

**POLICE TECHNIQUES & TACTICS**

# **Tactical Progression**

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## Background

Armed officers need to be able to tactically move across land and through buildings in a safe method where there is a danger or perceived danger from armed suspects. Tactical Progression allows for the safe movement using a number of techniques, some or all of which can be used by the officers to ensure that they maintain a tactical advantage over suspects they are seeking to detain.

This represents the crossover training between firearms and core Police Techniques in a tactical environment.

It gives officers a set of individual and collective tactical methods and techniques, in order to carry out a safe progression in an environment where the opponent can represent a deadly threat. This training aims at mastering these techniques and tactics in all possible environments, and skilfully selects the most appropriate technique and applies them properly. While most armed officers have received some training related to shooting or core police techniques, many have not been trained much in how to merge these complementary skills in complex tactical environment. It is critical to include this training as part of the FPU officer's common training standards since it will allow for elements from different FPUs in Mission to work together during high risk operations using a uniform technique, reinforcing their operational capability and safety.

## Aim

To familiarize the FPU members with progressing across open ground and through buildings in a safely and professionally tactical

## Learning outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate the tactical signs
2. Demonstrate relay movement
3. Demonstrate Over Bounding movement
4. Demonstrate safely crossing openings
5. Demonstrate corner crossing
6. Demonstrate moving through stairs
7. Demonstrate room entry
8. All of the above in low light situations

## Training sequence

The material in this module is designed to be delivered over sixteen 40 minute

periods, the first three being theoretical lessons with PowerPoint presentation then thirteen lessons to practice the theory where each of the individual and collective techniques is demonstrated and practiced by the student. In the last lesson, all will be practiced and the instructor will be able to assess the officers to ensure that they master the techniques. 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
32 hours	3 x 40 mins	3 X 40 mins	26 X 40 mins
Additional Options	Mission Specific	Optional film	Optional activity

## Methodology

This module contains a basic PowerPoint presentation to explain and show the various techniques used in moving in a tactical manner. 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.

Low light scenarios should be used throughout the practical elements to practice lesson 3

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 tactical progression in peacekeeping operations or domestically and who could share

his/her experience with the group. If there is more than one instructor, at least one should have practical experience 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
2. Projector and Screen
3. Training weapons for practical exercises

Training Area:

The initial lesson should be carried out in the classroom. However, subsequent lessons will need a large area where students can work in teams, where there is sufficient natural cover to practice, the open air tactical progression and buildings with rooms, windows and staircases for the building techniques. Where possible a 'Tactical Village' or 'Ghost Town' is the best location for this training. There is also need for a darkened room or building where the low light tactics can be practiced.

This type of training can be enhanced by the use of blank ammunition to simulate the fire of suspects or simulated ammunition (low powered training bullets that do not penetrate the clothing or skin of the student) which tends to make the students less reckless in their actions. If simulated ammunition is not available, paintball is a possible alternative although in both cases protective equipment is necessary to reduce the possibility of injury to the students. The provision of protective gears and observing very strict security measures is mandatory. It will reduce the risk of injuries and limit trainees' anxiety toward pain, with keeping a rather high level of realism and intensity. The stress level induced being high, it is necessary for the instructors to follow the exercise all along and freeze the exercise in case of any danger. The safety rules have to be reminded before every exercises and no real weapon and ammunitions, (including batons or knives) will be allowed to be taken in the playing ground. A general security check of **all** the weapons, (used and not used during the exercise) has to be conducted before and after the exercises.

## Lesson 1 – Tactical Progression basic theory

### CONTENT

- Contents
- Aim
- Learning Outcomes
- Basic principles
- Tactical field progression
- Relay
- Over bounding progression
- Openings
- Summary

Slide 1

### AIM

The aim of this lesson is to teach the basic principles of tactical progression

Slide 2

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the modules the student will be able to:

1. State the basic principles of tactical progression
2. Move in relay safely and in a tactical manner
3. Move by bounds safely and in a tactical manner
4. Cross openings safely and in a tactical manner

Slide 3

## BASIC PRINCIPLES

### Aim of tactical progression :

The aim of the tactical progression is to secure a new area or to intervene in that area by advancing safely. To advance safely means to secure areas to the front of you, and leaving a secured area behind.

Slide 4

Tactical progression is a manner of moving across ground or through buildings in order to secure the area in a safe method. It means that at every progression, the officers must be able to ensure that the area they are moving through is clear of any hostile presence and secured.

This method will allow different FPU's when deployed together on high risk operations, to move in harmony using the same tactics.

### Remember

- We call a progression "*in force*" if the threat is located. In this situation speed is important
- We call a progression "*tactical*" if the threat is not located and we need to secure the area bit by bit. In this situation discretion is important
- In both cases safety and protection of personnel remains the priority.

#### Slide 5

There are two types of Progression, either "In Force" whereby the threat is located and the intervention team needs to secure the area or suspect as quickly as possible. It is generally considered that if the tactical commander isn't sure he can control the entire area and suspects within ten seconds after the hard entry, he shouldn't order the in force mode of progression.

"Tactical" progression is where there is a threat or perceived threat which is not located or too large and the area needs to be secured in order to discover the suspect or rule out the threat.

In Tactical progression there is no the need to rush (except when moving across danger areas) and the officers can be slower and more deliberate, using stealth to their advantage. In the same line, the tactical progression aims at being safe for the operators but also at surprising the suspects if possible. This implies a silent and discrete progression as much as possible, (use of tactical signs).

In both cases, safety is the priority, safety to the general public, safety to the officers and if possible safety for the suspect.

Tactical intervention involves the following principles:

- Attitude
- Protection
- Support
- Communication

Slide 6

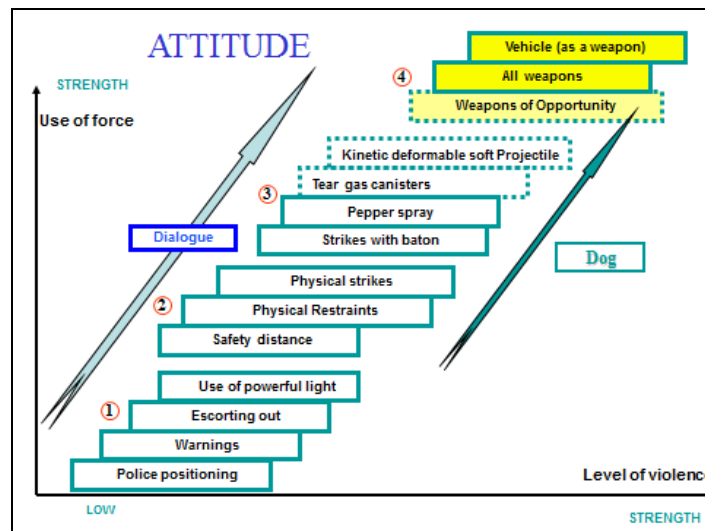
Attitude – The officers must remain professional and self-contained avoiding the ‘red mist’ syndrome where they become fixated on the suspect and start to focus on a small area in front of them. The vision becomes tunnelled and the hearing becomes dulled. Officers must respect the use of force rules and ensure that their response remains proportionate.

Protection – Officer must ensure that they have the correct protection equipment, Body protection, Ballistic shields, torches and mirrors inside buildings, and they must make the best use of cover provided within the local environment, **being aware that cover from view is not cover from fire.**

Support – Officers must ensure that support fire is available at every stage of the progression and those who are tasked with a support role remain fixed and covering their partner or team. They must not be distracted or move without communicating. The basic principle being:” when one operator moves, his buddy team is ready to support him with a fixed and permanent fire capacity”. In short, while the first officer is on the move, the support officers is aiming at the direction considered being the most dangerous, ready to shoot at a threatening suspect who would appear.

Communication – This is the key to a good operation communication via the radio or by the use of tactical signals when silence is required. Both verbal and visual contact can be required if necessary communicating with the suspect(s).





Slide 7

The use of pepper spray should be ranked below the use of physical strikes and strikes with baton since spray and teargas will not induce permanent injuries that strikes are very likely to result into.

At this stage, students should be reminded of the use of force continuum and the level of force that can be engaged, but only provided the circumstance warrant it. They must be reminded that the officers must engage in dialogue with the suspects where appropriate as tactical communication can often resolve incidents without the need for any use of force. Any use of force by an officer or team of officer will have to be justified against the rules laid down in the Mission.

Mission specific rules should be referred to here.

