

# MPA

Metropolitan Police Authority

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Clerk to the Metropolitan Police Authority

Memo

**TO:** All Members  
**cc:** SMT, Nick Baker, Keith Dickinson  
**Date:** 8 August 2005  
**Re:** Counter Suicide Terrorism

Following the discussions at full Authority on 28 July I now attach a briefing note prepared by the MPS on the tactics to be deployed in the event of an armed encounter with suspected suicide bombers. This is a national policy which was adopted by ACPO centrally and ratified in 2003. It known as Operation Kratos. "Shoot to kill" is a vernacular term which the police themselves prefer not to use.

Some members may remember that the Authority was briefed, as this policy was being developed, by Barbara Wilding, -then Deputy Assistant Commission in Specialist Operations, but now Chief Constable of South Wales. Although this is a national policy it was in practice worked up by Barbara Wilding and colleagues within the MPS. I attach an extract from the minutes of the meeting of full Authority on 21 March 2002 which was the first occasion on which the Authority was introduced to the tactics being drawn up following the events of 9/11 in New York. The minutes are less than informative, doubtless because there were instructions to ensure that they were not potentially damaging but I do myself recall that at that meeting Barbara Wilding explained that it was necessary for suspected suicide bombers to be shot in the head rather than the torso, which is the accepted firearms practice, because of the risk of detonating explosive. The same goes for taser use.

After that meeting in March 2002 a critical incident exercise weekend was conducted, called Operation Tavistock, at which Sir John Quinton represented the Authority. Unfortunately I can find no records of Sir John subsequently briefing the Authority in any formal way on the outcome of that weekend but it is clear that the MPS felt that through his attendance the Authority was being kept in touch with this policy as it was being developed.

As the briefing notes make clear the tactics are not deployed randomly. Press coverage that suggests that members of the public are vulnerable to being shot on suspicion are wide of the mark. Tactics are implemented on an intelligence led basis backed up by senior level decision making, at ACPO rank.

**FROM: Catherine Crawford**

I am conscious that this material will not answer all the questions that members have. We are arranging a briefing, in a closed session, for September when members are back and I hope it will be possible to discuss some of the issues further at that point. In the meantime, David Riddle and I will be available to deal individually with any points members may wish to raise.

**CATHERINE CRAWFORD**  
**Chief Executive & Clerk to the Authority**

Minutes of a meeting of the Metropolitan Police Authority held on Thursday, 21 March 2002 at 10.00 am. at Romney House, Marsham Street, London, SW1.

**PRESENT**

Members: Toby Harris (Chair):

Anthony Arbour, Jennette Arnold, Reshard Auladin, Richard Barnes (Deputy

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Chair), John Biggs, Cindy Butts, Lynne Featherstone, Nicky Gavron (items 1-5), Peter Herbert (Deputy Chair), Elizabeth Howlett, Darren Johnson, Jenny Jones

(item 13 only), Nicholas Long, Cecile Lothian, R. David Muir (items 1-4 and 8-13), Eric Ollerenshaw, Sir John Quinton, Richard Sumray, Graham Tope (item 13 only), Abdal Ullah and Rachel Whittaker.

MPA Officers: Catherine Crawford (Clerk), Peter Martin (Treasurer) and Nick

Baker (Committee Services).

MPS Officers: Sir John Stevens (Commissioner), Ian Blair (Deputy (Commissioner), Keith Luck (Director of Resources), Michael Fuller (Deputy Assistant Commissioner), Steve House (Deputy Assistant Commissioner),

Bernard Hogan-Howe (Assistant Commissioner) and Tim Godwin (Deputy Assistant Commissioner).

Also Present: Deputy Assistant Commissioner Barbara Wilding (item 13 only)  
Commander Steve Roberts

#### 140. PRESENTATION ON MPS ANTI-TERRORISM WORK (Agenda item 13)

The Authority received a presentation on the MPS anti-terrorism work.

The presentation gave details of the MPS on going police operation following the September 11 attacks in the United States including the financial implications and intelligence gathering.

