



ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS

Operation Archer

Prevent Delivery Unit

Operation Archer is a table top exercise which has been developed by the ACPO *Prevent* Delivery Unit to help police and partners understand the impact of counter terrorism operations on communities and the impact of these operations on community cohesion in the area. The exercise also helps police and partners understand how to build resilience within vulnerable communities by effective conflict and consequence management.

Operation Archer focuses on the impact and aftermath of a critical incident on communities at a local and national level. Communities are of paramount importance when managing the consequences of counter terrorism operations as it is recognised that the actions of police and partners can have a significant impact upon the future of public confidence and engagement.

The scenario is centred on a town that is hosting an Olympics Training venue and includes TV news bulletins containing details of arrests in a fictitious counter terrorism operation. Participants are asked to consider the impact the police operation will have around:

- New and emerging communities,
- Subsequent political protests,
- National and international media coverage around high profile national events (including the London 2012 Olympics).

The key objective of Operation Archer is to generate an action plan, through a measured and partnership approach which evaluates learning from the day. The exercise specifically addresses areas of concern, level of preparedness and clarity in terms of the roles and responsibilities of all organisations and agencies involved. Its overall aim is to improve

understanding so that we can be more effective in safeguarding vulnerable individuals and communities.

The exercise covers three key phases in the duration of the day and any learning is recorded in the following format:

- Understanding community dynamics during a CT operation. This phase addresses the need for a robust contingency plan, communication strategy and consideration of a wider community impact assessment.
- This phase considers the development of an exit strategy to return a community to 'normality' and the potential negative effects on local cohesion.
- The final phase focuses on managing consequences effectively in the aftermath of a CT operation. This phase helps map vulnerable communities in order to inform and support them and devise community/partnership approaches to improve communication.



For further information about Operation Archer or the ACPO *Prevent* Delivery Unit email: Prevent@acpo.pnn.police.uk or call 020 7084 8776.