



ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY

MANUAL

ON

PUBLIC ORDER

10804

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND PRINCIPLES

POLICE ROLE

- 1.1 The instructions in this manual have particular relevance to major disturbances but may be applied to disturbances of any kind.
- 1.2 The Royal Ulster Constabulary is responsible for the maintenance of public order in Northern Ireland. The response of the Force to situations of public disorder will be that appropriate to a civilian police service.
- 1.3 It is essential that strict impartiality be displayed by every police officer in the discharge of his duties. The correct mental attitude accompanied by tact, good humour and common sense are of the greatest value in preventing any situation from deteriorating.
- 1.4 Dealing with major disorder is very different from day to day police work and there is a need for those involved to change from acting as individuals to acting as members of a disciplined team.
- 1.5 The objectives of the police must be clearly defined at briefings and all personnel should be kept informed of developments. The extent of attainment of police objectives should be the subject of thorough debriefing.
- 1.6 At the scene of any disturbance it is the immediate responsibility of the senior police officer present to take all lawful measures within his power for the restoration of law and order as quickly as possible.
- 1.7 In the event of a public disorder situation it is imperative that the initiative should be quickly seized and held and it is to this end that the measures set out in this manual are specially designed. Disorder spreads quickly and any success gained by the rioters at the expense of authority or any apparent reluctance on the part of the police to deal quickly with the disturbance will only encourage the forces of disorder.

- 1.8 It is important that all Operational Orders should be drawn up carefully after due examination of the strategies, tactics and resources to be employed to meet the police objective for any operation. See Chapters 3.33, 10 and Appendix 6.
- 1.9 In the course of briefing officers on the objectives of the operation and the tactics to be employed in meeting these objectives, they should be directed to ensure that their demeanour, behaviour and appearance are at all times above valid criticism and, accordingly, avoid giving any opportunity to those who may wish to portray the Force in an unfavourable light. Many public order events will attract media attention and all officers must be aware of and be alive to this. See Chapter 20.
- 1.10 Central to this aim is the need for effective planning and the provision of firm and active supervision of operations at all levels which should be evident to the officers engaged on the operation. Supervisory arrangements must be such that all officers act in a proper disciplined manner. See Chapters 9 and 19.

MANPOWER RESOURCES

- 1.11 In keeping with the concept of minimum force, adequate resources will be deployed in advance with the intention of preventing a breach of the peace. Additional manpower will be deployed in the most favourable positions to deal with the escalation of violence.
- 1.12 Mobile support units are readily available to augment local resources as and when necessary.
- 1.13 Teams of women police specially trained for a public order role are available. These will be used in situations where the demonstrators are mainly female.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND PRINCIPLES

1.14 The Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve has a distinct and secondary role to carry out those routine duties discharged by members of the regular Force in times of normality. This will release trained RUC men for public order duties.

1.15 Where a public disorder situation is beyond the capability of the police it will be necessary and constitutionally appropriate to have military assistance. In such circumstances there will be operational liaison and whilst each service will maintain its integrity of command the police will retain strategic primary.

DEALING WITH DISORDER

PINCER MOVEMENT

11.36 This movement is operated from the front and both flanks where it is intended to contain a crowd at a specific location or force its withdrawal in a particular direction. Illustrated Appendix 34 refers.

FLANKING MOVEMENT

11.37 The flanking method is a variation of the pincer movement operated from the front and one flank. It is useful in channelling the crowd in a specified direction and allows additional avenues of escape. Illustrated Appendix 35 refers.

AVENUE OF ESCAPE

11.38 Any plan must allow the crowd an avenue of escape. Failure to provide this may cause panic among the crowd and lead to greater hostility towards the police.

ARRESTS - HOSTILE DEMONSTRATIONS

11.39 Although the objectives of the police in public order situations are to disperse rioters and restore normality as quickly as possible it is also important that police should where possible, effect the maximum number of arrests especially of persons engaged in or organising each disorder.

11.40 When making arrests consideration may be given to the use of arrest team formations. However, such formations have their limitations and can expose individual officers to the risk of being cut off from their unit.

ARREST FORMATIONS

11.41 The arrest formation units are formed in the same manner as base formation units. Depending on the availability of manpower or width of roadway, four or multiples of four sub-units will be used.

RETURN TO NORMALITY

officers may be re-introduced to the area as soon as possible to discover grievances and prevent the continued polarisation of the community.

12.6 Every effort should be made to prevent neighbourhood officers becoming engaged in any situation which may involve them in confrontation with their local community.

12.7 The period following public disorder is one in which all concerned will be left with a sense of bitterness because of personal injury or damage sustained. It is at such a time that the police service can make particular use of the long relationships with community leaders.

DEBRIEFING AND POST INCIDENT OBJECTIVES

12.8 As soon as circumstances permit all members involved in the operation should return to the base station to undergo a thorough debrief. When all relevant information has been obtained a factual report should be forwarded to Force Control and Information Centre.

12.9 Plans should be formulated to identify, arrest and prosecute those persons who were involved in any criminal activities and to collate details for criminal injury claims.

12.10 To further stability and engender the goodwill of the public the police service must be seen to act promptly to investigate complaints, provide assistance for the restoration of civil amenities and to co-operate with local representatives in seeking the underlying causes of community disorder with a view to preventing any repetition.

