where vehicles and/or persons are stopped, identities are verified, possessions searched, and a decision is made whether or not to detain the persons/ vehicles or to allow them to pass. Checkpoints aim at controlling an area, to allow a "safe area" to protect from outside influence, to deny hostile intelligence gathering opportunities and to be effective they must not be able to be bypassed.

Vehicle or pedestrian can be run separately or jointly, dependant on the reason for their being constructed. In all UN missions they will normally be at the entrance to major UN facilities and will aim to protect the building from attack therefore they will be for both pedestrians and vehicles. Trainees 'attention should be drawn to the fact that references should be made to the UN DPKO/DFS interim SOP on Detention and, to the SOP on Arrest and Detention developed at the mission level.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> **Detention in United Nations Peace Operations:** Approved by: Alain Le Roy, USG/DPKO, Approval date: 25 January 2010

# **Tactical considerations**

- Legal basis
- Mission (purpose = pedestrians or/and vehicles, UN initiative or support/tasked...)
- Environment/terrain (location, weather conditions)
- Intelligence gathering
- Strength and resources (equipment) of the units, including local issues
- Duration (immediate or short term)
- Advantages / disadvantages

## Slide 7

When considering the use of a checkpoint the Commander will have to consider various factors that will affect the lay out and will have a bearing on if it is a suitable location.

The checkpoint is set up in order to control an area or to create an interposition layout between two opponent groups. Its goal is to stop the freedom of movement of goods and persons.

The establishment of the checkpoint may be thus in contrast with one of the most fundamental liberties and has to be realized in the framework of the mandate or of the local laws (when in support of local security/defense forces).

A checkpoint can be only set up upon the initiative of the UN police/military forces when it aims to control the accesses of a UN base and to protect its personnel.

It can also be set up without the involvement local security forces if the UN mandate recommends it and when the local security forces are not present in the area of operation or are not operational (case of CAR or Kosovo, Mitrovica Bridge).

The unit commander should conduct a terrain study to identify avenues of approach. This also implies setting up the checkpoint with traffic going uphill to slow down vehicles as they approach, or at crossroads, for a similar reason, and to locate them on a one-way street. It is also important that the CP is far enough away from sensitive areas and where possible Entry/Exit routes should be located side by side. Conditions, visibility and risks are different at night; therefore the Commander must be aware of the procedures for night operations.

Majority of the information about dangerous or wanted people will come from the JMAC (Joint Mission Analysis Centre) in the form of photos, guidance, and daily register book. This register book should be kept at the checkpoint. The access to the computer database is critical either directly or by radio.

The FPU Commander must be aware of the advantages and disadvantages of conducting Checkpoint operations.

It will be an obvious show of force to the local population and at the same time will give the officers conducting the checkpoint to gauge the attitude of the local population, to both the UN's presence and also to the use and sitting of the checkpoint. As well as controlling access to an area, it also has the ability to gather intelligence, both from the local population and also by collating the statistics and details of the vehicles and pedestrians passing through.

However the disadvantage is that they are resource intensive particularly if they are to be staffed 24 hours a day. They may be unpopular with the local population and therefore become a tangible target for local protest and they may be vulnerable to attack, either by crowds of demonstrators of by terrorist or criminal gangs.

Another consideration is how the unit's resources are deployed. Crew served weapons should be emplaced to oversee the checkpoint, and Snipers can also be deployed for the same purpose. Once in position the unit should conduct security patrols in the locality to ensure that the Checkpoint is not being reconnoitred or targeted. The defence of the checkpoint should be assessed on and improved on a daily basis.

The strength of the FPU and the equipment are to be available and in accordance with the operation.

The following equipment is necessary:

- Pre-signalisation means (road signs, traffic lights...)
- Fixed and heavy road blocks for the deceleration zone
- Mobile road blocks to avoid the escape from the checkpoint area (dragon teeth, barbed wire, vehicles...)
- Armoured vehicles with crew machine guns ready to react to any vehicle forcing the checkpoint
- Search equipment (mirror, projectors, torch lights, handcuffs...)

The positioning of fire support elements, the armament of the FPU and their shooting capacity, the distance between the various elements of the checkpoint, lighting and weather conditions are also to be considered.

