

PUBLIC ORDER MANAGEMENT

Tactical Use of Gas Canisters



Background

Members of a FPU must be able to deal with the tactical use of Gas Canisters when confronting protestors during Public Order Management operations. This module deals with the variations that they are likely to come across and details the equipment and tactics required in order to be able to deal with any incident.

Aim

To Familiarize and enable the participants to tactically use Gas canisters during public order operations.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this module the students will be able to:

- Demonstrate the tactical use of Gas Canisters:-
 - **The Interdiction Launching**
 - **The Defensive Screen**
 - **The Dispersal Launching from a static position**
 - **The Dispersal Launching with an offensive bound**
 - **The Neutralization Launching (rioters in action)**
 - **The defensive launching while withdrawing**

Training sequence

The material in this module is designed to be delivered over one hour classroom based theory lessons followed by 3 and half hours of practice, which should include at least one hour for assessment. This is on the assumption that the students have received no previous training in this subject.

Duration

Minimum Session time	Lecture/Presentation	Question/Assessment	Session Activities
5 hours	1 hour	30 minutes	3 and half hours
Additional Options	Mission Specific	Optional film	Optional activity

Methodology

This module contains one Power Point theory presentation to explain and show the various techniques. 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.

- Theory of the tactical use of Gas Canisters (1 hour classroom lesson)
- Practice (3 and half hours of practical lessons)

The practice should be carried out over one day and the instructors should be aware that the physically demanding nature of deploying the FPU in Public Order Management techniques must be carefully managed so that the students do not get fatigued as this is likely to lead to injury.

A number of the practical periods should be conducted in the form of exercises which should be carried out in as realistic situation as possible with the use of other officers acting at 'Mob crowd'

When training a full FPU it is recommended that this module is taught to individual Platoons and then additional practice time is given to bring the whole FPU together for co-ordinated training.

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 Public Order Management in peacekeeping operations, is trained in the tactical use of gas canisters and who can share his/her experience with the group. He/she 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 Public Order Management 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

. DUF and SOPs from mission

General Preparations

Equipment:

1. Computer and PowerPoint slides for the lesson
2. Projector and Screen
3. Full public order management equipment for each officer for the practical section of the training.
4. Vehicles or APCs
5. Inert gas canisters and shells for classroom sessions / live gas canisters for practice sessions.
6. For the practice of the techniques, a mock crowd should be used in order to bring in realism, intensity, and evolving constraints.

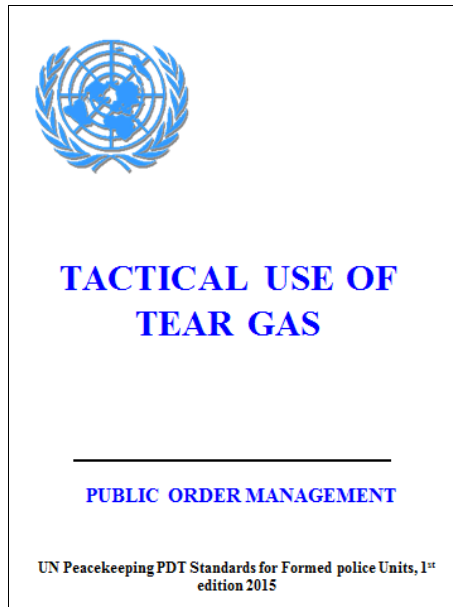
Training Area:

The lecture / presentation portion of the training should be carried out in the classroom; however the practical lessons will need a large open area where students can work in teams, and as an FPU section and platoon. Once the basic tactics have been grasped by the students, the FPU will need to practice their tactics in a more urban situation. For this purpose a 'ghost town' or public order village is ideal.

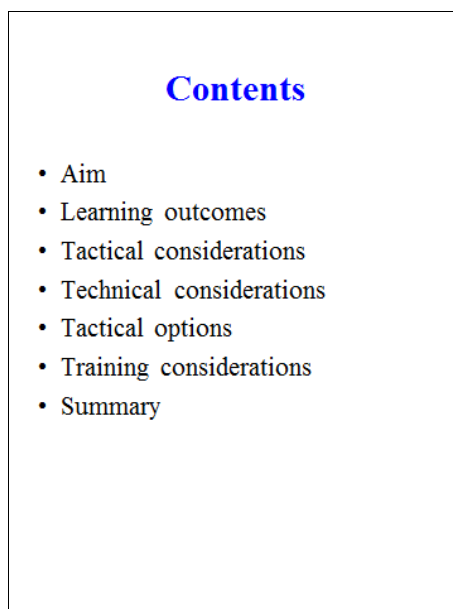
Session notes

Lesson 1 – Tactical use of gas canisters (Theory)