12.11 To this end police willingness to meet with the community and to discuss problems should in no way impede the arrest and prosecution of these persons earlier involved in criminal activities during the period of public disorder, nor must the creation of police 'no-go' areas be permitted.

INTRODUCTION

20.1 Briefing is the issuing of instructions to personnel detailing arrangements prior to, and during, the policing of events. Proper briefing is essential to ensure that personnel involved in any public order/disorder situation know exactly what police action is to be taken, the reasons for it and how such action is to be implemented. Each individual officer involved should know his own particular role and how this fits into the overall plan. This may be amplified by a precise written instruction setting out the members duties. Sufficient time must be allowed to cater for briefing in respect of all operations.

CONSIDERATIONS

20.2 Briefing should be in two phases, the overall commander briefing all officers of or above the rank of inspector and the inspector in turn briefing his particular serial.

20.3 The Commander's briefing must take place a reasonable time before the event. Members of specialist branches should attend in addition to those mentioned in paragraph 20.2

20.4 The inspectors will arrange for detailed briefing of their respective serials and this should be done as close to the event as possible.

20.5 A suitable room or place, which is quiet with no distractions, should be used.

BRIEFING HINTS

20.6 The following points should prove useful:

(a) Early and detailed research so that proper planning will result. Personal survey of the area beforehand will prove useful.

BRIEFING AND DEBRIEFING

- (b) Briefing involves time and it is imperative that this fact is clearly recognised by all.
- (c) The presentation should be clear, concise without ambiguity and in logical sequence. If necessary written instructions should be given setting out the specific task or duties to be performed.
- (d) Ensure all members are present and where applicable that they are properly dressed for the operation.
- (e) Describe the events leading up to what is about to happen, the organisations taking part and any expected trouble areas.
- (f) Describe the area, route and timings of what is about to take place. Issue maps where necessary.
- (g) State clearly the police objectives, eg to stop the parade or allow to proceed; arrest of offenders or identification and process at a later date etc.
- (h) The responsibility of groups and persons should be defined and careful consideration should be given to the attachment of a local officer to a visiting serial to advise on local matters.
- (i) Describe briefly the general policing arrangements to deal with the event.
- (j) Remind members of possible offences and their powers to deal with offenders.
- (k) Remind them of arrest techniques and the need to replace arresting officers in formations.
- (l) State the location of prisoner reception points and the subsequent procedure for dealing with them.

BRIEFING AND DEBRIEFING

- (m) Remind them of the procedure in dealing with complaints from the public.
- (n) Advise re refreshments and reliefs.
- (o) State clearly the transport to be used and ensure that correct embussing and debussing procedures are observed. Drivers should remain with vehicles at all times.
- (p) Specify communications equipment to be used, the channels and individual call signs.
- (q) Outline specific duties to appropriate officers.
- (r) Ensure those present understand the briefing.
- (s) Issue operational returns and give debriefing arrangements.

AN AIDE MEMOIRE TO BRIEFING IS INCLUDED AT APPENDIX 47.

DEBRIEFING

20.7 Effective debriefing at the end of an operation is just as important as the briefing before it. It can be described as being in three different stages:

- (a) By supervisory officers at the scene of the incident whilst the details are still fresh in the mind.
- (b) Immediately after the event and before dispersal of personnel engaged in the operation.
- (c) A post incident enquiry may be held. Any necessary amendments, alterations or adjustments considered necessary for future events should be discussed.

OPERATIONAL RETURNS

- 20.8 These returns are designed to provide a brief but comprehensive record for divisional commanders, regarding the policing of major events in their divisions. See Appendix 48. Operational returns will be completed in the following circumstances:
- (a) Pre-planned operations.
 - (b) When units are directed to public disorder.
 - (c) Any other incident when the divisional commander directs.
- 20.9 Each sergeant will complete an operational return in respect of the members under his control. These will be passed to the inspector who will complete a return for the sergeants under his control. The chief inspector will collect these and complete a return in respect of the inspectors under his control. This process will continue until the senior officer on duty has an operational return in respect of every unit on duty at the event.
- 20.10 The senior officer in charge will ensure that fully completed returns have been received from all resources on duty prior to their release from that specific duty. He will check on the presence of personnel and take regard injuries, damage, incidents, arrests, complaints and evidence seized. Immediately on completion of the duty the returns will be forwarded by the senior officer to the divisional commander in whose division the duty was performed. These will be filed, after the divisional commander is satisfied that all necessary action has been taken including the submission of documentation in relation to:
- (a) An occurrence involving firearms (RUC Code Section 34).
 - (b) The use of batons (RUC Code Section 24, paragraph 22).
 - (c) A complaint against the police (Form 17/2).

BRIEFING AND DEBRIEFING

REPORTS

- 20.11 At the termination of the event a factual report should be prepared and forwarded to Force Control and Information Centre.
- 20.12 Normal investigative reports should be prepared in connection with specific incidents and forwarded through the usual channels.
- 20.13 Where requests for additional manpower or other resources have been made to Superintendent, Operational Planning and in respect of which Form 11/6 has been forwarded, a further report on Form 11/6(a) will be forwarded by the Sub Divisional Commander concerned to Superintendent, Operational Planning following the operation. (See Appendix 49)