POLICE TACTICS & TECHNIQUES

Patrols
Background

Patrolling is one of the basic functions of the police, whether in a community environment or in a peacekeeping mission. Within the peacekeeping environment, there is a need to carry out a more varied patrol regime than when carrying out domestic policing, because of the diversity of potential threats and missions to be undertaken without having an executive Authority. FPUs must be aware of the various types of patrols that they may be required to conduct, as well as the necessary preparation required to ensure that the task is carried out safely.

Aim

To familiarize the FPU members with planning and conducting safe and effective patrols

Learning outcomes

At the end of this module FPU members will be able to:

- Identify the different types of patrols
- Organize, prepare and conduct a patrol
- Organize a debrief

Training sequence

The material in this module is designed to be delivered over a 40 minute classroom based theory lesson; this is on the assumption that the students have received no previous training in this subject.

Duration

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<th>Minimum Session time</th>
<th>Lecture/Presentation</th>
<th>Question/Assessment</th>
<th>Session Activities</th>
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Methodology

This module contains a PowerPoint theory presentation explaining the various techniques. As patrolling is a basic policing skill, it is anticipated that officers will already have knowledge of the basic techniques of preparing themselves for individual patrol and this presentation aims at raising awareness of the differences between domestic & peacekeeping techniques. If the instructor feels that a practical element is necessary, then he can run a patrol through the basic sequences as laid
out in the presentation. This should take approximately 1 hour. If the instructor wants to run a practical exercise on conducting an actual patrol, especially with role play, this would take considerably longer.

**Instructor Profile**

This module is best presented by an instructor who has practical experience in peacekeeping operations and who could share his/her experience with the group. The instructors must be practiced and skilled to be able to demonstrate the technique correctly. If there is more than one instructor, at least one should have practical experience as trainer in either domestic policing or a peacekeeping mission.

**Instructor Preparations**

**Required Readings**
- DPKO Policy on Formed Police Units in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations
- FPU Training Handbook
- Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials

**General Preparations**

Equipment:
1. Computer and PowerPoint slides, Projector and Screen for lesson 1
Lesson 1 – Patrols (theory)

Contents:

Slide 1

Slide 2
**Aim**

To enabling the FPU to plan and conduct patrols in UN missions

**Slide 3**

**Learning outcomes**

On completion of this module the students will be able to:
- Identify the different types and objectives of a patrol
- State the different phases of a patrol
- State the role of each element

**Slide 4**

**Tactical considerations**

- Legal aspect and use of force
- Threat assessment
- Mission of the unit (objective to be reached, prevention, repression, identification)
- Coordination with other partners
- Equipment and strength of the unit involved
- Availability of patrol brief files

**Slide 5**
Patrols can be conducted by many different means, depending on the environment, the existing equipment and requirement of the mission. Of the many different types of patrols; here is a list of the main ones:

Foot patrols; perhaps the most effective as the police officers are able to interact directly with the local population. However, they are restricted to a small area as the police will need to be able to return to their base on completion of the patrol, unless it is a long distance foot patrol, in which case there will be a need for greater planning and preparation. The reliability and range of the radios should be taken into account when considering the distance to conduct foot patrols.

Vehicle patrols; these give the patrol the ability to travel further and cover more ground. However, they will be restricted to what the officers see from their vehicle, unless they are able to stop and patrol for part of the way on foot. A combination of foot and mobile patrol is most effective for outlying towns and villages, where the unit can travel there by vehicle and then patrol the town on foot. It is important for the commanding officer to put in place a reporting system whereby the patrolling officers indicate where they stopped, who they met and which information/observations they managed to gather.

Air patrols are less common in peacekeeping missions due to the restricted amount of air facilities. However, drones (remote controlled pilotless aircraft) or helicopters can be used. Helicopters can also be used in conjunction with foot patrols by transporting a unit to a remote location and then dropping them off for a patrol, collecting them either at the same location at a later time, or at a different location such as the end of the foot patrol route.