**Instructors note:** Slide 7 is an animated slide which reveals the elements of the use of force continuum gradually, the version on the accompanying DVD should be used in the lesson



Slide 8

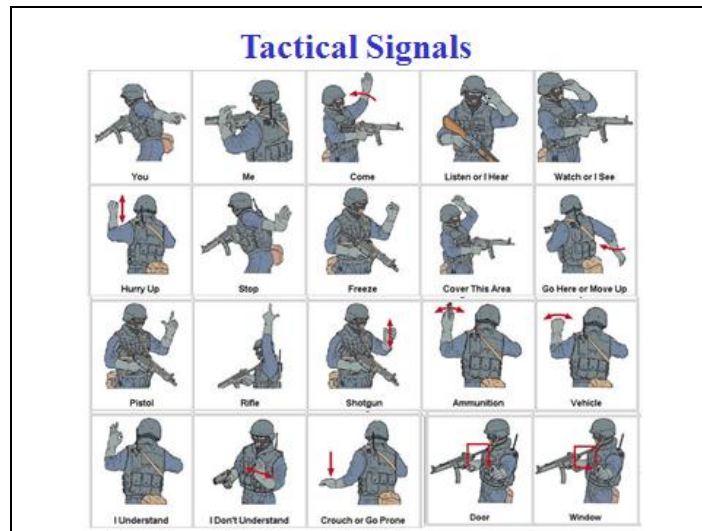
Personal & Environmental Protection has already been highlighted as a key element in Tactical Progression.

Fig. 1 shows the officer wearing ballistic body protection (Body Armour) and a ballistic helmet. This is the required level of protection in this type of operation.

Fig. 2 shows the officer using a ballistic shield. This affords excellent protection but can be bulky and heavy, (. The tactical commander will have to consider the scenario before deciding whether to use such equipment.

Fig. 3 shows poor use of natural cover, the officer has found a good piece of cover (a concrete wall) but is not using it to best effect as he has left the top half of his body exposed

Fig. 4 shows good use of cover the officer has chosen a building line and has concealed as much of his body as possible behind it. When students start to use the relay and over bounding techniques, it is important that they are able to select the appropriate cover. Whilst the technique will allow them to move safely between cover, if they do not use the cover correctly and chose cover only from view, (such as bushes, and light wooden fences), they will put themselves in a dangerous and unsafe position. In Tactical Progression, there is time to survey the area and select suitable covers. Officers should ensure that they do this before they move, defining the path they will follow, knowing where they will seek cover



Slide 9

There are a number of internationally recognised tactical hand signals used by the Police and Military. It is useful when moving tactically in an area where there may be a suspect close by, to use hand signals rather than verbal communication. This allows the team to plan their course of action without letting the suspect know their intention. This can have a psychological effect on the suspect which benefits the police officers. However, this requires to be practiced a lot to keep this as a tactical advantage and not an impediment.

The hand signals shown above are some of the main ones. Any others must be agreed and practiced by the team before the operation begins.

**Instructors note:** The instructor need not spending too much time on this slide at this point as there are two practical lessons where this will be demonstrated in detail.




Slide 10

Tactical progression will involve teams of various sizes dependant on the mission; however the basic unit will be the Buddy Team of two officers. Slide 10 shows how the buddy team will operate when progressing forwards. The Reconnaissance (Recce) Officer will lead, he will be responsible for contacting and communicating with a suspect, he will lead the team. The Support Officer will be slightly behind the Recce Officer and he brings fire support and he scans the environment. So while the Recce Officer will be concentrating on the next area of threat, the Support Officer will be looking past that to other possible threat areas, but at the same time being aware of the Recce Officer and ready to support him, in case a suspect or other threat presents itself. The Support Officer should be close enough for contact between the two officers so that the Recce Officer does not need to turn his head away from the threat area to communicate, (however moving in relay or over bounding where the officers should have some form of physical contact to communicate).

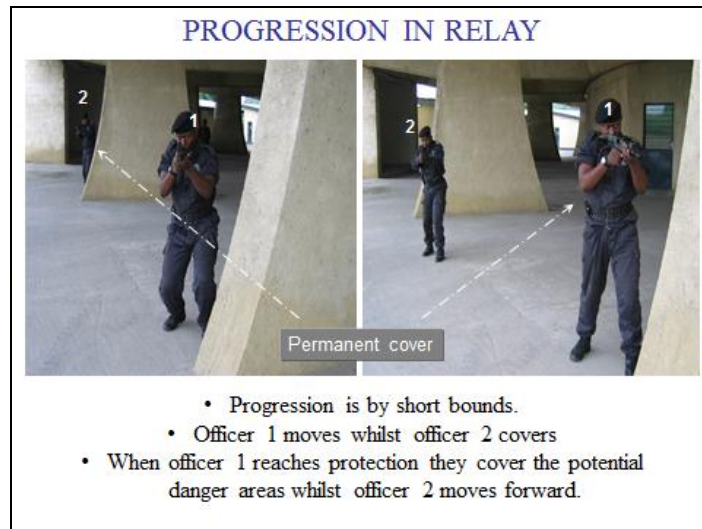
**PROGRESSION IN RELAY**

- Method used by two officers to progress in a closed or open area.
- Used for Progression in an unsecured area, where there is danger, or perceived danger.
- The first officer (1) starts his progression. The second one (2) covers him.



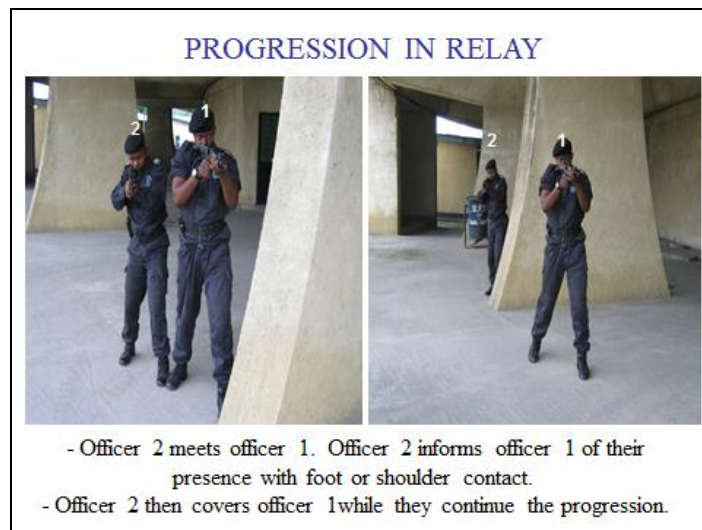
Slide 11

Progression in relay is a method for two officers, advancing through an unsecured area whereby each moves separately while the other covers. It can be used in buildings or open country. It relies on the officers having sufficient cover to move as well as good communication so that each officer knows exactly when and where to move.



Slide 12

Movement is between points of cover, one officer moving at a time. Officer 1 moves to the next point of cover whilst officer 2 provides protection. Once officer 1 arrives at a suitable point of cover, he communicates the fact to officer 2 by means of tactical signal, at which point officer 1 remains static covering the danger area whilst officer 2 moves forward.

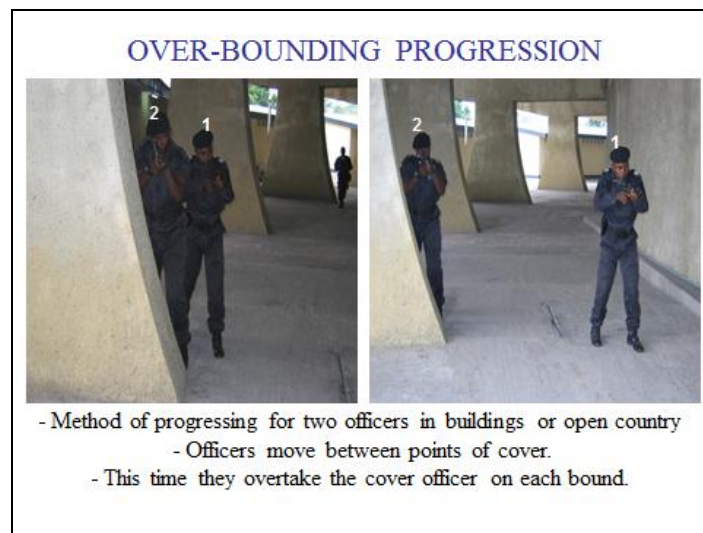


Slide 13

When officer 2 arrives at the same location they communicate his presence by touching officer 1 with his foot or shoulder to indicate that he is now static behind the cover and ready for officer 1 to move forward. Officer 1 then commences to progress forward to the next area of cover, so the process repeats until the objective is reached. The distance between two “relays” shouldn’t be too long since it makes narrower the observation sector for the support officer. This is made more acute by

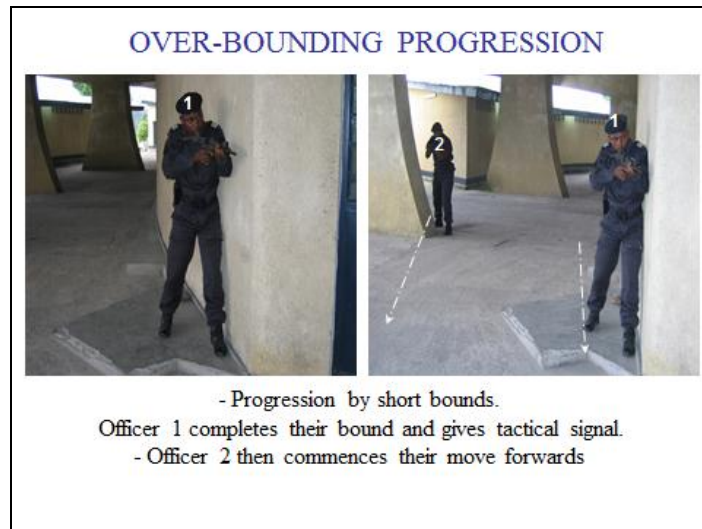
darkness or limited views, (in a deep forest), or rooms with a lot of pieces of furniture. It is also essential to remember that, on top of reducing the observing/shooting sector for the support officer, the distance makes the analysis of the situation much more difficult and the decision to resort to shooting can be seriously impeded.

