

15 September 2022

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Tēnā koe Scott

Request for information

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 18 July 2022. You asked:

I would like to make a request for copies of the following Police Manual chapters:

- 1) Armed Offenders Squad Manual*
- 2) Special Tactics Group Manual*

The above chapters are included with this response. Some information has been withheld under section 6(c) of the OIA which states: 'the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences.'

- 3) Counter Terrorism Manual*

This chapter of Police Instructions is withheld in its entirety under section 6(c) of the OIA and section 6(a) which states: 'the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand.'

Police National Headquarters

180 Molesworth Street. PO Box 3017, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.
Telephone: 04 474 9499. Fax: 04 498 7400. www.police.govt.nz

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Superintendent Dave Greig
Director Capability

Armed Offenders Squads

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Policy statement and principles

What

All forward operations against armed offenders, particularly any direct approaches to the offender, must be carried out by AOS members assisted by a Police Negotiation Team (PNT) where the time and the offender's actions permit it.

The AOS may be deployed for other risk situations or duties where the potential use or possession of firearms is likely.

Why

A key function of Police is maintaining public safety. Police also has a responsibility to ensure their employees are safe when they do their work.

Armed Offenders Squads (AOS) are maintained in each Police district to deal with people who are, or are believed to be, armed and a danger to themselves, the public or police.

AOS members are trained for the express purpose of carrying out forward operations against armed offenders.

How

to support Police operations and public safety:

s6(c)



Overview

Purpose

This chapter provides information about Police Armed Offenders Squads ([AOS](#)) and outlines when and how they are deployed.

[Standard operating procedures](#), aimed primarily at [AOS](#) members, provide more detailed information about the squads' deployment.

Armed Offenders Squads

Armed Offenders Squads ([AOS](#)) are maintained in each Police district to deal with people who are, or are believed to be, armed and a danger to themselves, the public or police.

The squads work closely with other Police tactical groups, particularly:

- [Special Tactics Group \(STG\)](#) - a specialist unit that deals with any armed offender incident that is deemed to be beyond the capabilities of the AOS
- [Police Negotiation Teams \(PNT\)](#) - specialist teams formed to help other operational employees resolve situations using negotiating techniques.

Where are AOS squads established?

Armed Offender Squads are geographically grouped in these areas:

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Deploying the AOS

AOS to be deployed in armed offender incidents

Where time and the offender's actions permit it, all forward operations against armed offenders, particularly any direct approaches to the offender, must be carried out by AOS members assisted by a [Police Negotiation Team \(PNT\)](#).

If AOS members are not available, or due to the prevailing circumstances, there is insufficient time to call them, the senior Police constable in charge at the incident must take immediate steps to deal with the situation.

Deploying the AOS in other situations

The AOS may be deployed for other risk situations or duties where the potential use or possession of firearms is likely. (For these types of operations it is not necessary that AOS members wear AOS uniform).

Notifying the Police Emergency Communication Centre and DCCs of deployment

Where AOS are deployed in support of any operation, whether pre-planned or for an emergency, the AOS Commander is to notify the Police Emergency Communications Centre and the relevant District Command Centre (DCC) of the deployment. The supervisor of the Unit requesting AOS support is also to notify the Police Emergency Communications Centre and the relevant DCC when it intends to deploy AOS as part of an operation.

Consultation in planned operations involving armed constables

Where it is necessary to arm constables in a planned operation, the Operation Commander should, if practicable, consult with the O/C AOS about the intended tactics and AOS members available for this role.

Standard operating procedures

Members of AOS can access detailed standard operating procedures specific to their operations from the AOS Sharepoint site under MOPS.

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General containment of armed incidents

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AOS members are trained for the express purpose of carrying out forward operations against armed offenders.

AOS commander's responsibilities at an AOS incident

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Obtaining operational assistance

The AOS Commander should arrange with the Operation Commander the assistance the squad requires. This may include:

- logistical support


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- a base for the [Police Negotiation Team](#).

Reporting after callout

The O/C AOS must submit a report to the National AOS Co-ordinator within seven days of an AOS callout using the "AOS and PNT Deployment Report" found in the [Notifications](#) section on Ten One. The report should include full details of:

- the operation, including the times and response times of the AOS callout and deployment, and the tactics employed
 - the suspect
 - the make, model and calibre of the suspect's firearm
 - names of the AOS members involved, the period of time they were deployed and the total man hours (i.e. X members x Y hours Z man hours)
 - s6(c)
- 

AOS selection and standards

Selection procedure and standards to be met

The [Appointments to Specialist Squads Policy](#) applies to Armed Offenders Squad appointments. The policy recognises that selection processes vary between individual specialist squads. This table outlines the process for selection and appointment to AOS squads.