The strength of the unit should be proportionate to the different positions to be filled on the checkpoint.

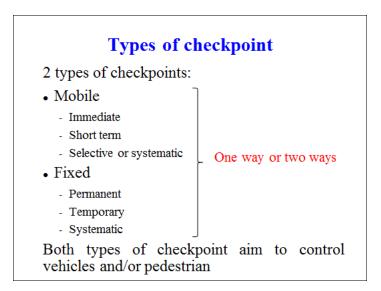
The checkpoint comprises at least 5 different types of element:

- Pre-signalisation element
- Selection element
- Control element
- Mobile protection element
- Intervention element (reaction)

The commander needs to be aware of local issues that may affect the checkpoint and it is always beneficial to have officers or interpreters that speak the local language, especially if it is different to the Mission language.

Distances for observations have to be lengthened, the number of people checked at the same time lowered and a strict allocation of watching tasks per officer assigned in order to avoid people overwhelming the officers guarding the check point.

Having a lot of light on a checkpoint is important but it is almost as important as to light up the surrounding areas, in order to avoid people sneaking in or out of the deployment.



Slide 8

There are two types of checkpoint: mobile and fixed.

The mobile checkpoint responds to an immediate operational need and can be removed immediately after the execution of the operation without having an impact on the security of the concerned area, the population living in it and the personnel deployed for the operation.

An immediate CP is one that is set up under dynamic circumstances, following a serious robbery when the perpetrators are thought to still be making their escape.

Short term CPs may be set up to combat crime, e.g. through collecting intelligence related to a certain road used by criminals or terrorists.

A selective checkpoint is a random control of vehicles and/or people based on intelligence or upon the initiative of the selection element.

A systematic checkpoint will be a permanent or semi-permanent structure encompassing all the principles already discussed. It will allow for a complete and comprehensive check of all persons and vehicles. A fixed checkpoint can be permanent or temporary and it takes places where a decision has been taken to carry out checks on a regular even daily basis. As a result, it can be permanent, (as for instance to deal with a division between ethnic groups or the entrance to an IDP camp), or it may be set up to control the entry of persons into a restricted area. If permanent, then it will be designed according to the specifications later explained in this lesson. Temporary CPs can be set up when required. If it is in a regular location and part or all of the specifications listed can be built to accommodate the CP when it is activated.

Any CP can be in either or both directions; this will depend on the reasons for placing the CP and the circumstances at the time. The method of conducting any CP will be similar, although there are some factors that differ between the two types of CPs in terms of duration and equipment.

It will normally take at least a Platoon to operate a systematic Checkpoint.

# Mobile checkpoint: considerations

- Information gathering
- Mission (coordinated or UN)
- Duration (immediate or short term)
- Location (security, obstacles and choice)
- Separate area of control for vehicles and pedestrians (systematic or selective)
- Initiative or tasked/presence of local police

# Slide 9

These are normally set up as a result of intelligence received that certain activity will happen at a certain point at a certain time. However, they can also be set up in insecure areas to reassure the local population that the UN is in control of the area.

In case of spontaneous threat or sudden event triggering security threats, a mobile checkpoint can be set up to respond to this threat. The decision may be taken at the mission's level in case of threats against UN premises or personnel or coordinated when intervening in support of the local security forces. One example from the instructor: CAR - checkpoint established in order to control the road between the IV and VII district; attacks were organized by Anti-balaka living in the IV and looting houses in the VII. The local security forces did not have the capacity to assign to this

task.

As for the duration of the checkpoint, please refer to Slide 8.

When setting-up a checkpoint, utmost importance has to be given to the location which must always ensure the security of personnel and the control of the whole sector. As there will not be the same facilities and equipment available to set up the checkpoint everywhere, the commander will need to place it in a location where a person or vehicle cannot easily escape, preferably using narrow streets to funnel pedestrians and vehicles. The natural flow of people and traffic will determine when and where to set it up (intelligence based).

Most of the mobile CPs aim at controlling vehicles. In case of control of both pedestrians and vehicles, separate areas of control, search and retention should be foreseen and set up.

It will be tasked by Chain of Command and pre-planned during the order. The time and location should be carefully considered. These will depend on the circumstances, but there is little point in holding a checkpoint on a quiet road in the countryside in the middle of the night unless there is specific intelligence that indicates something will happen.