For this type of progression, the roles between the two officers should remain the same all along the progression.



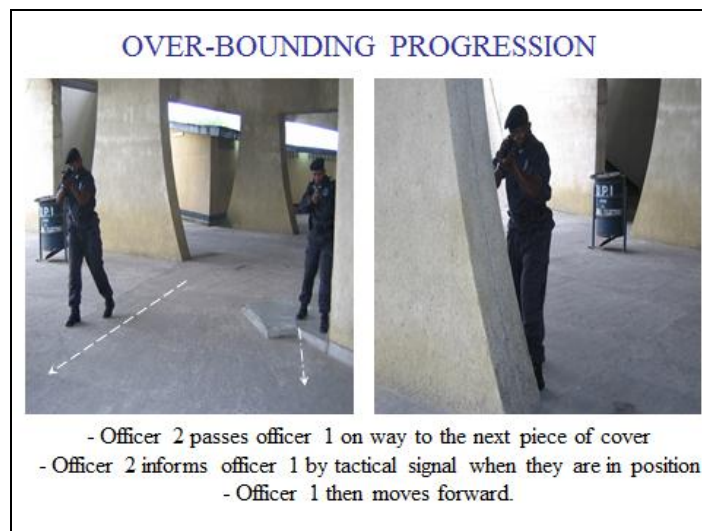
Slide 14

Over-bounding progression is a similar method for two officers advancing through an unsecured area. It can be used in buildings or open country. It relies on the officers having sufficient cover for them to move between covers as well as good communication so that each officer knows exactly when and where to move. In this case the officers move in longer bounds, moving past the cover officer to the next piece of protection. Officer 1 moves forward to the next chosen piece of cover while officer 2 covers the danger area.



Slide 15

Once officer 1 has reached the point of protection, he gives a tactical signal informing officer 2 he is in a position to cover the danger area. Officer 2 then commences his move forwards to his chosen piece of cover.



Slide 16

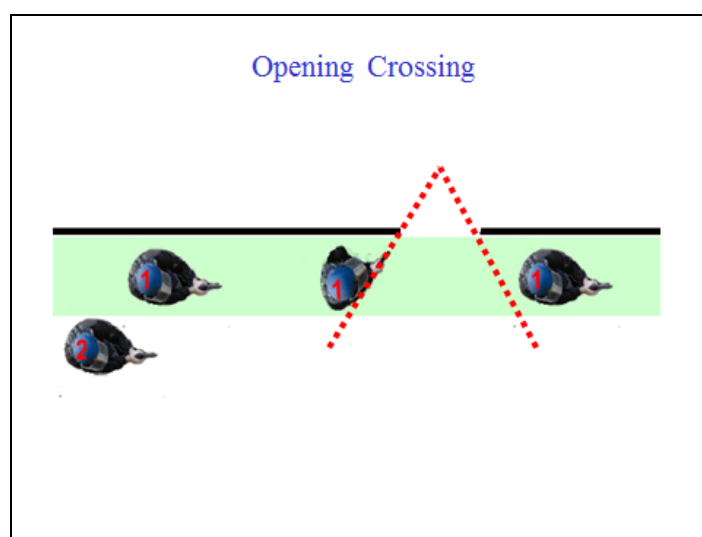
Officer 2 passes officer 1 on the move to the next point of protection. Once there and ready to cover the danger area, he signals to officer 1 to move forward. The two officers then continue to move in this manner until they have arrived at their objective.



Slide 17

When using any form of tactical progression, officers must be aware of the third dimension, particularly when moving through or between buildings. At least one officer must be looking towards upper levels, roofs, and windows that may pose a threat to the team's movement in the area. On some occasions it is possible to deploy counter snipers to cover these areas; however officers must still remember to check upper levels for threat before movement.

It is also important to remember that it is very difficult to cover toward the height of a building when you are too close, (the shooting angle is way too narrow). Consequently, the officer in charge of such cover should distance from the area to cover while keeping some level of protection. This may result into an officer being slightly isolated from the rest of the deployment. The use of ballistic shields might be considered.



Slide 18



Whenever officers approach openings, they must move with caution. It is difficult to see what is on the other side of the opening and therefore it must always be treated as a possible threat. They should be crossed quickly to ensure that the officer is only exposed for a very short period. If possible the officer should cross the opening without being seen (see next slide). When crossing openings only one officer should cross at a time. In buddy teams, officer 2 waits and covers whilst officer 1 crosses the opening.




Slide 19

If the officer crosses the opening in the standing position he should turn his weapon and head in the direction of the opening, therefore being ready to counter any threat which may be there. His buddy will be covering any potential threat to their front. If they wish to remain unseen they can adopt the kneeling or low standing position to move across the opening without being seen from the other side. The other method is to crawl under the opening to remain unseen.

**With ballistic protection**

**Tank System** : Only the chest moves in direction of the opening, the feet move in the direction of progression

**Warning** : Never stay in front of an opening



Slide 20

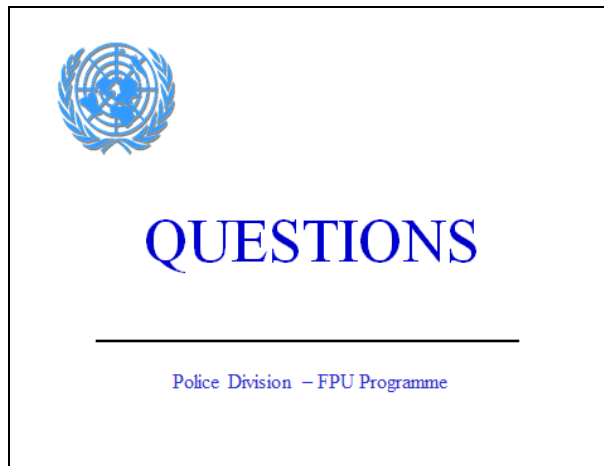
Where the officer has full ballistic protection he moves upper body as well as his weapon and head in the direction of the opening to allow them to be in a better position to return fire, as well as making best use of their ballistic vest (the weak point of a flak jacket is under the arm). However, when moving across openings the officer needs to maintain forward movement and not stop in front of the opening.

**SUMMARY**

- Basic principles
- Tactical field progression
- Relay
- Over bounding progression
- Openings

Slide 21

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



Slide 22

## Lesson 2 – Tactical progression in buildings

Contents:

CONTENT	
•	Aim
•	Learning outcomes
•	Indoor Progression
•	Approach phase, (outdoor)
•	• Crossing corners
•	Peripheral indoor approach phase
•	• large indoor areas, lobby, corridors, lift...
•	• Stairs
•	Immediate approach phase
•	• Room entries
•	Search of rooms
•	Summary

Slide 1

### AIM

- To teach the FPU member how to safely progress through buildings in a tactical manner when there is a known or perceived danger of the use of firearms

Slide 2

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

- On completion of this module the participants will be able to:
  - Demonstrate corner crossing
  - Demonstrate moving through stairs
  - Demonstrate room entry

Slide 3

### TACTICAL PRINCIPLES

- **Tactical choices:**
  1. Do not be drawn into buildings if it is unnecessary.
  2. Keep the initiative.
  3. Gather intelligence
  4. Use distraction techniques to distract the suspect(s).
  5. Do not use obvious tactical that can be anticipated by the suspect(s).
  6. Do not under-estimate the target, in number, in capacity or in determination.

#### Slide 4

Before entering a building, the tactical commander must consider the risks involved. It is often possible to mitigate the risks by taking simple steps.

Entering in a building where a suspect is located is usually more dangerous than catching him, by surprise outside. Inside a building, the suspect is in his own environment, may have prepared a trap at entrances, concealed weapons or taken hostages. Consider low-light conditions and lack of radio communication! When conducting the arrest of a dangerous or potentially dangerous suspect in a house it is necessary to consider the surrounding of the house with a cordon of armed officers and then communicate with the suspect inside by means of telephone or loudhailer to request that they come out and surrender to police, the realisation that they have no means of escape may well persuade them to surrender quietly, thus reducing the risk to officers.

