

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACPO - Association of Chief Police Officers

AEP: Attenuating Energy Projectile

AFO - Authorised Firearms Officer:

An Authorised Firearms Officer (AFO) is a police officer attached to Special Operations Branch or an Armed Response Vehicle (ARV) Unit who has been selected and trained in the use of firearms in policing operations. The officer will have reached the required level of competency in weapon handling, tactical knowledge, shooting skills and judgement as required by the Chief Constable. An authorised firearms officer will undergo an intensive 11-week training programme, which covers the following;

Specialist unarmed close quarter combat

Advanced Firearms

ARV Interception tactics

Advanced Driving Course

Tactical Pursuit Driving

Bronze Commander

First Aid Training (this includes training in a defibrillator which is carried in the Armed Response Vehicle)

ARV - Armed Response Vehicle

An Armed Response Vehicle (ARV) is the terminology used for a patrol car which is used by authorised firearms officers to respond to a spontaneous firearms incident.

BRC – Belfast Regional Control

Bronze Commander-

A Bronze commander is a police officer who has been trained as a bronze commander and who, at the scene of a firearms incident, is responsible for the implementation of the Silver Commander's plan by the use of appropriate tactics within a geographical or functional area of responsibility

CAJ - Committee on the Administration of Justice

CAT - Committee Against Torture

Gold, Silver and Bronze Command Structure

An effective command structure has three levels, Strategic, Tactical and Operational. These command functions are commonly referred to as Gold, Silver and Bronze respectively.

Gold =Strategy – The overall intention to combine resources towards managing and resolving an event or incident.

Silver =Tactics – The way that resources are used to achieve the strategic intentions within the range of approved tactical options

Bronze =Action – Organises the groups of resources to carry out the tactical plan.

DOMILL - Defence Scientific Advisory Council sub-committee on the Medical Implications of Less Lethal Weapons

DSTL - Defence Science and Technology Laboratory

Dynamic Risk Assessment

The term 'dynamic risk assessment' is used for the continuous process of risk assessment performed dynamically within the constraints of the factors/circumstances presented by a given incident/situation present at that time. In plain terms it is an 'on the spot' risk assessment undertaken for spontaneous incidents. An officer attending the scene of a spontaneous firearms incident will need to utilise their experience, knowledge, skill and training to assess the particular risks and hazards which are present at that time, and take the appropriate measures which are necessary and proportionate to eliminate or minimise the hazards to the public, the police and the subject.

ECHR - European Charter on Human Rights

EQIA - Equality Impact Assessment

FMO – Forensic Medical Officer

HMIC - Her Majesties' Inspectorate of Constabulary

HOSDB - Home Office Scientific Development Branch

NICCY - Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children & Young Persons

NIO – Northern Ireland Office

NIPB - Northern Ireland Policing Board

NISRA: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

OFMDFM - Office of First Minister and Deputy First Minister

PAVA - Pelargonic Acid Vanillylamide (an Incapacitant spray)

PONI - Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

PSNI - Police Service of Northern Ireland

RNID - Royal National Institute for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

SDLP - Social Democratic and Labour Party

SOB - Specialist Operations Branch

SFO - Specialist Firearms Officer:

A Specialist Firearms Officer (SFO) is an Authorised Firearms Officer attached to Specialist Operations Branch. In addition to the requirements outlined at 'Authorised firearms officer' above, SFO's will receive additional training in the use of firearms in pre planned policing operations and specialist entry and search techniques. A specialist firearms officer will undergo an intensive 26-week training programme, which covers the following;

- Advanced Firearms

- Specialist unarmed close quarter combat
- SFO Interception tactics
- Abseil / Fast rope access
- SFO Intervention tactics (Hostage rescue)
- SFO team medic (Enhanced First Aid Training)
- Counter terrorist tactics
- Advanced Driving Course
- Tactical Pursuit Driving
- High risk close protection
- Photography
- Bronze Commander

TAS1 - Police Taser Deployment Form

TASER – Thomas A Swift’s Electrical Rifle (from the Tom Swift fantasy stories)

An Electroshock weapon that uses Electro-Muscular Disruption (EMD) Technology

UN - United Nations