As for the initiative, in executive UN missions or while supporting local security forces in non-executive UN missions, the Chief of patrol can decide to establish a mobile checkpoint in order to prevent delinquency and crime and to detect possible offences, including offences to traffic rules.

Duration of Checkpoint set up by initiative is usually no longer than 30 min to remain efficient.



- Barriers
- Inspection lines separated from vehicles
- Documentation
- Search area
- Special equipment



Pedestrian checkpoints are a good way to control movement, gather intelligence and

deter criminal or terrorist behaviour. The principles applied to Pedestrian checkpoints are similar to those for a VCP. Where the checkpoint is on a road and in conjunction with a VCP it is important to separate pedestrians from vehicles to ensure the safety of those crossing through. One of the best ways to do this is with barriers to regulate flow. The level of insulations of the two inspection lines is contingent of the level of threat, (is there a terrorist risk, with suicide bombers or not...)

Keep numbers of people in line to a minimum, where possible and it may be necessary to establish more than one inspection line dependant on the amount of pedestrian traffic, this may also relate to the time of day.

If possible have a sign or communicate to those approaching the type of documentation that the police will need to see to enable the public cross through.

There will need to be partitioned or isolated areas for detailed personnel searches and search teams will have to be nominated (male & female). The search is always performed in a methodical way and with high vigilance.

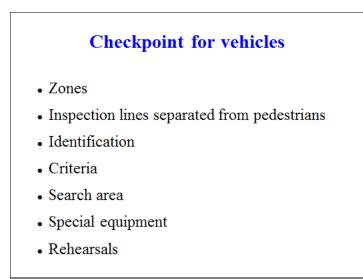
Please refer to the lesson on body search techniques.

Nevertheless, police officers may face two types of situation:

- when performing the body search in order to "dissuade" any person to cross with dangerous or illegal objects;
- when performing a "detailed" body search in a dedicated room (remove clothes, check all of them...).

Special equipment such as, metal detectors or arches, flexi cuffs may be useful for securing detained persons, and gloves (heavy duty, reinforced or rubber).

A reserve party can also be organised, in order to address either specific security matters or a sudden increase of people wanting to cross the check point.



Particularly in a hostile area, security of the checkpoint is critical. To this end, cut off and security teams are positioned covertly. The unit must ensure all round security at all times and conduct isolation and security patrols. In a non-executive mandated mission, they must be conducted alongside the local police.

In order to ensure the security of UN personnel, vehicle checkpoints must be set up respecting the defined zones as described in Slide 12.

Checkpoint should be set up so that approaching vehicles cannot see it until they pass the cut off teams. Obstacles or parked vehicles should be set up to funnel and slow down approaching vehicles. As already mentioned, vehicle inspection lines must be separated from pedestrians.

A Section leader will be nominated to question the drivers of vehicles and they will be accompanied by a Buddy Team to carry out the searching. This should be a male & female team to deal with both sexes. Vehicle occupants should exit vehicle and also be searched. The search teams should always be professional and be careful not to escalate the situation, particularly when in a hostile area.

As mentioned for pedestrian CPs, specific equipment should be made available to conduct vehicle CPs.

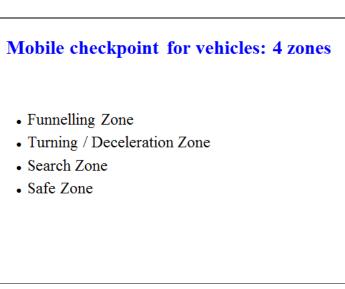
The criteria for vehicles to be searched will come from Commander/HQ and will normally be dependent on intelligence received. A random, snap or short term checkpoint is more likely to be selective with regard to the vehicles /personnel stopped and this will normally be intelligence based. This, in turn, allows for greater through put.

Failure of a vehicle to stop will trigger Use of Force. The level of force will be proportionated to the level of threat.

The FPU must be trained and competent in carrying out short term or hasty CPs, the conduct of rehearsals prior to setting up the checkpoint is essential.

As discussed earlier, these types of checkpoint require practice so that a routine is established for searching; screening will be for specific threats and interference with daily activity of the local population will be kept to a minimum.

