

# SFJCH201

## Plan, prepare and occupy static covert observation posts in an urban environment



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### Overview

This unit is about planning the use of covert observation posts for surveillance operations in an urban environment and conducting covert surveillance from them.

To be competent in this unit you must be able to plan an operation which requires an observation post, identify locations, obtain necessary authorities and permissions, identify and acquire the resources that are needed, operate equipment and complete records and documentation in relation to the observations.

#### **There are two elements**

1. Plan and prepare static surveillance from a covert observation post
2. Conduct covert surveillance from a static observation post

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

#### Plan and prepare static surveillance from a covert observation post

- P1 establish the objectives of the operation and any support requirements
- P2 discreetly identify and evaluate suitable locations for establishing a covert observation post
- P3 carry out, and continually review, an operational risk assessment relating to the use of the observation post, the personnel deployed within it and potential impact on the community
- P4 ensure that any necessary permissions and authorities have been obtained for the use of the observation posts in accordance with current legislation, policy, procedures and guidelines
- P5 identify the parameters of any such authorities
- P6 make arrangements with any owners to use locations as covert observation posts, ensuring the security of the surveillance activity
- P7 establish suitable arrangements for covert access to, and egress from, the observation post and determine suitable contingency plans in case of emergency situations
- P8 identify and obtain the required **resources** for the observation post
- P9 prepare the observation post for surveillance operations so that it is safe, secure and fit for purpose
- P10 ensure that all personnel who are involved in the surveillance operation are fully aware of all arrangements and contingency plans
- P11 appropriately document all actions, information and evidence in accordance with current policy and legislation

#### Conduct covert surveillance from a static observation post

*You must be able to:*

- P12 maintain observation effectively in accordance with operational plan
- P13 operate and maintain equipment in the **operational environment** in accordance with training and manufacturer's instructions in order to gather information, intelligence and evidence
- P14 monitor and maintain the condition of the observation post
- P15 maintain effective communication with others throughout the operation using approved techniques and terminology
- P16 provide researched, flexible and plausible cover stories consistent with your appearance and the **operational environment**
- P17 enter and exit the observation post covertly
- P18 take all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of compromising the covert observation post
- P19 recognise the limits of the authority for the surveillance operation and take the appropriate action in respect of changing circumstances or any compromise of the surveillance activity

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- P20 appropriately document all actions, information, intelligence and evidence in accordance with current policy and legislation
- P21 give due consideration to the wishes and needs of the occupier of the location used as a covert observation post

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

#### Legal and organisational requirements

- K1 current, relevant legislation, policies, procedures, codes of practice and guidelines in relation to covert observation posts and surveillance operations
- K2 current, relevant legislation and organisational requirements in relation to race, diversity and human rights
- K3 current, relevant legislation and organisational requirements in relation to health and safety
- K4 the relevant aspects of organisational and policing objectives e.g. control strategy and intelligence requirements, and local, regional and national objectives
- K5 the purpose and importance of risk assessments and how to conduct them
- K6 current restrictions that apply to surveillance of individuals

#### Planning and preparing static surveillance from a covert observation post

*You need to know and understand:*

- K7 how to locate and evaluate the suitability of premises for an observation post
- K8 how to undertake background research and approach owners of locations to be used as covert observation posts in ways which protect the security of the surveillance activity
- K9 the types of resources which will be required
- K10 how to prepare an observation post for static surveillance
- K11 the types of emergency situations which could occur
- K12 how to formulate contingency plans to deal with emergencies
- K13 how to maintain the covert nature of the operation whilst accessing and exiting the observation post

#### Conducting static surveillance from a covert observation post

*You need to know and understand:*

- K14 how to maintain covert surveillance from within an observation post
- K15 the approved methods of communication between team members and how to apply them correctly
- K16 how to operate equipment covertly and correctly in order to gather information, intelligence and evidence
- K17 how to maintain equipment in good working order
- K18 how to enter and exit covert observation posts covertly
- K19 the type of clothing to wear and how to change appearance
- K20 the types of operational environments where you are likely to be working

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- K21 how to formulate, research and adapt cover stories
- K22 the risk factors relating to operational environments and changing circumstances
- K23 the various types of information, intelligence and evidence which may be collected from static covert surveillance posts and the limitations of these

#### **Documentation**

*You need to know and understand:*

- K24 the documentation which must be completed and how to complete it accurately

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## Additional Information

### Scope/range related to performance criteria

#### Plan and prepare static surveillance from a covert observation post

1. **resources**
  - 1.1. physical
  - 1.2. human
  - 1.3. financial
  - 1.4. personal
  - 1.5. documentary

#### Conduct covert surveillance from a static observation post

2. **operational environment**
  - 2.1. hostile
  - 2.2. non-hostile
  - 2.3. daylight
  - 2.4. night time
  - 2.5. busy
  - 2.6. quiet

### Links to other NOS

The purpose of conducting surveillance operations is to gather information, intelligence or evidence and therefore this unit links to unit 2A1 'Gather and submit information that has the potential to assist policing objectives'.

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