Contents:



Slide 1



Slide 2

Aim

- To familiarize and enable the participants to tactically use gas canisters during public order operations

Slide 3

Learning outcomes

At the end of this module, the students will be able to:

- Demonstrate the tactical options in using gas canisters illustrated by:
 - **The Interdiction Launching**
 - **The Defensive Screen**
 - **The Dispersal Launching from a static position**
 - **The Dispersal Launching with an offensive bound**
 - **The Neutralization Launching (rioters in action)**
 - **The defensive launching while retreating**

Slide 4

Tactical considerations

- Legal status and use of force
- Size, intent, attitude, composition and position (distance) of the protest group
- Environment (outdoor use)
- Unit equipment (gas masks, types of grenades, smoke, CS, long and short ranges...) = at least 2 gas launchers per platoon or 1 per vehicle
- Combined use of smoke and gas canisters
- Weather conditions (rain, wind...)
- Objectives of the unit

Technical considerations

- Unit protective equipment and gas masks
- Types of canisters and range capacity
- Validity of the canisters (expiry date) and storage conditions
- Condition of the tear gas launchers
- Training

Slides 5 and 6

The tactical use of gas canisters has multiple purposes and applications.

They are used to disperse protestors safely and allow the police to restore public order and the public's right to move freely. Examples include dispersing protestors who illegally blocking/ barricading roadways or access to public buildings, parks or events. Restriction of the freedom of movement, under most legal systems, is illegal and provides a legal framework to disperse activists. The tactical use of canisters is one tool that can be considered for that purpose if the crowd refuses to disperse peacefully, always bearing in mind proportionality in the use of force.

The use of gas canisters is preceded by a warning which made by a legitimate authority (civil authority representative in Francophone countries) when the FPU provides operational support to the local security forces. The warning is made by the unit commander or his representative when the FPU reacts in self-defence such as in the case of an attack during a movement from one position to another one or in the security of UN personnel and premises.

When dealing with gas canisters police need to be very careful in the positioning of the unit. A clear exit route must always be left for the crowd to disperse. Positioning too close to the crowd when releasing the gas may result in the public order unit suffering the effects of the gas and becoming incapacitated. Similarly, if the unit is too close to the crowd, then it is more susceptible to the crowd throwing the canisters back at the unit. In most of the cases, the use of gas will be dictated by the attitude and the nature of the crowd. The presence of women and children must be considered before any launch. Additionally, the distance between the crowd and the unit has also to be taken into consideration to avoid a ineffective launch of gas

canisters due to a bad appreciation of the distance, for example if the crowd is outside the range of the launchers.

There are risks associated with the tactical use of gas canisters. Examples include:

- They may be defective, i.e. fail to release the gas. Although, this is unlikely but the risk cannot be discounted
- Weather phenomena such as an unexpected breeze may blow the gas away from the crowd or even back onto the public order unit.
- The crowd may pick up the canisters and throw away from the group or back at the Public Order Unit.
- Sensitive buildings (schools, administrative and political premises...) close to the demonstration can be contaminated by an imprecise launch of gas
- Tear gas canisters penetrating buildings (risk of fire)
- Gas effects on people (see lesson "presentation of chemical devices")

As soon as the FPU Commander determines that gas will be realised, he/she must as the first step, order their unit members to put on the gas masks in order to avoid any impact on the operational capacities of the unit. This order must be given prior to any gas being deployed. The safety of the police officers is the priority for the Commander and all senior officers, Deploying gas without team having protection of gas masks should not be ordered unless the situation is exceptionally dire as the effects of the gas can increase the likelihood of injury to the team members through loss of situational awareness which increases the risk of attack and/or injury if they become incapacitated.

In any case, the FPU commander should consider the use of tear gas only when foot manoeuvres have failed or are inefficient.