In areas along a seacoast or major waterway, water patrols can be used both to check on areas difficult to access, and to deter river borne criminal activity or piracy.
In certain areas and climates, special patrols may render necessary the use of animals such as horses, camels or donkeys. In the same perspective, in cold climates, the use of skis, snowshoes, or snowmobiles may be most appropriate.

![Patrol objectives](image)

**Patrol objectives**

- **Compliance with the mandate:**
  - Confirm agreements
  - Stabilize an area
  - Control of an area
  - Determine the local groups

From a UN perspective the patrol can be utilized to confirm the compliance with an agreement, for example a Ceasefire, Curfew, or restriction on the use of weapons.

In a peacekeeping mission where there is still intermittent violence or conflict, patrols can be used to dominate the area and prove to factions that the UN are deployed to keep the peace, and fighting will not be tolerated. This type of patrolling will also be carried out by the UN Military units. These patrols emphasize visibility and reassures that the UN is present. It implies a combination of deterrence and protection, but only keeps a deterrent value if clear guidelines exist for the patrol to act when encountering aggression against a civilian population or members of the patrol itself. If patrols fails to act appropriately when tested or consistently displays poor leadership or lack of will, the visibility and presence of future patrols will be of little value in keeping the peace.
The focus of a patrol is oriented by the results which are expected from the headquarters that initiated it. There can be many reasons or aims of a patrol. Here we will look at some of the main reasons.

Gathering information is probably the key point to both domestic and peacekeeping missions. By patrolling an area, a unit can ascertain the mood of the population, their acceptance of the presence of UN peacekeepers (or not), inhabitants’ willingness to engage with the unit and willingness to share useful information. The level of trust that the unit manages to create with the population will significantly impact how much information can be gathered. Including female officers in such patrols is a good way to reach out women and children in the local population which might be reluctant to discuss with “men in uniforms”. This is likely to contribute to an increased level of trust between the unit and the population. ‘Information’ has to be understood in the broadest meaning of the word. This could be anything from getting information about some citizen in need of help to operational intelligence related to politically motivated disturbances. It is essential to pre-define what is expected to be gathered on any given patrol. However, at the same time, it is critical for the officers to remain open minded, benevolent and curious.

In both domestic and peacekeeping missions patrols are used for crime prevention. It is widely believed that if the presence of the police is highly visible, criminals and violent mobs will remain off the streets for fear of detection or arrest. Extensive studies have shown however, that this is best realized through ‘proactive patrolling’. The term ‘proactive’ in this context, means seizing the initiative and denying criminals the chance to assemble and strike. This is best done through interaction with the locals wherever and whenever an opportunity to talk with them arises. When planning patrols that are conducted with deterrence of criminal activity as their chief aim, ensure that times and routes of the patrol are varied and unpredictable.
Patrolling is also associated to one of the key missions for FPUs, meaning the protection of UN staff and facilities. This will imply, among other things, beyond the pure deterrence and visibility, cooperation with the UN security Service. For instance, having an evacuation plan taking into consideration where UN staff are accommodated, work and gather, is necessary.

In a non-executive mandate patrols can be used as a liaison exercise with the local police and can be conducted in support of them.

Particularly in a peacekeeping mission, patrols can be used to determine the position, volume, armament of local military facilities, police or rebel factions. This may be particularly useful intelligence, should violence erupt or in conjunction with agreements made under the peace process by the various factions.

In domestic policing, patrolling is a key part of Community Policing because without the police getting into the community and interacting with them, they may be seen as distant, aloof and disinterested. This is just as important in Peacekeeping missions where UN police must be seen to interact with the local population and take interest in their lives while maintaining their neutrality and impartiality.

In areas where the peacekeepers are thinly spread over a wide area, it is important to use patrols to keep contact with isolated detachments. Often this can be a lifeline providing resupply and occasionally reinforcements.