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Suspensions

Squad members who fail to meet the required standards at any time must be suspended from the squad until the standards are met or the District Commander or the Director: Tactical Operations removes them from the squad.

Suspended members do not receive the AOS allowance.

Uniform

Squad members should be similarly dressed and, when operationally necessary, must wear items of approved uniform to identify them to other Police, members of the public and suspects.

No item of outer clothing, firearms or equipment that is not authorised for AOS use may be used or carried in AOS operations.

Reviewing squad efficiency and annual reports

Annual reports

The AOS Commander must provide a written report via [email](#) to the PNT/AOS Training/Development Coordinator, Operations Support, Frontline Capability, PNHQ after June 30 each year.

The report must include:

- **s6(c)**
- number and dates of operations
- the past year's training schedule
- evidence that each member has successfully completed the authorised training programme prescribed by the Director: Tactical Operations
- confirmation that the squad has complied with [work place health monitoring and testing policies](#) with respect to noise induced tasks, and in particular, that new members have obtained baseline or reference audiograms and existing members have undergone annual monitoring audiograms.

Reviewing the efficiency of squads

District Commanders and the Commander Operations Support are jointly responsible for the operational efficiency of their squad(s). Where a District Commander has cause to take action to correct any inefficiency, however it arises, they must send a report outlining the situation and the corrective action taken to the Commander Operations Support at Police National Headquarters.

The Commander Operations Support must review the operational efficiency of Armed Offender Squads once a year to ensure that members maintain prescribed:

- minimum standards of physical fitness
- competence in pistol and rifle shooting
- competence in AOS skills, practices and procedures.

To assist with the review, all AOS squads must be **s6(c)**

Special Tactics Group (STG)

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Policy statement and principles

What

The Special Tactics Group (STG) is a national specialist Police unit with operational teams based in s6(c)
The group consists nationally of s6(c)
employees with a number of supporting staff making a total of s6(c)

Why

A key function of Police is maintaining public safety. Police also has a responsibility to ensure their employees are safe when they do their work.

The Special Tactics Group (STG) can provide a sustained tactical response to escalating AOS situations needing greater tactical resources or situations that are beyond the capability or capacity of AOS. STG are also responsible for tactical intervention in incidents involving s6(c) and other duties requiring STG members' tactical skills and expertise.

How

The STG assists in the maintenance of public safety and the safety of Police employees involved in planned operations and emergencies by:

- Having expertise in and access to a wide range of tactics, weapons and equipment
- Undertaking high risk policing operations, e.g. s6(c) that can be only undertaken by the STG
- Providing a sustained tactical response to initial/escalating AOS situations.

Overview

Purpose

this chapter:

- provides information about the Police Special Tactics Group (STG)
- outlines the [circumstances](#) in which [STG](#) deployment may be appropriate
- details the [approval procedures](#) for:
 - full and partial STG deployments
 - deployments in [planned operations](#) and in [emergencies](#).

The chapter also describes the need for separation between the [AOS](#) and the [STG](#) (given that employees may be members of both groups) and details the situations in which [STG equipment](#) may be used.

What is the Special Tactics Group?

The Special Tactics Group ([STG](#)) is a national specialist Police unit with operational teams based in [s6\(c\)](#). The group consists nationally of approximately [s6\(c\)](#) with a number of supporting staff making a total of [s6\(c\)](#). The group is supported by the National Commander and Tactical Groups Coordinator from Operations Support, Frontline Capability Group, PNHQ.

District responsibilities

Group	Responsible for these districts
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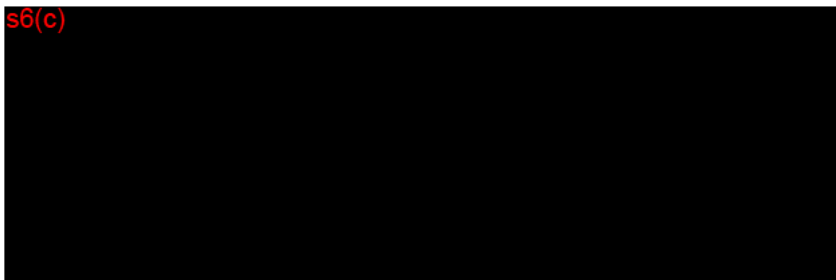
STG members:

- [s6\(c\)](#)
- undertake high risk policing operations
- can provide a sustained tactical response to initial AOS situations
- meet demanding physical and psychological challenges during training.

Approving STG deployment

When can the STG be deployed?

Some examples of when the STG may be deployed are:



Note: Operations involving s6(c) can only be undertaken by the STG.

Types of deployment

The number and location of STG members approved for deployment depends on the nature of the job and tasks to be undertaken.

There are two types of STG deployment.