THE INTERDICTION LAUNCH

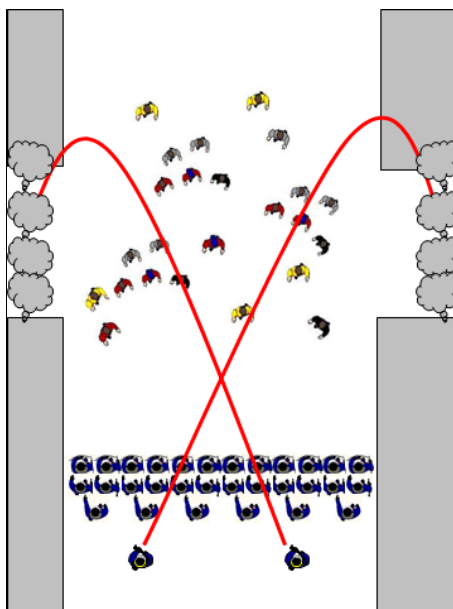
The objective of the interdiction launch is to deny the access of particular road/roads to demonstrators and to channel them in a desired direction.

The tactic always allows the demonstrators to have an exit road.

The interdiction launch is followed or by a foot manoeuvre or by additional gas launches obliging the demonstrators to free an area.



Slide 7



Slides 8 to 21

SLIDE 8 - WARNING

When the decision has been made to use CS Gas Canisters, a warning of the impending use of gas must be made to the crowd. Generally the warning will consist of words to the effect of “you are ordered to disperse or we will use tear gas”

The warning is usually given by the representative of the civil/local authority or by the FPU commander depending to the mission (operational support or FPU core mission) and must be spoken in a language that the crowd will understand.

- Repeat the warning at least three (3) times
- Use a loud speaker system to ensure that the warning will be heard by everyone in the crowd.
- Unless there is an immediate threat, allow the crowd enough time to respond to the warning (disperse) before actually deploying the gas canisters.
- In case of an immediate threat, no need for the warning = reaction of the unit in self-defence

SLIDE 9 – DIRECTION TO LAUNCHERS

If the crowd fails to disperse in response to the warning, the FPU commander will order the launchers to get ready for an interdiction and inform the launchers where to direct the gas canisters.

The goal of the launches is to funnel the demonstrators in one “desired” direction and to avoid any demonstrator to use lateral streets.

SLIDE 10 – READY SIGNAL TO LAUNCHERS

The officer in charge of the gas launchers elements will direct the launchers to get “READY” and “LAUNCH” (see lesson on the orders).

SLIDE 11 – DIRECTION TO REMANDER OF THE TEAM

The FPU commander will issue directions to the remainder of the unit for the actions the team is to take simultaneous to the launch of GAS. A foot manoeuvre is associated to the launch of gas (bound or charge).

SLIDE 12 – COMMAND TO FIRE

The officer in charge of the fire support element will issue the fire command to the launchers.

SLIDE 13 – GAS CANISTERS LAUNCHED

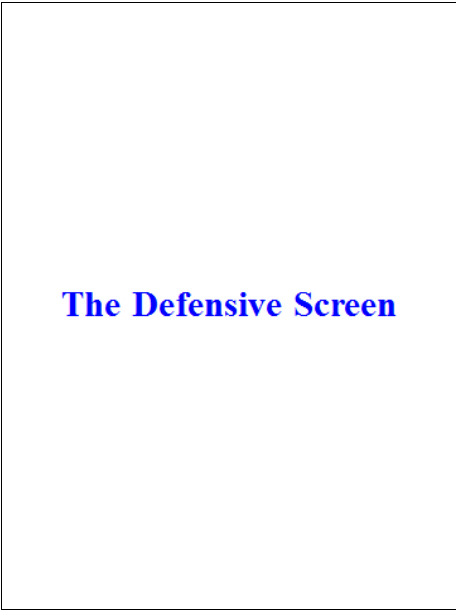
Launchers fire and the gas disperses

SLIDE 14 – UNIT CHARGE/BOUND

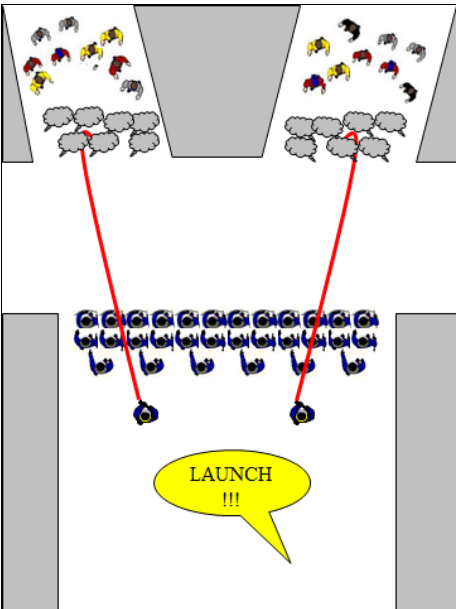
The FPU commander issues the command for the unit to advance consistent with the direction given per slide 8 up to the designated point to be reached.