Finally patrols can be used to support an investigation, where a crime has been committed. Patrols can be used to interact with the local population to see if further information can be obtained in relation to the investigation or may be asked by local police to assist with an area search for evidence. In the same perspective, it may happen that the FPU during a patrol happen to be the first responders. In such a case, when the intervention is actually completed, FPU staff may have to put a cordon in place to contribute to the freezing of the crime scene. This requires a level of technical knowledge which will be described in a further lesson.
Usually a patrol will be initiated with the tasking being sent to the FPU from UN HQ via the FPU Coordinator. In case the senior level of the mission doesn’t provide the unit with a specific focus for the patrols, the Coordinator’s Office will issue directives giving a specific focus. These directives will also be turned into orders by the FPU’s leadership, giving more detailed orientations to the patrols, (which village to visit, who to meet, what to look for….). For example, the order from the Coordinator’s Office may state that the FPU needs to improve the safety of the villagers at a certain location, the FPU commander may then decide that the best way to do that is to conduct a series of patrols, issuing detailed orders regarding how many patrols, routes, equipments, specific contingency plans,….

The process whereby a patrolling mission is organised and conducted can be defined in four phases; the **planning** phase, the **practical preparation**, the **conduct of the patrol** itself and the **debriefing**.
The practical preparation phase involves the practical steps in order to make possible the smooth implementation of the orders. For instance, there will be a need to coordinate with any units involved in the mission, such UN military other police units, the local police in the host state country and specific UN bodies such as the JMAC to gather any necessary intelligence on the mission.

**Threats:**

In this regards, this can relate to rebel groups, hostile communities, for example or any risks to the patrol such as flooding, damaged roads etc. The commander should look at any similar previous patrols and read their reports to analyse previous events, to see if they will have a bearing on this patrol.

In a peacekeeping mission one of the main dangers may be mines or unexploded ordinance and the commander will need the latest report from the UN Mine Action Service or the Military. Contacts with the population and various NGOs can also provide the unit with critical information.
The first phase is the **planning phase**, where the commander will decide on the implementation of the mission and the resources that will be involved. This will involve evaluating the options and analysing the best course of action with the intelligence available. The commander will conduct the decision making process to define the appropriate options and issue orders in keeping with the original purpose or aim of the patrol has handed down in the tasking.

Two key considerations in the decision making process are the mission and threat assessment.

**Mission** (general framework of the mission, what is expected, why, when, where, with who, general situation?)

For instance, the Commander must carry out the evaluation phase; this will be an information & intelligence gathering phase. The first issue is to analyse the MISSION, the requirements, what parameters have been set by the Police Commissioner/HQ….

Still a part of the practical preparation phase, 'leading the patrol' involves checking in detail all potentially required equipments are taken along on the patrol. This is even more critical for long range patrols where the element will be far from its base for a long time.
Equipment requirements will come in two forms, those for the patrol as a whole and those for the individual member. Those for the patrol as a whole will include: the type of weapons and amount of ammunition required, coming in addition to the personal weapons of the patrol members for example, CS Gas launchers, flare pistols, crew served machine guns etc... The amount of ammunition that will be required for the individuals and for any additional weapons is defined during the logistic part of the briefing. Shields, batons and other non-lethal equipment can also be necessary for the mission.

The number of radios and the appropriate spare batteries to keep them functioning throughout the patrol is also detailed.
The amount and type of food that will be required and the appropriate means for cooking it are to be detailed.

First Aid measures for the unit and where appropriate Medical cover.

Appropriate means of identification, the majority of UN patrols will be high visibility patrols and therefore UN flags should be flown from vehicles where possible.

Maps, relevant to the area and of an appropriate scale along with compasses or GPS and to whom they will be allocated

A patrol file with the details, information and Operation Order for the patrol

Where appropriate equipment for patrolling at night, night vision glasses, search lights, torches etc will be taken.

Again where appropriate evidence gathering equipment such as cameras, property bags, statement forms, tape, labels, forensic markers, cordon tape, etc.

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**Logistic preparation: individual level**

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Sidearm if available and officers trained
- UN ID card, UN driving licence
- Badges and blue berets/helmets
- Torch, knife, compass, notebook, pens
- Individual 1st aid kit if available
- Money and spare clothes

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Individual equipment will include any personal protective equipment such as helmet or bulletproof jacket.