It is always important to keep the initiative and unless there is a risk to life within the building the police should move slowly, methodically and quietly keeping the pace at their speed and not being rushed into making rapid decisions which may give away their plan. If necessary the police can withdraw to an outer cordon to consider their next tactic. Use can be made of the basic needs of the suspect(s); power sources and communications to the premises can be controlled or cut off to persuade the suspect(s) to surrender.

Intelligence is the key to an intervention in the premises, and knowledge of the layout of the building will be essential, where possible plans or photographs of the inside of the building should be studied by the entry team so they are familiar with the building. Information about the suspect(s), previous behaviour, criminal convictions, weapons used, mental state, will all be useful to the entry team.

If it is necessary to enter the building then distraction techniques can be used, engaging the suspect on the telephone while the teams approach the building,

the use of noise or lights to distract the suspect(s) either by the use of vehicles or movement as a feint on the opposite side to that which the team will enter on. Finally the use of stun grenades, CS Gas or light intensive explosives as the team enter the building can be sufficient to cause a temporary distraction.

In the use of any of the tactics the commander must be careful to ensure that they do not make their techniques obvious to the suspect(s), if they do so the suspect(s) will be able to second guess the tactical options and may be able to counter the police offensive and repel the police with serious risk to the police officer's lives.

Most important of all the suspect(s) must not be underestimated as this would be a recipe for disaster.

**TACTICAL PRINCIPLES**

- **An indoor progression always starts outside**
- 1. Choose your approach wisely (blind side of the house).
- 2. Get "eyes on" the objective to guide the progression (sniper or observer).
- 3. Conduct a recce before – provided it doesn't compromise the mission.
- 4. Outside, use a scout to guide the main party once the access route is secured.
- 5. Heavy equipment is held in reserve until needed (ladder, door breaker, etc.).

Slide 5

Approach to the building is a key element to the safety of officers; clearly the best approach will be through cover where it can be hidden from the occupants of the building.

Having a sniper or observer in a position where they can pass information on movements within the building back to the tactical commander is useful, where possible these should be posted so that they can observe all aspects of the outer sides of the building.

If it is possible to recce the route into the building before entry without being detected by the occupants this will identify if the route is safe and appropriate, however, if the recce is seen by the occupants it may compromise the whole entry team.

Once the route in has been decided and if possible recce an officer who is familiar with the route should be used to guide in the rest of the team.

Heavy equipment such as ladders and door breakers should be left at the rear of the

entry team as it can be noisy and cumbersome to carry therefore if it is left until last to bring to the entry point it will reduce the possibility of the occupants hearing the officers approach and thus preserve the element of surprise and therefore maintain the tactical advantage with the police.

**INDOOR PROGRESSION**

- This is mainly divided in four main phases:
  1. Approaching the site where to conduct the arrest
  2. The entry in the building.
  3. The search or the raid of the site.
  4. Securing the suspect(s) and other persons found on the site.

Slide 6

Progression can be split into four main areas:

Approaching the site (already covered previously)

Entry into the building, this must be effected quickly and quietly as it is a danger point, if the suspect(s) are aware of the police entry point they may well prepare bobby traps or have the point covered by weapons.

Searching corridors and rooms, this needs to be carried out quietly so that the officers do not give away their position to the suspect(s), the use of tactical hand signals and slow steady balanced movement will ensure that the initiative remains with the police officers. Corners, rooms and staircases are particular danger points all of which will be discussed later in the lesson.

Securing the suspect and any other persons found within the premises. Finally once the suspect is located the officers must secure them and any other persons found on the premises prior to removing them to custody or debriefing in the case of hostages.

## THE APPROACH PHASE

### Corner crossing

#### Aim of the corner crossing:

- To secure an unknown, risk area in order to progress toward the target.

#### Two different methods:

- Tactical Angle Widening
- Flash method

(Not recommended, use a mirror instead, if need be).

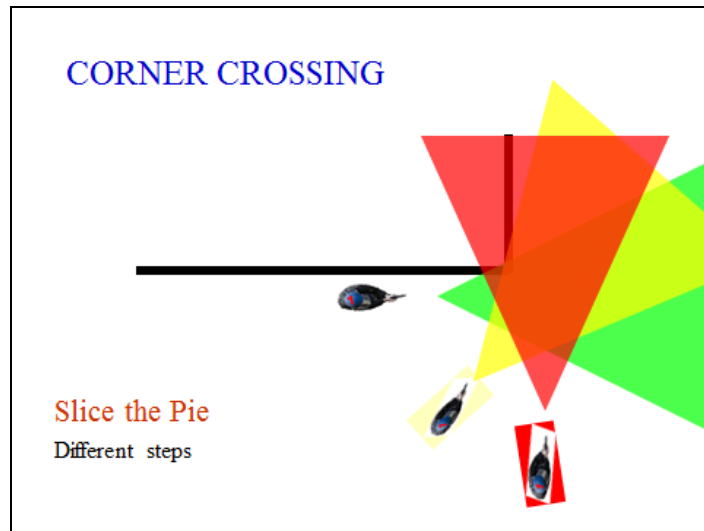
### Slide 7

Movement around corners is a point of danger; corners of corridors are an obvious point for a suspect to cover with weapons, especially if it is close to their hiding point. The aim therefore is to move through the corners in a method by which the officer exposes as small amount of their body as a target as possible but allows them to see if there is a suspect present the other side of the corner.

There are two methods, Tactical Angle Widening, sometimes referred to as 'slicing the pie' and the flash method, which in turn can be carried out in a number of ways. The flash method if not carried out properly can be very dangerous; therefore it is not the recommended method unless the situation dictates an aggressive and immediate response.

It should also be noted that mirrors can be used to search around corners prior to movement by the officers, however it is important to note unless the team are practiced in the use of mirrors they can sometimes be confusing and they should be used with one of the other techniques.

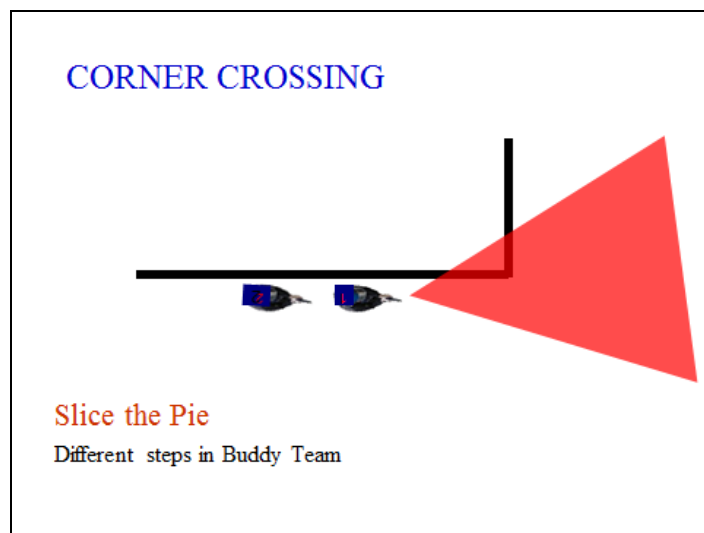




Slide 8

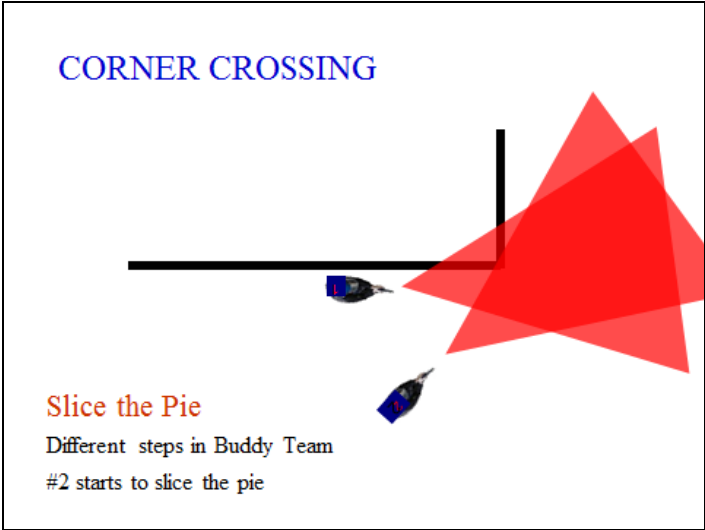
The method of corner crossing can be used by an individual officer or a buddy team, if an individual officer is to use the method they move away from the wall slowly remaining behind the corner and slowly widen the angle at which they can view around the corner as the angle widens and they can see that it is clear so they can move further towards the edge of the corner. They can remain covered by the wall should they discover a threat down the corridor the other side of the wall.