Consequently, a smaller number of trained operators will be necessary.



Slide 12

Natural or artificial obstacles should be used to funnel vehicles into one lane, signs should be placed forward of the checkpoint to advise drivers. Once the vehicles arrive in the funnelling zone there should be no way out.

The next zone contains barriers to force vehicles to decelerate, making slow hard turns what implies that the obstacles must be capable of stopping a vehicle. The following can be used for this purpose: Downed trees, Dragons Teeth, Debris, Large rocks, Concertina Wire, Abatis, Tires & Road Cratering.

The vehicle that arrives at the Search Zone where vehicles can be directed out of the main lane to a secure area where they can be checked searched and detained if necessary. Once in the Search zone, there should be a blocking obstacle to deny entry/exit, so that once the vehicle is in the Search Zone it cannot escape. Vehicles should be isolated from others during the search and an over-watch position with a crew served weapon should be set up to monitor all vehicles in the Search Zone.

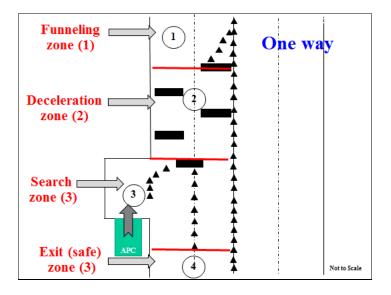
The Search zone is further subdivided into three subordinate areas, a Personnel search zone, a Vehicle search zone and a Reaction force zone. For all of these there will be both police & civilians so the potential for cross fire and all round security are key considerations.

There should be the ability to rapidly remove detainees and vehicles if necessary and there must be proper coordination between the zones and a reporting procedure to the Checkpoint commanding officer.

Finally there is a Safe Zone; this is for the officers deployed on the checkpoint duties, and this is the assembly area for the VCP and an area where the staff can stand down, eat or sleep in relative security.



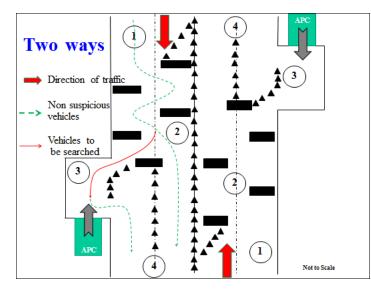






Slides 13 and 14 illustrate the principles highlighted in the earlier slides to show a layout suitable for a checkpoint <u>on one ways</u>.

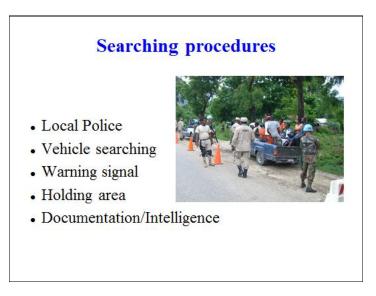
**Instructors note:** The pictures are not to scale and this should be pointed out, particularly the 'Safe Area' which would normally be in a secure location away from traffic lanes or other zones. However, it has been shown on the diagram as it is an important feature of the Checkpoint.





Slide 15 illustrates the principles highlighted in the earlier slides to show a layout suitable for a checkpoint <u>on two ways</u>.

**Instructors note:** The pictures are not to scale and this should be pointed out, particularly the 'Safe Area' which would normally be in a secure location away from traffic lanes or other zones. However, it has been shown on the diagram as it is an important feature of the Checkpoint.





The local police must be present in non-executive mandates as it is unlikely that UN Police will have the mandate to stop or search vehicles without them unless it is for accessing a UN building.

The principles of searching vehicles have been covered in an earlier lesson,

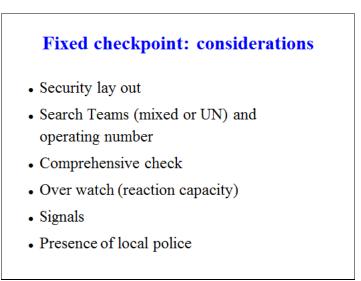
however as a reminder:

- Have driver shut off engine and release the hood (bonnet) and trunk (boot).
- Tell driver to get out of the vehicle, the driver must be present during the search of the vehicle. Have the driver keep his/her hands visible.
- Remove other occupants of the vehicle; they should be taken and watched to a holding area while search is conducted.
- Use mirrors to look into difficult areas.