Compass, notebook, pens in case there is a need to record evidence or reports.

Individual 1st aid kit in case the individual is cut off from the remainder of the patrol.

Depending on the duration of the patrol, spare clothing may be required and if the
patrol will be out overnight in a tropical environment, a mosquito net is advisable.

The individuals personal water supply along with purification tablets or device in case the patrol is stranded or takes longer than anticipated.

UN Mission ID card, and where appropriate driving licence in the case of all drivers, all UN personnel must be able to identify themselves as such is stopped and questioned by an appropriate authority.

Personal items such as torches, multipurpose knife, watch.

Money – but only sufficient for the patrol.

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**Logistic preparation: vehicles check**

**Daily maintenance**
- Lubricants
- Tyres
- Electrical devices

**Additional maintenance**
- Spare tyre
- Chains
- Tools

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Checks on vehicles are two-fold, particularly if the patrol is to be over a long distance over rough terrain.

Daily vehicle checks should include all the lubricants, oil, petrol/diesel and water as well as coolants and battery levels.

Tyres to ensure that they are not worn and have sufficient tread depth and grip and that they are inflated to the correct level for the terrain.

Electrical equipment is all working correctly, sufficient charge is being received and the battery levels are correct.

For long distance patrols, spare equipment should be carried, this will include spare tyres, tow chains or ropes, tools to effect self-help repairs if necessary.
The Commander will need to send out a warning order to the sub unit commanders with brief details of the mission and times for briefings and any readiness requirements (if APCs are to be prepared etc.)

The sub unit commanders will start their equipment checks and will ensure that the individual personnel check the readiness of the individual equipments.

In addition, the drivers will need to carry out the vehicle checks and the appropriate radio frequencies and call signs will be obtained.

All along the chain of command, all staff involved has to anticipate and get ready according to their level of responsibility. Once the operational orders are issued, the anticipation of these practicalities will allow starting the mission at the earliest with a well thought and conceived mission. The proactive approach of the different levels of the chain of command will be the sign of the professionalism of the considered units.

By balancing the perceived advantages/disadvantages of the different courses of action according to friendly forces' capabilities and expected opponent’s actions, taking into account realistic objectives and risks, a best course of action can be defined.

Finally the commanding officer will look at all the potential scenarios and where necessary decide on the appropriate contingencies and emergency procedures.

The commander will then issue the briefing of the operational orders. It may be a verbal or written order or both and represents an act of command. It should always follow the recognised format of 1) Situation, 2) Mission, 3) Execution, 4) Administration / Logistics, 5) Command/Communications. This is a guarantee.
nothing important can be overlooked and it standardises the way orders are issued and understood. It is critical in the perspective of training for instance.

**Situation** will include the general situation, specific details on any hostile elements, the local population, any media involvement, the terrain to be covered and other friendly elements involved (local police or other UN formations).

**Mission** will include the basic mission statement; this will be short and to the point.

**Execution** is the method for conducting the operation and will include all the detail for sub unit commanders and attached and detached units. It will be the main part of the briefing/order. It details chronologically and element by element what will be undergone, by who, when, where and with what or who. It looks like a short scenario.

It starts by: “In order to…, my intention is… in phase 1 with elements x, y, z… we will… in phase two with elements a, b and x, y, z… It details the coordination.

**Admin and logistic** covers all elements related to the necessary supplies, equipments, medical support (please referred to the chapter "logistic preparation" above).

**The command and control** covers all elements related to the leadership and communications.

### Conduct a patrol
- A patrol can be made of one, two or several vehicles
- If at least two vehicles:
  - One vehicle is the intervention (command) vehicle
  - One vehicle is the protection vehicle
- The intervention (command) vehicle is composed of several elements:
  - Driver
  - Radio operator
  - Patrol commander
  - Protection and support elements

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Having been briefed and equipments checked the patrol will start. This begins the **Conduct of the Patrol Phase**. If it is to be a vehicle patrol then the Command vehicle should consist of the Patrol commander, a radio operator, a driver and support officers to protect the commander.