👉 **Instructors note:** Slides 8-13 are animated slides which reveal the elements of the movement gradually, the version on the accompanying DVD should be used in the lesson

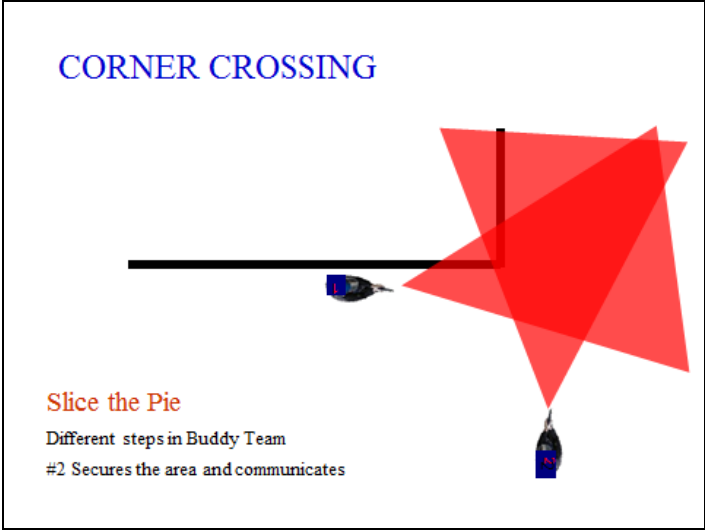


Slide 9

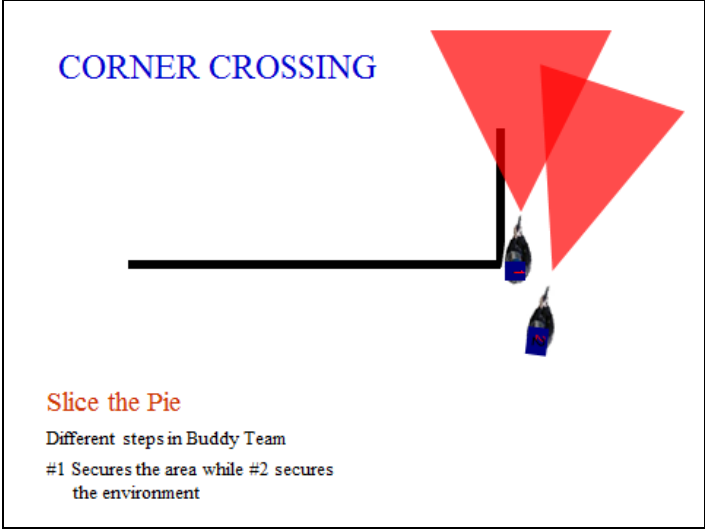
When working as a buddy team the officers work together to 'slice the pie'



Slide 10



Slide 11



Slide 12



Slide 13

The flash method is a technique whereby the lead officer takes a very quick step around the corner with weapon at high ready and then proceeds in force. This must be very quick indeed, however if time is of the essence and forward progress must be aggressive one must realize that a certain degree of safety will be compromised. As mentioned above it can be used in conjunction with a mirror to confirm the area is clear.

While not an actual corner crossing technique, the quick look is a method of determining whether an ambush is located behind or around an obstacle. The quick look is not as simple as the name implies. To be performed correctly and safely the officer must stick his head out and withdraw it in almost one swift movement with eyes open. This must be done so fast that the officer will “see” nothing around the corner or obstacle *until his head is back behind cover* and the brain finally registers the signals sent by the eyes.

**PERIPHERAL APPROACH PHASE.**

Tactical principles

- Reaching the specific part of building is a critical phase: (lobby, corridor, stairs etc.)

1. Higher risk of being detected or encountering persons in the building
2. Change of environment may mean change of progression method
3. Need to maintain communication between inside and outside.
4. Use your “outside eyes” and report on the progression of the arrest team in the building

Slide 14

Reaching the specific part of the building where the suspect is located, or believed to be located is a critical part of the operation. If police are entering a multi occupancy building without first evacuating other residents this is where the risk of detection is highest.

As the environment inside the building changes so the methods used will need to be adapted to the corridors, stairs and rooms being searched.

The tactical commander needs to be in close communication with the entry team to be aware of their current status and any contact.

Use of the observers or snipers to communicate back information on the progress of the arrest team is also essential.

**TACTICAL PRINCIPLES**

- **The team must work closely together despite the fact they may have individual responsibilities:**
  1. Use of a plan of the building with designated locations.
  2. Keep everybody informed
  3. Give contingency plans for all elements before the operation starts.

Slide 15

Prior to entry officers may have been given designated roles, (covering the rear of the team, room entry officers etc.) however they must work as a team, failure to do so will lead to individuals not being aware of the remainder of the team.

Where possible a building plan should be used which indicates locations, RV points, holding areas etc. so that all officers are aware.

Communication is key, and everybody needs to know what is happening, this is particularly important from the perspective of the lead team who need to update their progress and any contacts.

If possible contingency plans should have been drawn up to cover various possibilities prior to the start of the operation, although it must be acknowledged that not every eventuality can be accounted for.

### TACTICAL PRINCIPLES

- **Indoor progression:**
  1. No progression without a fix fire support.
  2. Avoid the elevators
  3. Limit radio traffic once getting in the building.
  4. All cell phones on silence.
  5. Weapons with chambered ammunition.
  6. Avoid touching the walls.
  7. Keep non lethal solutions immediately available, (SKP, tasers, teargas, flash-bangs)

#### Slide 16

Officers should not attempt to move anywhere in the building without sufficient numbers to have an officer dedicated to fixed fire support

Do not use elevators as there is a risk of being trapped in them and it increases the risk of encountering other residents of the building thus reducing the element of surprise.

Once officers are in the building radio traffic should be reduced to the essential, officers must be aware that criminals will often carry scanners to listen into police radio traffic. Equally explosive devices can be detonated by the use of radio waves and police equipment may trip such a device.

Officers on the entry team must ensure that their mobile telephones are set to off or silent in case they activate during the operation.

Weapons should be in the ready state with ammunition in the chamber, officers will not have the time to chamber a round in their weapons and make them ready if they are surprised by the suspect(s), this in turn means that officers must be careful and controlled to avoid accidental discharges or injuring their colleagues (respect the four golden rules of firearm safety).

Officers must ensure that they do not slide along walls when searching corridors, this creates noise and is also dangerous as a shot fired towards a wall has the potential to ricochet and then travel parallel to the wall which will injury any officer who is too close to it. Movement and sound can easily be detected the other side of a wall which can give away to the suspect(s) the fact the officers are about to enter the room that they are in.

Non-lethal methods are a preferable means of subduing the suspect and should be available to use in preference to deadly force if possible.

### TACTICAL PRINCIPLES

- **Indoor progression:**
  7. Communication by signs and touch.
  8. Don't turn on lights.
  9. Multiple targets should be dealt with simultaneously.
  10. Don't send several teams in a sector not yet secured.
  11. Don't break a door if you can enter more discretely.
  12. Choose between an 'in force' action, (only if required) and a tactical one, not an hybrid.

#### Slide 17

Teams inside the building should communicate by tactical signs or touch to ensure that silence is maintained whilst moving and noise is kept to a minimum.

Lights should not be turned on, subdued lighting is a benefit and can conceal the movement of the officers and they should accustom their night vision prior to entry into the building. For night operations if possible night vision equipment should be used.

If there are multiple targets to be detained then where possible they should all be dealt with at the same time to ensure the element of surprise. This may mean that there is a large police element required, however, this must be weighed against the possibility that the suspects will be awaiting the police with deadly force if they are alerted to their impending arrest.

When clearing a building teams should be allocated individual areas to clear, sending two teams to clear the same area is likely to end in a 'blue on blue' encounter as they will not be expecting to meet another team of armed police officers. Building clearance must be progressive with officers left to secure the areas cleared until the whole building is controlled.

When entering premises or rooms as with all movement in Tactical Progression it should be done deliberately and methodically, unless there is a need to break a door down to enter it should be avoided as it will immediately alert the occupants to the presence of the police.

'In Force' actions are only required when there is an imminent danger to life, in which case speed is the key element, whereas Tactical Progression is steady and methodical the two methods should not be mixed.

## Stairs

Progressing and clearing stairs can be one of the more dangerous elements of tactical progression due to the added third dimension. As well a variety of different situations regarding the stair placement and configuration will require different considerations and approaches.


This progression should not be taken lightly and proper planning and preparation regardless of the time constraints will ensure a higher probability of success if we stop and consider such things as.

### Adaptability is key

- Proper equipment such as long weapon vs pistol, ballistic vest and helmet and possibly others.
- Low light situations requiring flashlights or special equipment.
- Adequate officers to secure progressed area allowing a safe exit
- Communication with support and command elements.

## OPEN STAIRWAY PROGRESSION

- Area of responsibility
- Choice of equipment and weapon selection
- Daylight vs low light situations
- Identify adequate manpower to complete objective (progressed area secured)
- Establishing proper communication



Slide 18

You should always consider fixed cover and a back safety element when conducting this type of operation.

Once again a steady methodical pace must be taken with the officers steadily increasing their angle of vision while maintaining the smallest possible target for any suspect.

Officer must approach with their weapons at the ready and with a back safety element covering the corridor below them.