The Checkpoint officers should have a signal to alert the rest of the team that the occupants of the vehicle will not notice if they become suspicious or find something illegal so that the remainder of the officers is alert.

Ask for drivers ID and relevant documents, details of which should be recorded, much intelligence can be gained from routine stops at checkpoints.

If a suspect is detained, do not let the passengers take the vehicle; it should be impounded, by the local police if in a non-executive mandate. However, once the vehicle is cleared, allow occupants to get back into the vehicle and proceed and thank them for their cooperation.



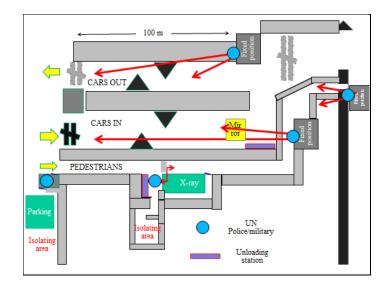


The Checkpoint team must be rotated on a regular basis to prevent complacency. The unit must also deploy for all contingencies therefore they must be able to defend themselves from attack by terrorists and insurgents as well as having the capability to defend the checkpoint from less violent protest such as an angry local mob. The availability of riot control measures is as important as the deployment of heavy weapons. The need for rehearsals has already been highlighted.

According to the nature of the mission, searching team will be made of mixed UNlocal police personnel or UN personnel only, as this is the case for UN premises. All vehicles and pedestrians approaching the checkpoint must be checked. Presence of local police representatives is essential in a non-executive mandate, in order to provide a supportive legal framework to the operation.

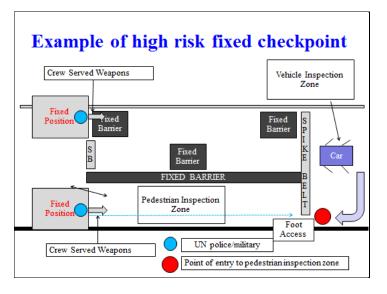
Operating officers must be aware of the procedures to follow in case of unauthorised vehicles approaching the CP.

Over watch is vital to the security of any systematic or permanent checkpoint. It must be able to cover the entire Checkpoint since permanent checkpoints are an obvious target for criminals and terrorists.



Signals must be established, as already covered in this lesson.

Slide 18



Slide 19

• Fixed Positions with Crew Served or APC

- Single point of entry and exit for pedestrian
- Rolling or movable dragoon teeth or spike belt
- FPU Direct drivers and pedestrians to approach inspection point while vehicle remains fixed
- Vehicle stopped, occupants exit and all doors, hood, trunk remain open
- FPU member with driver returns to examine vehicle and then authorizes it to continue through checkpoint
- At no point do UN FPU personnel remain in between the fixed positions and the vehicle inspection zone unless required to do so. Extremely vulnerable to attacks

# Possible attachments to any checkpoint

- Interpreter
- Host Nation Assets (CID, Counter drug, Immigration etc.)
- Canine Unit
- EOD
- UN Security
- UN Military Force
- Military Police

#### Slide 20

Slide 19 gives a list of the potential attachments that should be considered by the commander.

# Reaction to incidents

Immediate Action Drills :

- Proxy delivered bomb
- IED/Booby traps
- Mortar/Artillery attack
- Sniper engagement

## Slide 21

There are a number of incidents checkpoints are at risk from. The following Immediate Action drills (IAs) are suggested.

# Proxy delivered bomb Isolate the threat Share the information & report Use of force Freeze the situation Watch Wait for explosive experts Electronic devices & radios

## Slide 22

For example, a hostage or innocent party has been told to deliver a bomb, normally in a vehicle, although it could be strapped to the individual or in a holdall or suitcase in his/her possession.

Firstly direct them to a safe area if possible or isolate the threat, ensuring that if the bomb is detonated there will be the least possible danger to other members of the Checkpoint and members of the population crossing through.

Sharing information is a top priority to all people on the CP and report up the chain of command to Headquarters. It will alert it in order to start the process of obtaining explosives experts, bomb disposal teams etc. It is also possible that such attempt would be part of a larger scheme which may require Mission's leadership to increase the overall level of alert.