RESOLVED - That the presentation be received. The

meeting closed at 1.50 p.m.

#### **INTERNAL BRIEFING NOTE**

**Whilst we cannot talk about the specifics of these police tactics as this may hinder our operational effectiveness, this briefing note has been prepared to be used as the basis for a verbal briefing for key members of your communities. This is because the Met knows that the most effective way to reassure our communities is through local engagement and briefing.**

#### **Briefing:**

The history of the Met's fight against terrorism shows that it is only ever defeated by communities and their willingness to engage with and assist the police;

In the modern era of terrorism, it is essential that police are able to deploy appropriate tactics when necessary, whilst remaining accountable to the law, in order to safe guard the public against mass murder;

No police action is targeted against particular communities - we only seek to target suspected criminals. In doing so, we aim to protect society as a whole, including individual communities.

Work started post 9/11 by the Met, in partnership with the Association of Chief Police Officers, to develop national tactics that could be used against the potential terrorist threat of a suicide bomber, either on foot or in a vehicle.

We must stress that these tactics have been developed after much research, planning and consultation. Officers have visited counterparts around the world, learning and taking on best practice;

In the Met, we have implemented the nationally developed tactics. These are not used at random but are only implemented on an intelligence led basis, backed up senior level decision making. All police officers who may be involved in using these tactics are fully and specially trained. There are clear guidelines and authorisation levels that are in place..

The tactics have been developed to include a specialised response to both the sudden appearance of a suspect where we have intelligence they may be about to commit a deadly attack and for he surveillance of suspects identified through intelligence.

As part of this training, officers of all ranks, take part in regular exercises in order to ensure a high level of knowledge.

These tactics are only ever used when absolutely necessary.

The very nature of a suicide attack moans that very positive action is required by our officers to prevent any type of detonation, a detonation that could lead to the murder of many people. Any officer involved in the implementation of these tactics will be subject to full and proper scrutiny and investigation. We are not above the law.

We stress it is extremely unlikely you will ever be faced with this situation.

There must be no confusion between these tactics and the use of stop and search, which is a vital too in our armoury to defeat terrorism.

At this time of heightened security our officers will be making more use of our stop and search powers under the Terrorism Act. Our use of stop and search, under PACE, will continue as we still must fight crime.

Our officers are briefed that when they conduct any stop or stop and search it should be carried out with courtesy, respect and they should fully explain the reasons for that stop/stop and search.

Members of the public have what asked what to do if challenged by police.

Do what the officers say.

Try and stay calm.

When officers have controlled the situation they will explain what they are doing and why.

The Community is a vital source of intelligence and we need their continued help and support to assist us to defeat terrorism and catch those who are still at large from the incidents on 21st July 2005.

What you can do:

Dial:

999 for immediate police assistance

0800 789 321 with information for the confidential anti-terrorism hotline

0800 555 111 to report information anonymously to Crimestoppers Tell you local police

Report online [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

We are in the process of producing community briefing materials that outline action individuals can take in a variety of situations and the relevant contact numbers. These will be produced a variety of languages and distributed locally.

The Met is committed to dealing with all race/hate crime. Any incident reported to us will be professionally and thoroughly investigated.

The Met remains committed to protecting and reassuring all Londoners irrespective of their race, religion or gender.

Post 9/11 WP set up to develop tactics to counter suicide terrorism

- 3 Stages:
1. International research
  2. Legal Advice
  3. Consultation (Taviscock)

Operation Kratos is the policing tactic for person borne suicide terrorism. National policy

ratified by ACPO TAM. Under the command of specially trained designated senior officer.

3 stages as per SOP

Officers deployed covertly to give the element of surprise - if challenged will detonate.

- 2 options:-
1. If 100% sure head Shot
  2. If not sure, challenge from a position of safety. Officers to react dependant upon the suspect's reaction - in accordance with their training from the ACPO firearms manual of guidance.

Reason for head shot:

1. Peroxide explosives very volatile. If fired at, hit or tazered WILL Detonate.
2. Need for immediate incapacitation to prevent person detonating device.