Deployment type	This is when...
Full deployment	<u>s6(c)</u> all deployed as part of a planned operation or emergency response within New Zealand or overseas.
Partial deployment	members of one or two of the <u>STG</u> units are deployed as part of a planned operation or emergency response within New Zealand or overseas.

Who can approve STG deployment?

This table details who can approve deploying the STG and in what situations.

If the STG deployment is...	Approval must be given by...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full deployment in all situations - Partial deployment that is overseas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commissioner, or - Deputy Commissioner
<p>Partial deployment as part of a <u>planned</u> operation or <u>emergency</u> response within New Zealand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commissioner, or - Deputy Commissioner, or - Assistant Commissioner: Frontline Capability, or - Assistant Commissioner: International and Security, or - in the absence of all of the above, any other Assistant Commissioner.
<p>Partial deployment in a s6(c) Initial concept and deployment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistant Commissioner: Frontline Capability, or - Assistant Commissioner: International and Security, or - in the absence of any of these Assistant Commissioners, any other Assistant Commissioner.
<p>Subsequent deployment on same operation, e.g. s6(c)</p>	<p>Commander: Operations Support</p>

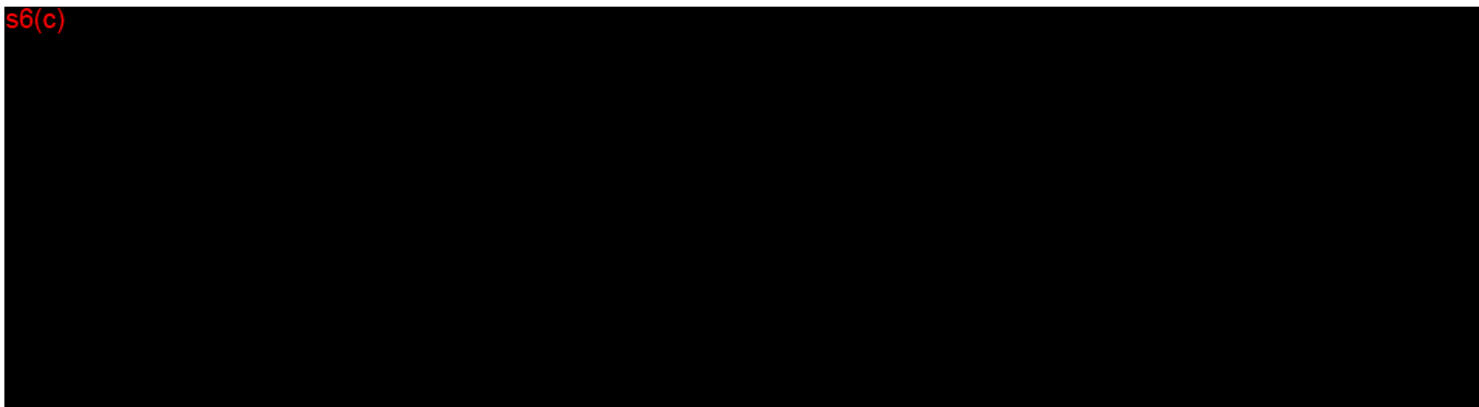
Requests for STG deployment

Requests for STG deployment must be in writing for emailing to required parties (See Form below).

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STG Reques or Assis ance (20 5).doc

259.5 KB



Filepath: Police Forms (A-H) > Covert Op Requests > TOG 2 - Risk Assessment

Maintaining separation between STG and AOS deployments

The STG is a separate group from the AOS. s6(c)
s6(c). STG members regularly take part in AOS operations as AOS members operating under AOS protocols and procedures. The AOS Commander may also be the STG Tactical Commander.

Members employed in both AOS and STG must maintain a clear separation of their roles.

However, when deployed at AOS incidents, STG members may use STG equipment subject to the approval process below.

Approving the use of STG equipment

This table details who can approve the use of STG equipment.

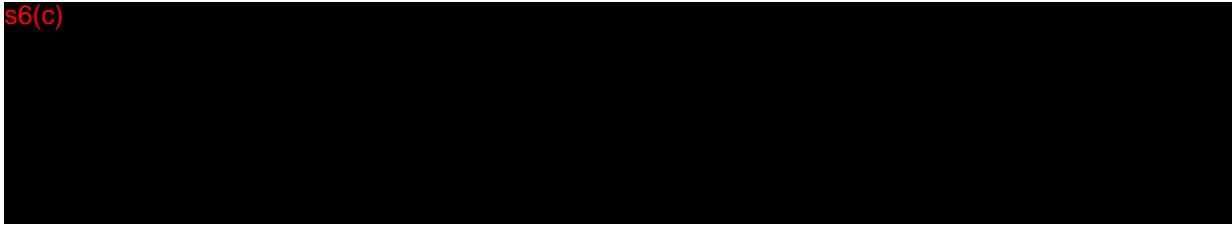
Equipment	Approval must be given by
s6(c)	STG Tactical Commander
	STG Tactical Commander
	Assistant Commissioner: Frontline Capability or, in their absence, a Deputy Commissioner
	AOS Commander or STG Tactical Commander