If a suspect does not comply with the orders, use of force can be applied. If the officer believes that they and others in the checkpoint are under mortal threat then deadly force can be used. However, the officer using it will have to justify his action at subsequent enquiries or trials.

Freeze the situation, once the suspect person/vehicle/package is secured, do

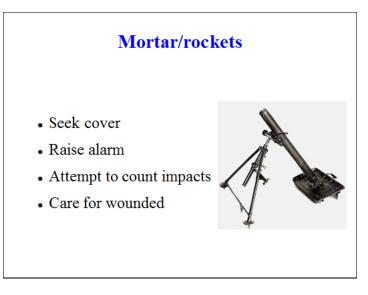
nothing, do not open any compartments to release the driver, don't allow him/her to touch anything and keep his/her hands visible.

Watch around if any other suspect situation is developing, the proxy may be a diversionary tactic, or it may be set off by a third party who will need to be able to see what is happening (example of camp entrance in Kidal: checkpoint guarded by the military component and attacked by an VBIED).

Once everything is isolated, wait for the explosive experts.

Do not use any electric/electronic devices close to the person/vehicle (no cell phone, radio etc.) as most of these devices are set off by radio control or mobile signal, which can be confused with the officer's radio or mobile phone.

It is also possible to activate radio jammers on the checkpoint, in order to avoid the bomb to be detonated from "outside" through radio signal (cell phone...).





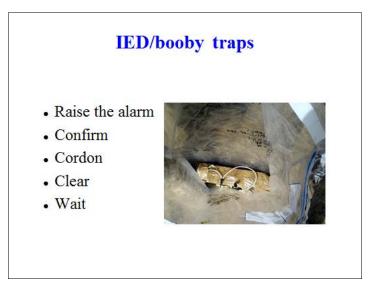
Fixed checkpoints become targets for rebel units, terrorists and insurgents. When they have the capability, they may use light or heavy artillery to shell them from a distance. There is little the FPU can do in this instance other than reduce the risk as much as possible.

Initially, all personnel should seek cover wherever possible. The highest risk is from shrapnel, sandbagged emplacements are safest. Stay in position until directed otherwise.

Raise alarm, report up the chain of command and if possible note the direction from which the shelling is coming. If it is close enough and the FPU has the resources then deploy a unit to counter attack, however this must be coordinated with the HQ

and the Commander will also need to consider if the shelling is just the start of a major attack on the checkpoint in which case they will need to keep all their officers with them.

Any wounded must be given first aid and evacuated as soon as it is safe to do so.





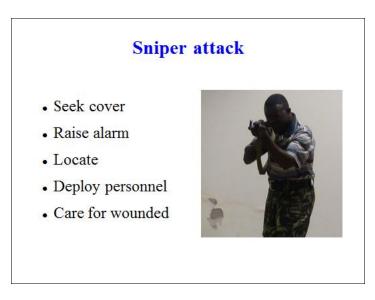
IEDs may be found on persons being searched or, if the checkpoint is occasional, they may be left in the form of booby traps for the next occasion that the unit move into the CP.

Firstly raise the alarm, freeze the situation and isolate the potential threat. Inform the chain of command and notify headquarters.

Confirm the device as safely as possible, note a description including size and colours, letters, figures... as this will be useful information for the bomb disposal unit. Ensure that it is in a secure location where it will do as little damage as possible if it is initiated.

Cordon off the area to a safe distance; this will depend of the size of the IED and all personnel should be moved to safer areas.

Await the arrival of bomb disposal units.





As with shelling, the first important safety concern is to seek cover. If the location of the sniper can be ascertained then the correct cover can be sought.

Raise alarm, within the unit, on the radio and up the chain of command

Locate the sniper using the checkpoints observation posts.

Deploy personnel in a counter sniper role, make use of smoke to screen movement, if it is safe to do so, send out a unit to arrest or neutralise the sniper.

Any wounded person must be given first aid and evacuated as soon as it is safe to do so.

# **Summary**

- Learning Outcomes
- Definition and objectives
- Tactical considerations
- Mobile check point
- Fixed check point
- Reaction to incidents on the CP

Slide 26

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



Slide 27

# Lesson 2: Checkpoints (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 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.