

Victoria Police Manual

The Victoria Police Manual is issued under the authority of the Chief Commissioner of Police in s.60, Victoria Police Act 2013. Non-compliance with or a departure from the Victoria Police Manual may be subject to management or disciplinary action. Employees must use VPM Professional and ethical standards to inform the decisions they make to support compliance.

Specialist support

Context

Specialist support exists to complement the policing response, in line with the operational response principles of service, safety and harm minimisation, while aligning with obligations contained within the *Victoria Police Act 2013* regarding the protection of life and property.

The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander, when appropriate, may utilise specialist resources to support the effective application of command intent to achieve operational objectives in line with policy and legislation.

Policy at a glance

This policy includes:

- command interactions for managing planned operations and unplanned incidents
- deployment criteria, requests for deployment processes (planned and unplanned operations) and deployment authorisation for specialist response units
- information on the roles, responsibilities and command interactions between members of specialist support units
- details of the investigative and advisory services that provide forensic support, media management and employee wellbeing support
- guidance on investigations involving crime, professional standards and counter terrorism commands.

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Scope and application

All members attending or responding to planned operations or unplanned incidents.

Commander/Tactical Commander interactions

To ensure consistency in the application of command when managing planned operations or unplanned incidents, the following must be observed:

- where practical, the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander should be equal to or senior in rank to the Tactical Commander of the specialist unit engaged to resolve the incident
- under specific circumstances, the Tactical Commander of a specialist unit may take charge of a tactical resolution or action, but the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander always retains overall command of the incident. Those specific circumstances are outlined in the sections relating to each specialist unit
- if the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander forms the belief that the tactical plans developed are not consistent with the incident objectives and authority provided, that inconsistency is to be resolved with the Tactical Commander of the specialist unit in the first instance
- if a resolution is not reached then the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander may escalate the issue to a more senior member in their chain of command.

Response services

1. Communications services

- Police Communications is responsible for allocating all call signs, operators, channels and colour codes required for all operations and special events and will assist in the planning of all communication requirements.
- The State Police Operations Centre (SPOC) is where Victoria Police exercises state tier command, control and coordination. It may also be used for planned events and operations. The Manager, SPOC should be consulted for advice and assistance on the maintenance and readiness of the SPOC.
- The Tactical Vision Unit (TVU) is responsible for allocating and deploying CCTV and Helivision equipment for use in planned events and operations and will assist in the planning of deploying and using CCTV and Helivision equipment. For planned events and

operations requiring CCTV and/or Helivision equipment, members must complete a request for Tactical Vision Support via the ICT & Facilities Portal.

2. Senior Police Command Cadre

2.1 *Senior Police Command Cadre deployment criteria*

- The Senior Police Command Cadre (SPCC) consists of a cadre of Police Commanders and Police Forward Commanders.
- The SPCC will deploy in the following circumstances:
 - critical incidents, where the level of expertise required to manage an unplanned incident is within the scope of the SPCC members
 - events of state significance.
- When authorised or requested, the SPCC will deploy through one of the following pathways:
 - state level Risk Evaluation Meeting (REM)
 - Counter Terrorism Advisory Group (CTAG) meeting process
 - unplanned activation of the SPOC, when no other specific SPOC Commander has been identified
 - via the duty commissioner
 - direct request of Special Operations Group (SOG) Tactical Commander, via the Security Services Division (SSD) Superintendent (business hours) or via the Transit and Public Safety Command (TPSC) Duty Superintendent (After hours).
- If the SPCC is deployed, the SPCC Police Commander must, at the first opportunity, engage with the relevant Police Commander/Police Forward Commander to obtain a situation report and provide direction on command functions including:
 - proposed strategic and operational command structure
 - where command will be exercised
 - when command will be transitioned.
- For detail regarding police command refer to **VPM Emergency management response**.

3. Special Operations Group

3.1 *Special Operations Group deployment criteria*

- The SOG responds to unplanned operational critical incidents such as sieges and siege hostage situations and armed offender tasks. The unit also assists operational police in planned operations involving apprehension of dangerous suspects.
- SOG assistance must be requested in the following circumstances:
 - high risk operations or incidents where there is a probability of confrontation with a person who is armed or reasonably suspected to be armed with a firearm or other lethal weapon, including planned operations, sieges and searches for offenders armed with firearms
 - level three searches of properties, as the entry team (see **VPM Searches of property**)
 - 'active' clandestine laboratories, as determined by a risk assessment conducted by the Clandestine Laboratory Squad

- a terrorist incident, hostile vehicle or significant politically motivated violence
 - all hostage incidents
 - covert surveillance, reconnaissance or other tasks beyond the scope, expertise, skill level or capability of general duties members or other operational areas.
- When deploying to Aboriginal communities or in response to Aboriginal persons, any known cultural sensitivities of that community must be considered in determining appropriate action. For more information refer to the Aboriginal Communities Factsheets on the Priority and Safer Communities Division (PSCD) Community Safety Hub intranet page.