## OPEN STAIRWAY PROGRESSION

- Weapon is in ready position
- Awareness about the third dimension
- Officer # 2 is opening vertical corner followed by officer # 1 who covers the front
- Two police officers are advancing together covering each other



Slide 19

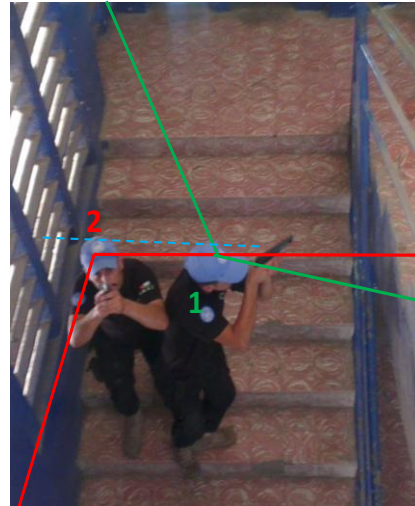
The first officer assumes the responsibility of initiating a flash method to ensure a safe progression (third dimension) prior to commencing the teams advance while the second officer secures front open area.

For increased security officers must remain together to cover 360 degree angle and the third dimension.



## OPEN STAIRWAY PROGRESSION

- Two police officers are advancing together covering each other, opening the corner horizontally, vertically and diagonally
- Police officers are splitting the area of responsibility
- Heads are on the same level



Slide 20

Three areas of concern must be considered at this point.

- 1- Every officer must respect their area of responsibility.
- 2- Clear communication is paramount to ensuring mission objective.
- 3- Both officers must remain at the same level while progressing, this allows them to cover and protect each other.

## OPEN STAIRWAY PROGRESSION

- Police officer # 2 covering balcony
- Police officer # 1 opening the corner of diagonal staircase on the right
- When the corner is clear, officer # 1 turns upstairs



Slide 21

Stair progression is about opening all the angles (horizontal, vertical and diagonal) and progressing in safety without compromising your position.

Fixed security and back safety needs to be adjusted as you move towards the objective.

## OPEN STAIRWAY PROGRESSION

- Communication includes physical contact
- Walking backward in rolling movement
- Police officer # 1 covering doorway above
- Police officer # 2 covering balcony



Slide 22

Once officers secure the top of the first section of the staircase, if the staircase turns in this can be dealt with by opening the corner in the same manner as a corner crossing.

## OPEN STAIRWAY PROGRESSION

- Police officers advancing together and horizontally slicing the pie on the staircase
- Police officer # 1 covering doorway
- Police officer # 2 covering balcony



Slide 23

Officers will then continue to move up the stairs widening the angle in the same manner allowing them to see the top of the stairs. The key element of stairs is covering the third dimension.

## OPEN STAIRWAY PROGRESSION

- If staircase ends the officers will be focused at the doorway in front
- If secure officers can continue progression in relay
- If the staircase continues officers will split the area of responsibility as shown on slide # 3 and progress



Slide 24

Once again we see officers at the same level thus increasing the safety factor and allowing both officers to engage the threat if need be.

## OPEN STAIRWAY PROGRESSION

- After finishing progression on the staircase officers will proceed depending on what follows, (straight corridor, room, roof...)
- Cleared portion of the staircase has to be secured by following team
- Ensure continued back safety and fixed cover during the operation



Slide 25

Continuing the progression after clearing the staircase we have to adapt to the new situation, always keeping in mind principles of tactical progression: adaptability, mobility, protection, communication.

## Room Entry

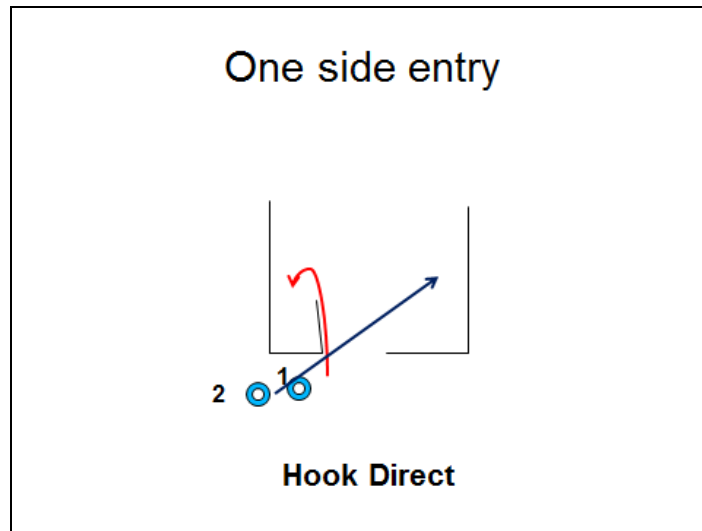
In the next phase officers will deal with room entry, another dangerous part of this technique. There are two methods of room entry 'Hard Entry' and 'Tactical Entry' Hard Entry is as the name implies indicates entry by force which will mean breaking a door down to allow the team to enter. Hard Entry teams will require door breaking equipment and this will normally be operated by a specialist buddy team who once the door is broken will stand back to allow the entry team to move through the doorway.

Tactical Entry is the preferred method when the door can be opened from the outside quietly and the room checked from the outside before moving in. With a tactical entry stealth can be maintained and the element of surprise remains with the police officers.

### IMMEDIATE APPROACH PHASE

- This encompasses the hard and the tactical entry.
- Hard entry implies a modus operandi "in force" raiding the targeted area. The hard entry teams is positioned next to the door and ram the door only on the team leader's "go". The 'break in' buddy team moves back to let the rest of the team in.
- The tactical entry implies the door is opened or can be opened without breaking the door. Two different situations two different techniques:

Slide 26

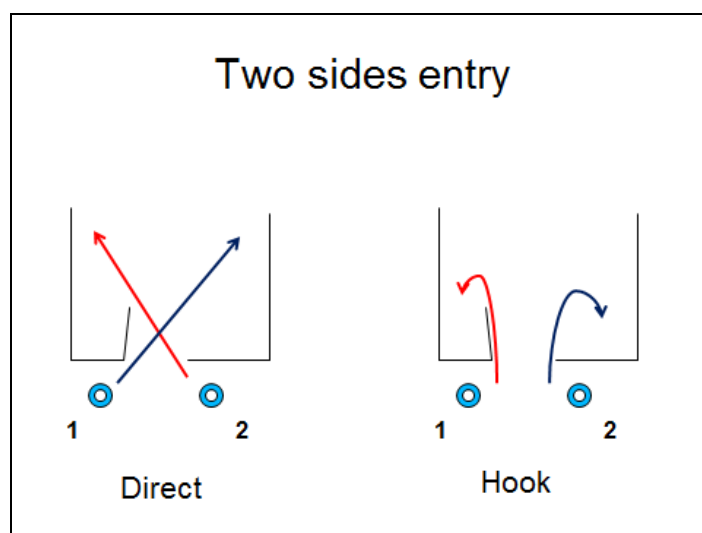


Slide 27

There are three methods for the officers to enter the room which will be dependent on various circumstances (the amount of cover available outside the door, if the door is open or closed when the officers arrive at it, etc.).

Where the officers move in from one side of the doorway the officer 1 will move to the left of the room and clear behind the door while officer 2 will move into the right hand side of the room and clear the corner that cannot be seen from outside the room. The officers must not become focussed on any particular area of the room as there may be a threat appearing from any part of the room.

Officers need to enter the room at the same time to confuse any possible suspect(s) and present two targets thus increasing reaction time on the part of the suspect.



Slide 28

Where the officers are able to enter from either side of the doorway there are two possible techniques, either direct to the opposite corners of the room or by the hook method remaining on the same side that they enter on and clearing that section of the room.

### TACTICAL PRINCIPLES

- **Indoor progression:**
  1. If you use a hard entry method assume the suspect will be alerted.
  2. Unless you are sure you can subdue the suspect in less than ten seconds after breaking the door, don't use the hard entry technique.
  3. If compromised and the suspect is armed, negotiate and isolate the area.
  4. In case of several rooms to search, the closer you come to the last room the safer the entry techniques must be.
  5. For the last room don't enter but attempt to call the suspect out.

Slide 29

When the hard entry method is used it has to be assumed that the suspect(s) will be alerted to the police presence by the noise of the entry.

Using the hard entry method the suspect needs to be secured within ten seconds of the entry team going through the door otherwise the threat to the police officers is too great, and the tactical command needs to consider a different method of securing their surrender.

At any stage where the suspect(s) is seen to be armed and in a dominant position police should secure a safe cordon around the premises and attempt to negotiate a resolution.

Where the police have to clear a number of rooms the more rooms that are cleared the more likely the suspect(s) are to be in the next one, therefore the methods used must be selected with officer safety in mind.

When only one room is left to clear it must be assumed that the suspect(s) is likely to be in there, therefore they should be called on to surrender and come out of the room before police attempt any form of entry.