THE DEFENSIVE SCREEN LAUNCH

In addition to using CS gas to disperse the crowd, there may be times when the deployment of gas is used for defensive purposes to protect the unit. This will usually occur when the forward momentum of the crowd will outstrip the unit's ability to safely hold its position without unnecessarily increasing the risk to officers. In such cases, CS gas may be deployed as defensive shield to protect the public order unit. It may also have the secondary purpose of dispersing the crowd.



Slide 22



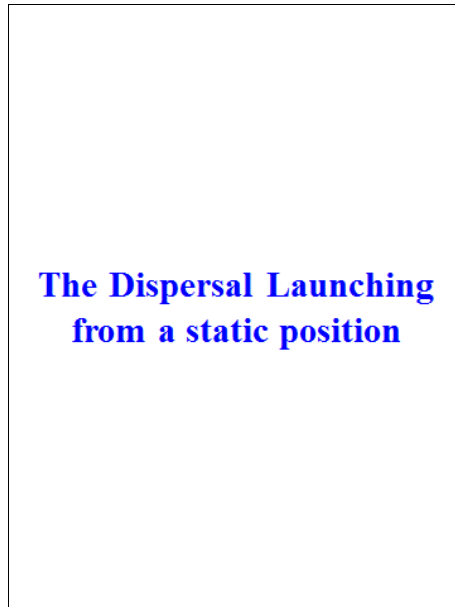
Slides 23 to 28

The FPU commander issues direction to the launchers to set up a defensive screen and where the screen will be packed, e.g. in the streets to the right and left in front of the team.

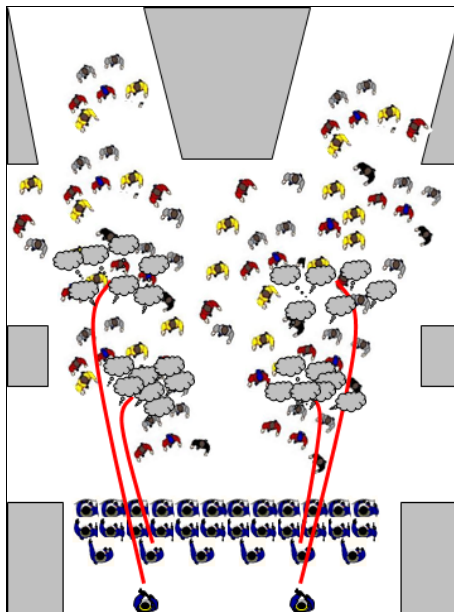
Same procedure as described previously regarding the warning.

DISPERSAL LAUNCHING FROM A STATIC POSITION

In order to disperse the crowd in any direction; it may be necessary to launch CS gas from a static position. The objective is to disperse the gas widely in the crowd to cause them to break formation and leave. Both launcher propelled canisters and hand thrown canisters may be necessary depending on the distances involved.



Slide 29

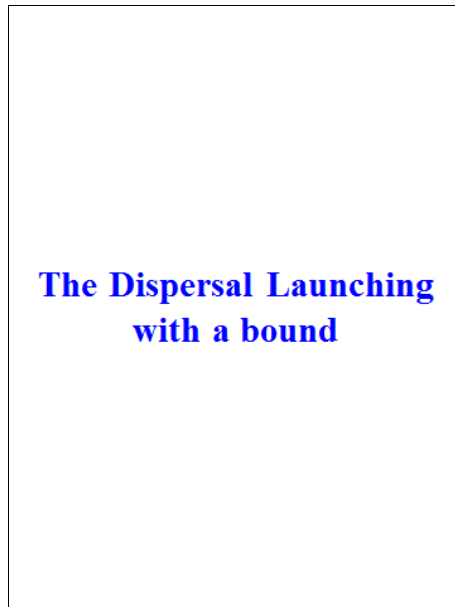


Slides 30 to 39

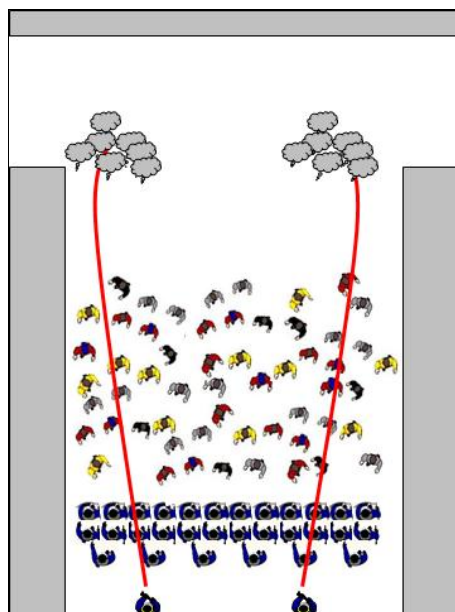
Launchers fire and Hand gas launchers throw the gas canisters. Gas disperses and over a variety of distances, both near and far. Note that the Public Order Unit remains static. Same procedure as described previously for the warning.