3.2 *Requests for deployment – planned operations*

- Contact the SOG Tasking and Coordination (T&C) Manager for initial advice regarding the application.
- When requested, complete and submit a 'SSD Request for Deployment' application document via the interpose link provided by the SSD Tactical Intelligence Office. Note: the 'SSD Request for Deployment' application should be used for the SOG and Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) Tasked Operations Team.
- The SOG T&C Manager will assess the request and refer it to the SOG Tactical Advisor for approval.

3.3 *Requests for deployment – unplanned operations*

- The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander must, as soon as practicable:
 - request SOG deployment via Police Communications
 - notify the divisional patrol supervisor (265) of the request for SOG
 - ensure that a 'SSD Request for Deployment' application document is completed and submitted via Interpose.
- The 265 is to inform the regional response officer (150) who will seek deployment authorisation in accordance with section 3.4
- Police Communications will contact the SOG Tactical Advisor who will assess the request.

3.4 *Deployment*

- Deployment of the SOG must be authorised by either:
 - the SOG Tactical Advisor
 - the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) Tactical Advisor (SOG senior sergeant) or a suitably experienced QRF team leader.
- The SOG QRF Tactical Advisor must notify the SOG Tactical Advisor of any deployment at the first opportunity.
- If the QRF deploy to an incident, the SOG QRF Tactical Advisor will assume the role of QRF Tactical Commander.
- If the SOG Tactical Advisor deploys in support of the QRF, a handover with the QRF Tactical Commander must occur and the SOG Tactical Advisor must then identify as the SOG Tactical Commander via Police Communications.

3.5 *Notification of deployment*

If the SOG is deployed, the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander must notify the relevant duty officer and 265 of the area where the operation is being conducted. The 265 is required to ensure notifications and deployment approval occur in line with sections 3.3 and 3.4 of this policy. The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander must be of inspector rank or above.

3.6 *Roles, responsibilities and command interaction*

- The SOG must operate within the structure of the Incident Management System (IMS) - Incident Command and Control System (ICCS).
- The SOG Tactical Advisor is a SOG inspector who has completed the Australian New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee (ANZCTC) Police Tactical Commanders course. They form part of the 24-hour SOG response and can provide advice on:
 - SOG deployment criteria
 - SOG capacity and capability
 - the necessary authority to approve deployment for the SOG.
- The SOG Tactical Advisor can be contacted through Police Communications 24 hours a day.
- The SOG Tactical Commander is a SOG inspector or SOG senior sergeant who has completed the ANZCTC Police Tactical Commanders course.
- The SOG Tactical Commander must:
 - Provide briefings and be available to the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander throughout the operation or incident. The nature of the incident will dictate the extent of the engagement and whether it is undertaken in person, via radio or mobile phone
 - Provide advice on:
 - proposed Emergency Action (EA), Deliberate Action (DA) or other relevant plans
 - the location of the Police Forward Command Post, inner and outer cordons and suitable holding areas if relevant to a static area
 - tactical capabilities and the requirement for any additional specialist resources such as CIRT, police negotiators, canine, Air Wing, physical or technical surveillance
 - the need for emergency services to be positioned on site such as Fire, Ambulance and/or service providers if relevant to a static area
 - potential impact of the EA or DA plans to outer cordon or other persons if relevant to a static area.
 - Be available to the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander during the resolution phase of the operation or incident, ideally in person or otherwise via radio or mobile device.
 - Manage and implement the tactical resolution in accordance with the authority and objectives identified by the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander.
 - Take operational responsibility for command of specialist resources such as negotiators, canine or CIRT who are deployed and tasked in accordance with the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander objectives.

- Unless exceptional circumstances exist, form part of the Incident Management Team (IMT) and attend scheduled IMT meetings. If unable to attend IMT meetings, the capability for a direct line of communication must be established and maintained.
- The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander and SOG Tactical Commander must advise each other as to any additional information or change in operational conditions which may impact on incident objectives and tactical plans.