It is important to bear in mind that, in compliance with the FPU policy, the patrol cannot be made of less than 10 officers, including the commanding officer for the team. That’s the minimum deployable party.

Other vehicles in the patrol should contain a Team or Section dependant on the size and type of vehicle.

All members of the patrol should be given sectors of observation.

As has already been mentioned UN patrols are normally high visibility and should be clearly identified as UN with traditional white vehicles bearing the UN and flags where appropriate.
While carrying out a vehicle patrol there are certain responsibilities that fall on the driver.

They should have knowledge of the patrol area and the route. They must keep a distance between vehicles and not allow vehicles to get too close and bunch up.

When stopping, they should look for a safe and appropriate parking place, staying on the main road at all times (see later chapter on IED awareness). They should not use shortcuts, especially if there is no knowledge of the route.

When vehicles are parked up, they will normally remain with the vehicle to guard it, although this will be a decision for the Patrol commander to make.

For short stops it is normally best to keep the engine running in case the vehicle is required to respond quickly.

Finally they will often act as the communication relay between the other vehicles in the patrol.
Similarly, the Radio operator has certain responsibilities:

They must use the appropriate reporting procedure as laid down in the operational briefing, and where necessary they should remind the patrol commander of the need to report in when it arises.

They must give situation reports when appropriate or required.

They must give positioning reports as appropriate and when required.

If an incident occurs then they must ensure that information is sent straight back to UN HQ.

They must have their radios with them at all time and should remain close to the commander unless instructed otherwise.

Finally they must use discretion during their broadcasts to ensure that their language remains appropriate and that important information is not disclosed to individuals listening into transmissions.

**Patrol and Use of the Radio devices**

One of the most important tools of modern law enforcement is the radio. The radio *provides immediate access to a supervisor and/or other officers to request assistance if an officer is in danger*. In many ways, the radio has become the police officer’s primary source of information as well as his/her lifeline. Therefore, it is extremely important that police officers learn to operate and maintain the radio properly.

**A. Types of Radio**

There are three (3) basic types of radios. These radios are as follows:
1. Portable Radio
2. Two-way Car Radio
3. Control Centre or Base Station

B. Variation in Radio Features

Radios often have features that vary between different models or types. These variations include the following:

- The number of frequencies available.
- A three way capability (e.g. a portable radio may enable the officer to call another officer on the portable radio, on the car radio or call the base station or control centre).
- Standard channel assignment (e.g. all foot patrol officers work on the same radio channel)

C. Call Signs

1. Vehicle Patrol

Vehicle patrols and traffic units have permanent call signs, which are allocated to each vehicle. These call signs will designate the particular patrol vehicle and the area in which it operates. These call signs are different for each patrol or traffic unit.

2. Foot Patrol

In some areas, the call signs of foot patrol units are based on a geographical name of the area covered by their beat. For example, officers assigned to work an area called ‘Bush road’ may have a call sign such as “B1” or “B2”. The reason for using the “B” (or “Bravo”) call sign is to shorten the time of the transmission and not tie up the channel with long sentences.

D. Required Communications with Control Centres

There are certain times when patrol officers should communicate with the control centres. These include the following:

- Upon arrival at an assignment or scene of an incident.
- If in a vehicle patrol unit, before leaving your vehicle.
- When stopping a vehicle or questioning suspects.
- When an assignment is completed and you are available for further deployment.
- When transferring a prisoner.
Features of the Two Way Radio

Standard portable radio has each of the following control knobs:

A. On/Off and Volume Controls

Be aware of distracting others

The volume should be adjusted to allow the officer to hear the radio without distracting others. It should not be loud enough for unauthorized persons to hear the conversations on the radio.

Be aware of safety

The volume should be turned as low as possible or turned off when conducting building searches or other high-risk manoeuvres.