DISPERSAL LAUNCHING WITH A BOUND

When the release of gas alone is not sufficient to disperse the crowd, the Team can resort to the release of gas accompanied by a bound. The gas drop location is targeted to the rear of the crowd and the bound forces the crowd to retreat through the gas cloud. This weakens their resolve and creates disorientation. This tactic is a force multiplier to the presence and forward movement of the public order unit by creating an environment to disrupt the crowd's confidence and causing them to break ranks.



Slide 40



Slides 41 to 56

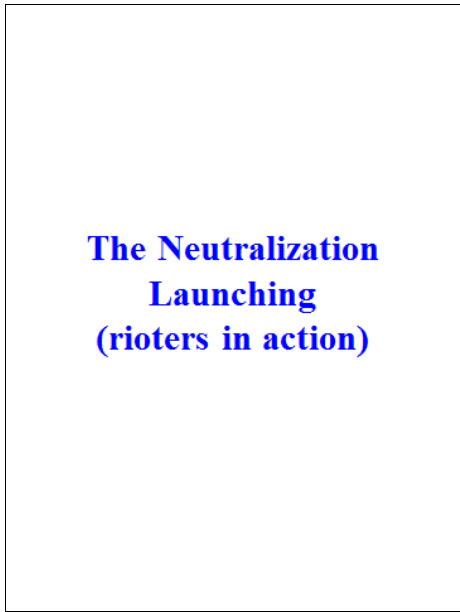
If the crowd fails to disperse in response to the warning, the FPU Commander will order the launchers to get ready for an interdiction by informing the launchers where to direct the gas canisters, in this case to the rear of the group of demonstrators.

The FPU Commander will issue directions to the remainder of the unit for the actions the unit is to take simultaneous to the launch of GAS

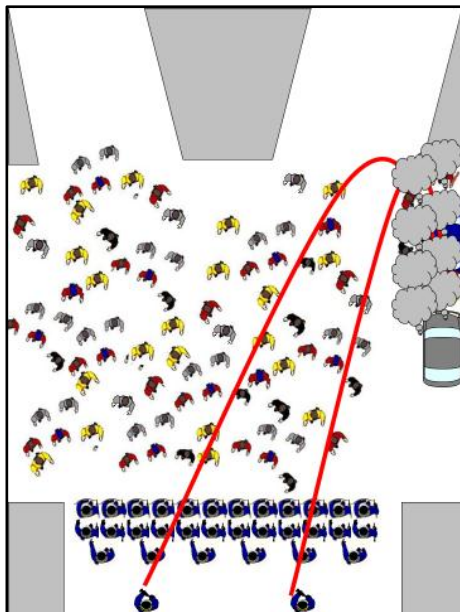
Launchers fire and the gas disperses. Slides provide an animation of the unit advancing and crowd retreating. Note that the crowd is pushed through the gas cloud laid down by the launchers. This causes them increased disorientation and pressures them to break ranks and disperse.

NEUTRALIZATION LAUNCHING

The neutralization launching is deployed when there is a need to deter a sub-set of the crowd from a specific activity. It differs from the general release of gas. In that case, the targets are those within the crowd who are involved in the activity, not the crowd as whole. Examples can include stopping a group from destroying property or attacking an individual.



Slide 57



Slides 58 to 63

SLIDE 58 – DIRECTION TO LAUNCHERS

The FPU Commander will order the launchers to get ready for a neutralization launching and specify the target groups whose actions must be stopped.

SLIDE 59 – READY SIGNAL TO LAUNCHERS

The FPU Commander will direct the launchers to get “READY”. The command will be “Launcher One Ready, Launcher Two Ready”, etc.