3.7 *Approval for use of force*

- In accordance with the identified incident objectives, the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander and the SOG Tactical Commander will establish agreed triggers that would initiate an EA or may approve the use of a pre-determined DA to resolve the incident. If an approved pre-determined DA is to be initiated, the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander must be briefed to allow for appropriate preparation and coordination of members and support.
- In considering the application of force to meet the incident objectives, the SOG Tactical Commander must be satisfied that:
 - the incident cannot be resolved by other means
 - any delay in resolving the incident may increase the likelihood of death or serious injury to the public, members, hostages or the offender
 - the action (and timing of the action) demonstrates due regard to the safety of the public, police, hostages or the offender.
- Where it is not practical to obtain approval, the SOG Tactical Commander may take EA to resolve the incident, provided that the above criteria are met.

3.8 *Withdrawal of service*

If the circumstances no longer meet the criteria for SOG deployment, the SOG Tactical Commander must consult with the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander prior to withdrawing or not committing SOG resources.

4. Bomb Response Unit

4.1 *Bomb Response Unit deployment criteria*

- The Bomb Response Unit (BRU) provides 24-hour advice or on-site attendance in response to any explosive device related incident or issue, including fireworks and military ordinance.
- BRU assistance or advice must be requested in the following circumstances:
 - assessment and resolution of situations involving:
 - suspicious packages/items that are suspected to be improvised explosive devices (IEDs)
 - suspicious packages/items that are suspected of containing chemical, biological or radiological hazardous material where the dispersal system is mechanically, electrically or explosively initiated
 - clandestine explosive laboratories or home-made explosives
 - the presence or location of commercial explosives, pyrotechnics, detonators or military ordinance within the community
 - where an explosive detector dog (EDD) is required for operational support

- post blast site attendance to conduct a site safety assessment, locate unexploded IEDs or explosive material
- bomb threat incidents
- incidents involving or where intelligence indicates the presence of man-traps or booby traps
- searches for explosive ordinance reconnaissance
- where hazardous or precursor explosive materials are located which are unsafe to manually handle, requiring the use of BRU skills, tactics and equipment
- any critical incident where BRU skills, tactics and equipment may increase the likelihood of a safe resolution to the incident.

4.2 *Requests for deployment - planned operations*

- Contact the BRU Bomb Commander (BRU sergeant) to discuss the nature of the planned operation and proposed role of the BRU.
- The BRU Bomb Commander will assess the request.

4.3 *Requests for deployment – unplanned operations*

The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander must, as soon as practicable:

- request BRU advice or deployment, via Police Communications
- notify the 265 of the request for BRU.

4.4 *Requests for deployment – explosive detector dog*

- The BRU Bomb Commander or Bomb Team Leader will assess EDD deployment requests and must approve any deployment of an EDD.
- The BRU EDD Operative must retain control of the dog and is responsible for any decisions on the use of the dog.
- The BRU EDD may be deployed independently of full BRU deployment upon assessment and approval by the BRU Bomb Commander or Bomb Team Leader.
- Considerations for deployment include, but are not limited to:
 - searches for any suspect package, device or substance reasonably suspected of containing explosives
 - searches of premises
 - searches of vehicles/vessels.

4.5 *Deployment authorisation*

Deployment of the BRU is to be authorised by the BRU Bomb Commander or Bomb Team Leader in consultation with the SOG Tactical Advisor.

4.6 *Notification of deployment*

If the BRU is deployed, the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander must notify the following:

- 265
- duty officer

- Arson and Explosives Squad (where explosive materials or devices are suspected of being present, as required by **VPM Crime attendance** – initial action).

4.7 *Roles, responsibilities and command interaction*

- The BRU must operate within the structure of the IMS - ICCS.
- The BRU Bomb Commander is responsible for the management and provision of all BRU resources.
- The BRU Bomb Team Leader is a sergeant or Senior Bomb Technician who forms part of the 24-hour BRU response.
- The BRU Bomb Commander and Bomb Team Leader can provide advice on BRU:
 - deployment criteria
 - capacity and capability.
- The Bomb Team Leader can be contacted through the Police Communications Centre 24 hours a day.
- The BRU Bomb Commander and/or Bomb Team Leader must:
 - Provide briefings and be available to the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander throughout the operation or incident. The nature of the incident will dictate the extent of the engagement and whether it is undertaken in person, via radio or mobile device
 - Provide advice on:
 - proposed EA, DA and/or other relevant plans
 - the location of the Police Forward Command Post, inner and outer cordons and suitable holding areas if relevant to a static area
 - BRU capabilities and the requirement for any additional specialist resources
 - the need for emergency services to be positioned on site such as Fire, Ambulance and/or service providers if relevant to a static area
 - potential impact of EA or DA plans to outer cordon or other persons if relevant to a static area
 - be available to the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander during the resolution phase of the operation or incident, ideally in person if possible, otherwise via radio or mobile device
 - manage and implement the bomb resolution in accordance with the authority and objectives identified by the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander
 - unless exceptional circumstances exist, form part of the IMT and attend scheduled IMT meetings. If unable to attend IMT meetings, the capability for a direct line of communication must be established and maintained
 - The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander and BRU Bomb Commander/Bomb Team Leader must advise each other as to any additional information or change in operational conditions which may impact on incident objectives and tactical plans.