Deploying STG on planned operations

Planned operations: examples

Some examples of planned operations are:

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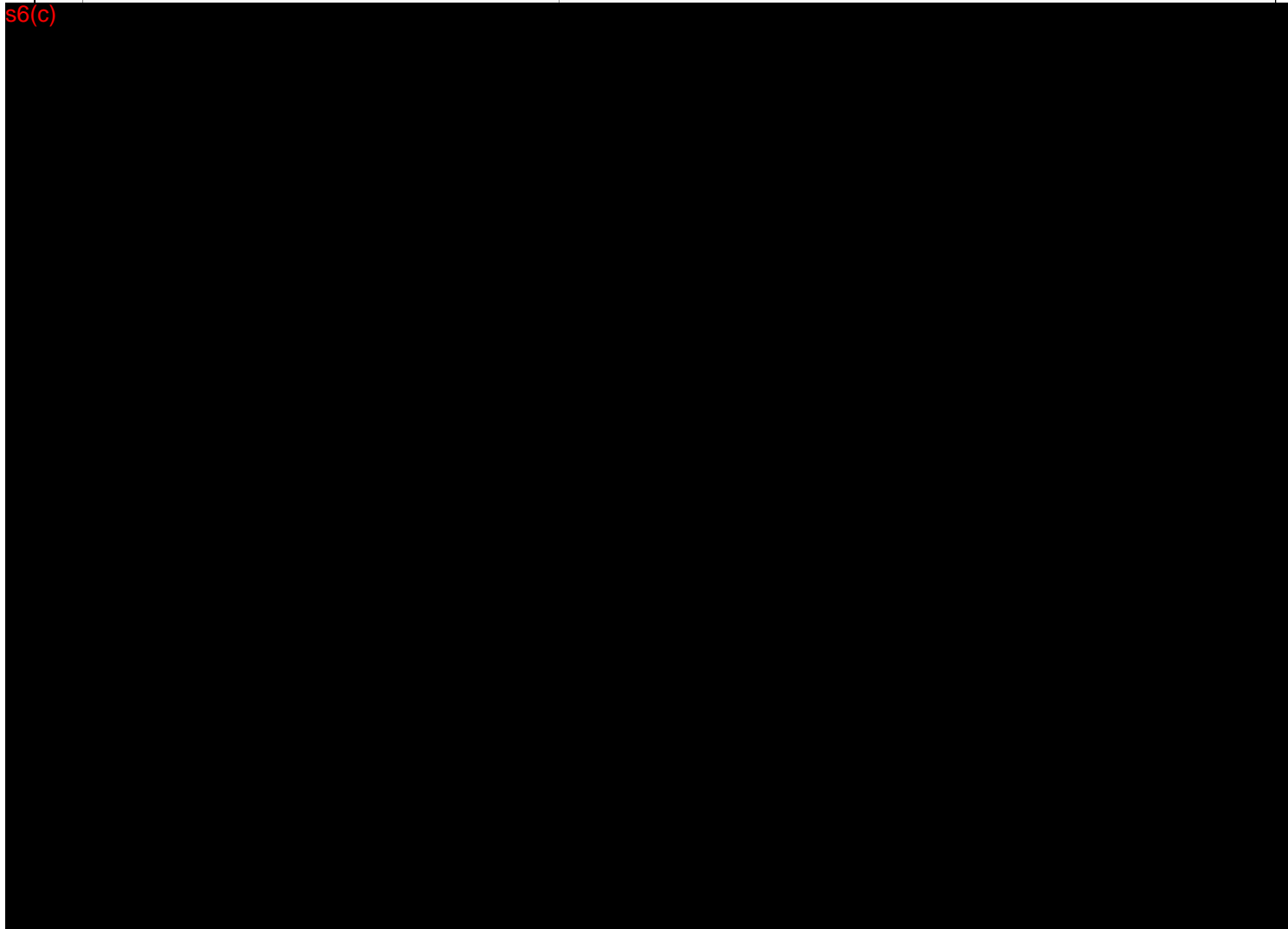


Procedures and responsibilities in planned operations

This table outlines procedures and responsibilities when deploying STG in pre-planned operations.

Step	Who	Action or responsibility
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Deploying STG in emergencies

Emergencies: examples

Some examples of emergencies needing STG deployment are:

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Procedures and responsibilities in emergencies

This table outlines procedures and responsibilities when deploying STG in emergencies.

Steps	Who	Action or responsibility
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