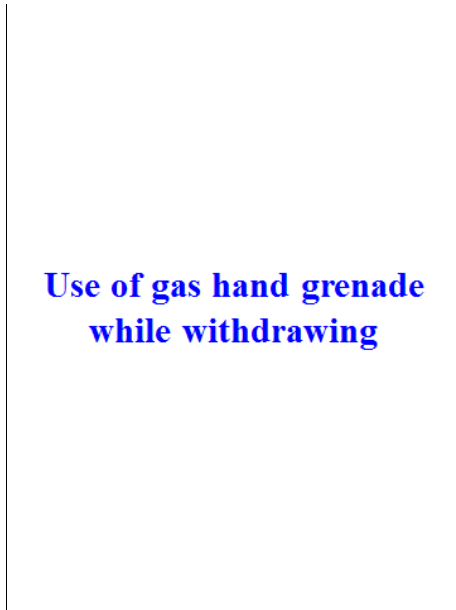
SLIDE 60 – COMMAND TO LAUNCH

The FPU Commander will issue the fire command to the launchers.

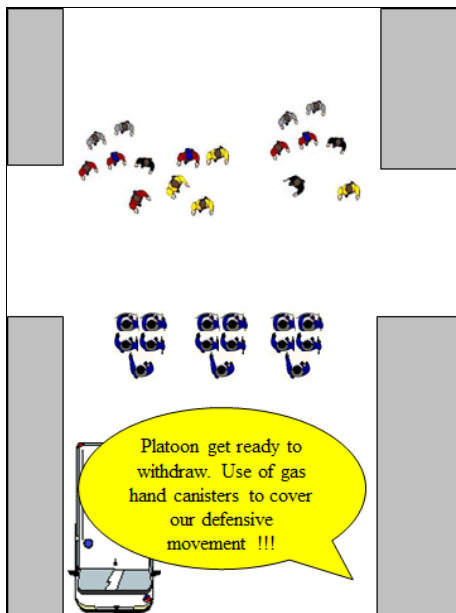
SLIDE 61 – GAS CANISTERS LAUNCHED

Gas canisters are launched and the gas releases. Note that the unit remains in a static position.

USE OF GAS CANISTER WHILE WITHDRAWING



Slide 64



Slides 65 to 79

SLIDE 74 – DIRECTION TO LAUNCHERS

When the decision has been made to use a gas hand canister to assist in a retreat, the FPU Commander will direct the action and the tactic. For example, "Section get

ready to Retreat. We will use a gas hand canister to cover our retreat”.

SLIDE 75 – READY SIGNAL TO THROWER

The FPU Commander will direct the launchers to get “READY”. The command will be “Throwers Ready”.

SLIDE 76 – COMMAND TO “GO”

The FPU Commander will issue the command for the retreat using “Section Go”.

SLIDES 77 – RELEASE OF THE gas hand grenade

As the team begins the retreat manoeuvre the thrower releases the gas hand grenade.

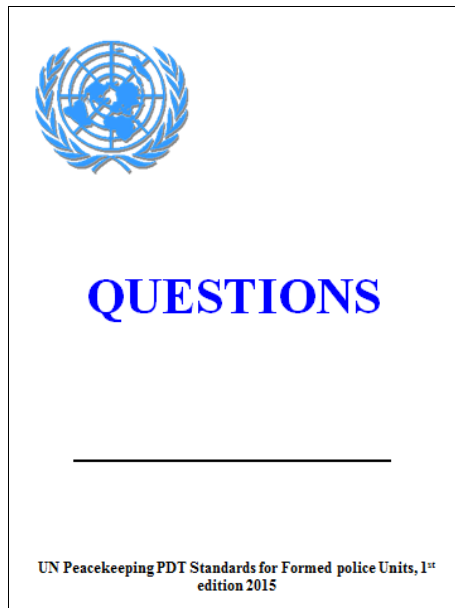
SLIDES 65 - 79

Animation sequence of the explosion and the resulting push back of the crowd allowing the team to retreat to cover, in this case an escape vehicle

Summary

- Learning outcomes
- Tactical considerations
- Technical considerations
- Tactical options
- Training considerations

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Slide 81

Lesson 2 – Sit-in (practical element)

There are three and half hours of practice recommended for this subject which should be carried out at the discretion of the instructor. The practice should be in a realistic situation such as a public order village or 'ghost town' and a 'mob' crowd should be available to act in an appropriate manner where necessary armed with soft balls or similar projectiles.

The director of the exercise must assign one of the instructors to lead the mob crowd, in order to keep the exercise interactive and provide some security.

A security officer is assigned the specific duty to check all security related matters before, during and after the exercises.

A first aid kit must be kept on site with a qualified officer assigned to take care of the medical emergencies. All injuries have to be reported to the exercise director asap.