### TACTICAL PROGRESSION

- **Indoor progression:**
- 6. The “go” to enter a room is given by the officer entering first.
- 7. When entering a room, go beyond the peripheral sight of the suspect, two at a time.
- 8. Never stay in the doorway.
- 9. Use the ballistic shield, (if you have one) with a team of three.
- 10. Search the rooms thoroughly after moving in, keeping protective equipment on.

#### Slide 30

When entering the room the “go” will always be given by the officer entering the room first, it should always be given by signs or touch as the suspect may well be able to hear the word go and will react before the officers.

The two officers entering the room need to go well into the room beyond the peripheral vision of the suspect this way they present two targets and the suspect has to make a decision as to which one to engage therefore increasing their reaction time.

Officers should never remain in the doorway; they are an easy target and will often be silhouetted by the light.

A ballistic shield will give added protection to the team, however they are often heavy and bulky which may make their use difficult in smaller buildings.

Once the officers have seen that the room is provisionally clear they need to make a search to ensure that the suspect is not hiding in or behind furniture. As a result they need to keep their personal protective equipment on.

### SEARCH OF ROOMS

- The search has to be conducted swiftly but methodically.
- The standard principles apply, (attitude, protection, communication, support).
- Using a tactical shield doesn't supersede the usual searching methods. It only creates an intermediate between the tactical and the "hard entry" technique. It requires a lot of training and perfect coordination.

Slide 31

The search must be conducted methodically and thoroughly as a cursory search may not reveal the hiding place of the suspect either allowing them to escape or to attack the team from the rear as they move on to clear the next room.

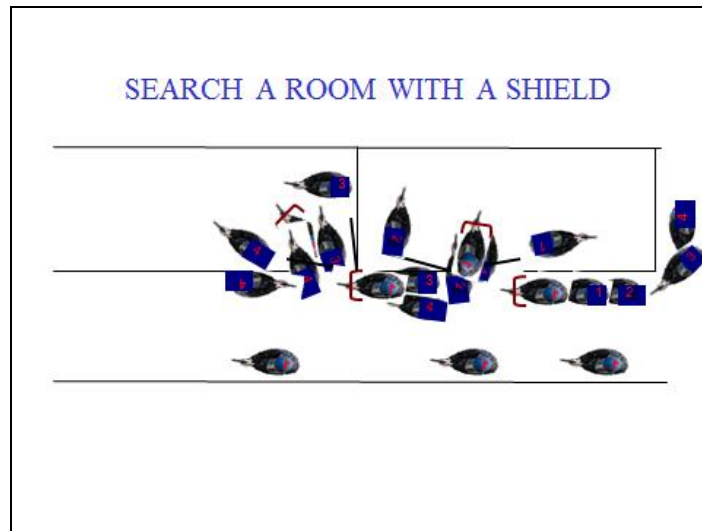
APCS applies – see page 8 above

Tactical ballistic shield are useful but they require the team to be trained in their use.

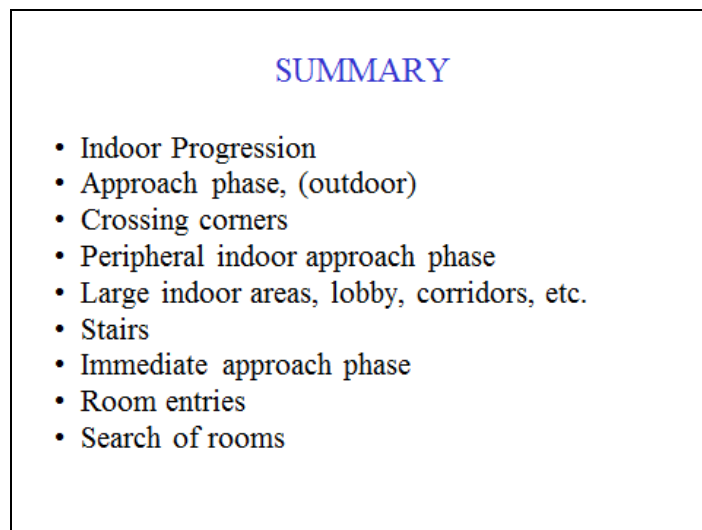
### SEARCH A ROOM WITHOUT A SHIELD

Slide 32

**Instructors note:** Slides 26 - 27 are animated slides which reveal the elements of the movement gradually, the version on the accompanying DVD should be used in the lesson

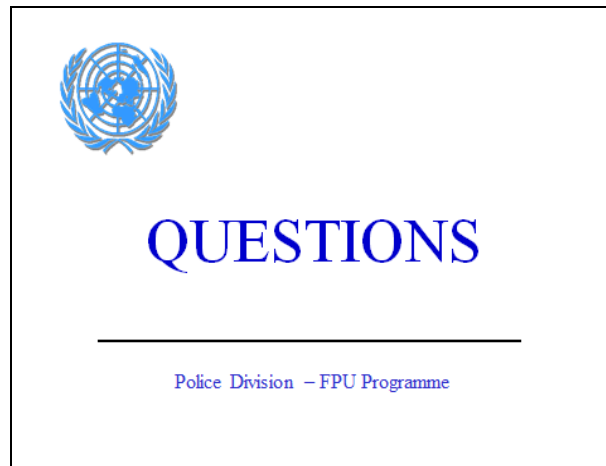


Slide 33



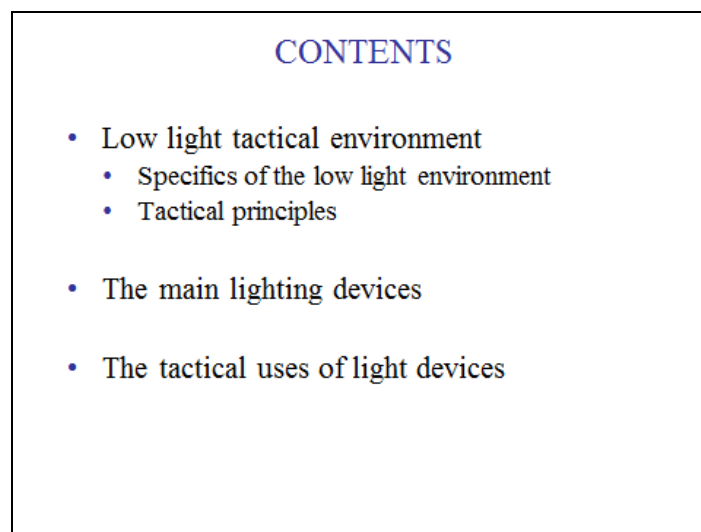
Slide 34

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



Slide 35

## Lesson 3 – Low Light environment Tactical Progression



Slide 1

## AIM

To teach the principles of tactical progression  
in low light situations

### Slide 2

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the lesson the student will have:

- An awareness of the low light tactical environment and techniques
- Be able to apply those techniques to practical scenarios

### Slide 3

## Low light tactical environment

- **Specificities of the low light environment:**
- Night time environment
  - Fatigue
  - Body quicker to adjust
- Day time environment
  - Light to dark
  - Adjustment times

### Slide 4

There is a basic distinction between night time and a low/no light environment during day time.

At night the whole environment is in darkness, the human body will adjust both the eyes and the brain to deal with the surrounding environment. However, at night the human body will normally be more tired which is an important factor in high risk operations, as there is often a reduced reaction time as a result.

When the low light environment is during the day the brain has more difficulty in adjusting, particularly when the officer has been outside in daylight moments before entering a darkened building or room. This adjustment time can be crucial to reaction times in the first minutes of entering the building.

In human night vision, molecules of rhodopsin in the rods of the eye undergo a change in shape as they absorb light. Rhodopsin is the chemical that allows night-vision, and is extremely sensitive to light. Exposed to a spectrum of light, the pigment immediately bleaches, and it takes about 30 minutes to regenerate fully, but most of the adaptation occurs within the first five or ten minutes in the dark.

- 77% of shootings happen in low light
- 25% of civilians involved in a low light shooting by police officers were unarmed.
- There is an average drop of 30% in officer's shooting performance in low light

Source: ACLU study, (American civil rights association)

Slide 5

77% of shootings happen in low light environment, (ACLU study, and (American civil rights association)) but also 25% of the civilians involved in a shooting by police officers were unarmed, showing a real problem of the need for accurate analysis of the threat by the police officer.

There is an average drop of the shooting performance of police officers in low light condition of 30%

## Tactical principles

With the use of a torch/flashlight there are two simple rules

1. Use it only when necessary,
2. Use it scarcely

Slide 6

There are tactically almost as many pros as cons to using lights in the form of torches or flashlights during tactical progression, however there are two simple rules:

Use it only when necessary - when other methods or equipment are not available or relevant. Remember - The white light will reveal your position to the suspect.

Use it scarcely - because it will destroy night/low light vision and the fact that it is likely to indicate your location to the suspect.