B. Channel Selector

Some radios have several channels. Each channel is assigned to a particular unit, division or station. The officer must always make sure the radio is set to the correct channel using the channel selector switch on the radio.

C. Batteries

A portable radio uses rechargeable batteries, therefore when the battery runs low, it is necessary to recharge it. Occasionally, it will be necessary to charge the radio during the tour of duty or to replace the radio battery so that the radio continues to operate. If a battery is defective, it should be removed from the radio room so that no one else will use it. A defective battery can endanger lives.

Correct Radio Procedure

Correct radio procedure is essential to ensure that radio transmissions are of the highest quality, accurate and understandable. It is also necessary to ensure radio transmissions are kept as brief as possible. These procedures are as follows:

- Wait for a break in the traffic before transmitting (Attempting to break in on another transmission only cause delay in the handling of the calls).
- When beginning a transmission, start with the base call sign then give your personal call sign. e.g. “Bush road Control, Patrol Alpha”
- Wait for a call sign to be acknowledged (Normally, the dispatcher will repeat your call sign and then say, “go ahead.”)
- Take care to speak directly into the microphone with it held approximately twenty centimetres in front of your mouth.
- Never shout into the microphone.
- Speak in an even tone.
- Do not let your voice trail off at the end of the sentence.
- Remember, in many cases, someone must write down what you are saying, therefore speak slowly and carefully.
- Spell any names and references using the phonetic alphabet, as set out below.

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The Operational Range of the Radio and Potential Problems

A. The Range

The distance between two radios is the range. The distance of this range depends on several factors:

1. Topography of the Land

The optimal range for sending and receiving ranges of radios are flatlands or line-of-sight locations. The distance is greater if there are no mountains or hills to interfere. Some radio systems will use a “repeater” system. This is like a mini-radio that listens and then re-sends the radio message very quickly. When a repeater is placed on the
top of a mountain or hill, the range is increased.

2. Operation in Cities

Operation in cities can reduce the range. Tall buildings, metal structures, and interiors of homes and offices will interfere with the radio. Sometimes, it is necessary to go outside of the building to make the transmission clear.

3. Type of Radio

The type of radio and the amount of power it has will also determine the range.

4. Dead Spots

There is a problem with radio operation known as “dead spots”. These are areas where the radio will not operate. These dead spots are attributed to the layout of the land. Hills, mountains, and valleys can create dead spots. Buildings and other structures can also interfere with radio transmissions. A radio does not possess enough power or wattage to transmit from one of the above conditions.

Potential Problems in Radio Communications

There are a number of obstacles that prevent clear communications with two-way radios:

- Atmospheric Interference and Background Noise
- Interruptions
- Badly Constructed Messages
- Radio traffic may be very busy, it is essential that users of the radio think about the message they are going to transmit, before they transmit it. The best messages are accurate in their content, as brief as possible and are clearly transmitted using good pronunciation, recognized wording and/or phrases and correct radio procedures.

Debriefing

- End of patrol
- Debriefing with all patrol members
- Report
- Written report with sketch
- Check vehicles & equipment
- Incident reports
On return from the patrol, the **Debriefing Phase** begins. A debriefing should take place with all of the members of the patrol attending, in the case of a large patrol; it may be done by the Team or section Commanders who, in turn, reports into the patrol Commander.

All should report exactly what they have seen and this should be included in the final written report. The written report should include a sketch map if appropriate and relevant grid coordinates and GPS readings for key locations.

All vehicles and equipment must be checked and resupplied following the debriefing, so that they are ready for the next deployment.

Any incident reports must be submitted along with the written report.

In some cases, if the areas where the patrols took place isn’t very well known and the roads well documented, (if at all), the use of GPS to map the area is to be advised. It should be reported all along and it might be of critical importance in case of need for rescue or reinforcements.

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**Summary**

- Tactical considerations
- Type of patrols and objectives
- Phases of a patrol
- Conduct a patrol
- Debriefing- reporting

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QUESTIONS

UN Peacekeeping PDT Standards for Formed Police Units. 1st edition 2015

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