## Tactical considerations

- The beam will not reveal all of a room
- The use of the light will destroy night vision
- Psychological factor
- Red & white light

Slide 7

The light of most torches/flashlights will not reveal the whole of a room, as it will have a fairly narrow beam, however it should be noted that the comfort of having the light can provide a false feeling of security to officers.

Don't overlook the Psychological factor, and the effect it can have on the officer. Stress, fear, the loss of points of reference in the dark will all heighten tension. However, the same will apply to the suspect, particularly if the officers are able to approach quietly and without the use of light.

Use the proper tool for the right task, red light does not have such a devastating effect on the human night vision, it is also easier to conceal, therefore it should be used to look at the environment and check equipment, maps etc. The white light should be kept for illuminating the suspect or areas where there may be a threat.

### Tactical considerations (cont.)

- Analyze the threat.
- Don't expose yourself
- Use torch/flashlight in a way that lights the whole room

Slide 8

As has been seen from earlier statistics the officer needs to carefully analyse the threat before shooting. Therefore they will have to consider carefully the advantages and disadvantages of using or not using a torch/flashlight.

Don't expose yourself when not needed. There is no need to enter a room to light it. Rolling a lit torch/flashlight into the room will give some information, however care must be exercised in doing so to make sure the torch doesn't roll under furniture or against a wall.

Similarly pointing a powerful flashlight to the ceiling will illuminate the entire room. Do it from behind cover or put the light on the floor.



### Tactical use of the torch/flashlight

- There are many ways to hold a flashlight.
- The beam may attract the shot on you directly
- Ensure you are comfortable
- Change position immediately after using your light.

#### Slide 9

There are many of ways to hold a torch/flashlight; the main element is that it is comfortable.

The beam may attract a shot on the officer directly, although there is no evidence to support this theory, however it may be that when confronted by the light pointed at them the suspect will fire a shot straight at it. Therefore the officer should not put it next to their head or with the beam illuminating them.

The officers should keep a simple grip as they may have to hold the flashlight for a long time. They can support the hand carrying the weapon or keep the light far from their body with you other hand. It depends mainly on how comfortable they will be to move or shoot, (narrow environment, potential multiple threats, etc.).

If the officers do turn the torch/flashlight on they should change position immediately after using the light to avoid making a target, and remember to only use the light briefly.

### Other considerations

- Use your other senses.
- Use your peripheral vision.
- Use of aftershave/perfume.
- Use the light switch in the room

#### Slide 10

The officer should use their other senses, like smell and touch however being careful that by using the sense of touch they do not create excessive noise when feeling their way. Officers should always leave time for their eyes to adjust to the darkness.

Officers should use their peripheral vision avoiding the eyes 'blind spot'. Do not stare directly at items as there is a blind spot on the eye in low light that will hide objects or the suspect, by rotating the eyes in a 'S' pattern the iris will pick up all that is in front of it in low light situations.

Remember that the suspect will also be using their senses; officers may regret using strong aftershave or perfume as it may give away their location.

Officers should remember that if the electricity in the building is working they can use the light switch in the room, but should only do so if it is safe. If the suspect is not in the room however it may give away the location of the officers.



#### Slide 11





**Tactical Torches/Flashlights:** There are many different types which can be worn or held, they also have different filters and colours as well as high and low intensity beams

**Simple torches/flashlights:** These are standard domestic types often with a limited brightness. Can be very useful with a red cover or filter as this does not alter the eyes light adjustment and is not visible from a distance. Often useful if used with a strap or lanyard hanging around the neck therefore it can be dropped if needed without losing it.

**Complex Torches/Flashlights:** Lights with combined effects, these may have multi colours and multi effect for example stroboscopic effects for distraction and disorientation. They can be complicated to operate, particularly when holding a firearm.

### Other Lighting

- Cyalume.
- Projectors
- Night vision devices.
- Laser pointer
- Infrared spotter
- Flash grenades and distraction devices
- Rocket launched lighting system with parachute

Slide 12

**Cyalume**, otherwise often referred to as light or glow sticks, these come in a number of different colours and can be obtained in Infrared, they are normally single use as they will initiate a membrane being broken to mix the chemicals to create the light. They can be thrown into the room for illumination whilst the officers remain in cover, sometimes they can be noisy when initiated.

**Projectors** of several million candle power can be used as a Non-Lethal Weapon by projecting a bright light that dazzles the suspect and makes vision very difficult for them, strobe projection can also be used as a distraction device, and they are larger and normally require a power source so are normally used for hostage rescue situations. There are however some smaller versions capable of projecting a very bright light from a torch/flashlight sized hand held device.

Night vision devices: When available these are the best compromise you can find as they allow the officer to compensate the challenge of arriving in an unknown area potentially familiar to the opponent with the ability to see when the suspect cannot. However there can be a difficulty with distance perception at close range if the officer is unfamiliar with the equipment.

Laser pointer, mounted lights: these are useful for pinpointing targets; however they do not provide light to the area as such.

Infrared spotter: These are invisible and have to be combined with the use of night vision goggles. Possible ultimate discretion with a suppressor like with a MP5 SD.

Flash grenades and distraction devices, (stroboscopic light balls). These can be dropped into a room and create a very bright light which can be used to distract the suspect.

Parachute flares: These allow covering a very large area, (size of a football stadium with a powerful light for several minutes, without risks. They are hand held and can be launched quickly, only suitable for use outdoors. Often used by the military for lighting areas at night that may be subject to attack to allow defenders to identify and eliminate the enemy.

### Tactical use of light devices

- The use of light serves five main purposes:
  - Light an area
  - Illuminate a target
  - Identify a threat
  - Blind and distract a threat.
  - Deter the suspect from leaving their current location or deter them from engaging the police

Each purpose may require the use of a specific type, as described earlier.

Slide 13

There are five main purposes for the tactical uses of light are listed in slide 13. Each can be connected to the types of device discussed earlier in slides 11 & 12. In the following slide particular scenarios will be discussed.

- To search and clear a room:
  - Suspect is in a location but it is not known which room they may be in (discretion is required in order to surprise the opponent)
- Recommendation:
  - Use night goggles and distraction light device if the suspect will not come to you.

Slide 14

To search and clear a room: In this scenario the suspect is believed to be in a building but it is not known where and a number of rooms may need to be searched. Clearly the police officers will need to use discretion to enable them to maintain an advantage over the suspect, while at the same time being able to move quickly between rooms to identify the suspects' location.

In this case the recommendation would be to use night goggles whilst clearing the building then once the suspect is located if they will not come out to surrender then distraction devices can be thrown into the room to disorientate them prior to the officers entering.

- Where a show of force is required:
  - Suspect is in a secured location but will not surrender to police
- Recommendation:
  - Use powerful projectors to blind the opponent, (light wall) and distraction devices when it is necessary to access the location

Slide 15

In this scenario the suspect has been located in an area or room but will not come

out and surrender. Powerful projectors can be used to distract or disorientate them until such time as they surrender, or if there is a need for the officers to enter the building, hostage rescue for example, then distraction devices can be used when it is necessary to enter.

- Maximum safety required:
  - Suspect in a building but exact location unknown
- Recommendation:
  - Night goggles or if not available use red lights
  - Use torches to light up rooms
  - If entering a room where the suspect is, use distraction light devices.

Slide 16

In this scenario the suspect is in a building but their exact location is not known, there are no hostages and the building is contained externally, there is no urgency in the officers' search and they can use maximum safety in locating the suspect

If no night goggles available use red lights to show the way, in brief flashes, moving just after. When reaching a dangerous new area, roll a powerful light into the room, (if the suspect is in there they are very likely to react and give away their position). It is also possible to use a light pointed toward the ceiling as explained earlier.

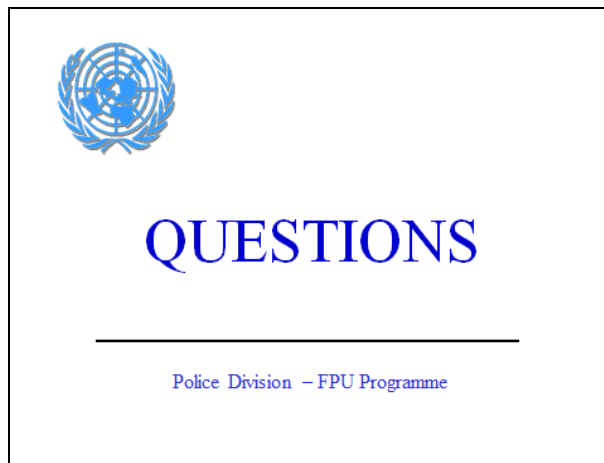
If officers have to enter the room where the suspect is likely to be, use distraction light devices, (flash grenades, stroboscopic lights etc.)

## Summary

- Low light environment
- Light devices
- Main purposes of light in Tactical Progression
- The use of all this equipment takes a lot of training, but they should not be deemed as a substitute to common sense, experience and professionalism.

Slide 17

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



Slide 18