4.8 *Withdrawal of service*

If the circumstances no longer meet the criteria for BRU deployment, the BRU Bomb Commander or Bomb Team Leader must consult with the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander prior to withdrawing or not committing BRU resources.

4.9 *Reporting requirements*

The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander for the incident where BRU attendance or advice was sought must ensure:

- LEAP reports are submitted immediately after the incident has been resolved
- that an Incident Fact Sheet (IFS) is created.

5. Negotiators

5.1 *Criteria for deployment*

The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander must consider the deployment of trained negotiators at incidents involving:

- a person threatening or attempting suicide or threatening self-harm
- armed offenders, whether hostages are involved or not
- a person experiencing a mental health incident or condition, where negotiators could be of assistance in resolving the incident
- all hostage incidents.

5.2 *Arranging deployment*

For CIRT negotiators, seek deployment in accordance with the process in section 6.2 of this policy.

6. Critical Incident Response Team

6.1 *Critical Incident Response Team deployment criteria*

- The CIRT provide 24 hours a day, 7 days a week response (including a negotiator capability) to incidents that are beyond the scope, experience and skill level of general duties members, but that do not meet the criteria of the SOG.
- CIRT assistance must be requested in the following circumstances:
 - A high-risk incident where there is a probability of a violent confrontation with a person, or it is reasonably suspected that a person is armed with a weapon (including sieges, barricade incidents, and searches for armed or violent people). If a firearm is involved, the SOG must also be notified.
 - Mental health related incidents where a person is threatening or attempting suicide or self-harm and/or intervention is beyond the scope, expertise and capability of general duties police
 - Incidents that meet the SOG deployment criteria, pending the arrival of the SOG
 - Other tasks including planned operations approved by the CIRT Duty Officer in which the deployment of CIRT specialist skills or equipment is likely to provide the most appropriate level of response.
- When CIRT is not tasked or specifically deployed in accordance with the above criteria, CIRT may conduct mobile patrols and/or support general duties activity when required. In these circumstances:
 - CIRT can deploy as a policing resource in line with general duties supervision arrangements

- CIRT should communicate their attendance via the police radio for the information of other attending units and the Police Forward Commander
 - the CIRT unit should advise the CIRT supervisor at the first opportunity following any decision to deploy in this manner
 - support may be withdrawn in the event of a CIRT deployment pursuant to CIRT duties outlined in the criteria above or at the discretion of the CIRT supervisor
 - the support does not extend to CIRT assuming primacy of response for those tasks ordinarily allocated to general duties.
- When deploying to Aboriginal communities or in response to Aboriginal persons, the cultural sensitivities of that community must be considered in determining appropriate action. For more information refer to Aboriginal Communities Factsheets on the PSCD Community Safety Hub intranet page.

6.2 *Requests for deployment – unplanned operations*

- The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander must, as soon as practicable:
 - request attendance of the CIRT via Police Communications
 - notify the 265 of the request for CIRT.
- CIRT should communicate their attendance via the police radio for the information of other attending units and the Police Forward Commander.
- Police Communications will contact the CIRT Operations Supervisor, who will assess the request and provide assistance and advice to the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander.

6.3 *Deployment authorisation*

- In life threatening situations the CIRT Tactical Commander can authorise self-deployment and must notify the CIRT Tactical Advisor as soon as practicable.
- If the CIRT deploy in a tactical role, the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander must advise the 265.

6.4 *Roles, responsibilities and command interaction*

- The CIRT Operations Supervisor role must be performed by a sergeant or suitably experienced team leader who has completed the CIRT Team Leaders course.
- The CIRT Tactical Advisor role must be performed by a senior sergeant or suitably experienced sergeant or team leader who has completed the CIRT Team Leaders course.
- The CIRT Tactical Advisor forms part of the 24-hour CIRT response. The senior sergeant assumes the role of the CIRT Tactical Advisor when not physically at the scene of an incident.
- The CIRT Tactical Advisor will monitor and support all CIRT deployments in line with the CIRT deployment criteria.
- The role of the CIRT Tactical Advisor includes but is not limited to:
 - monitoring relevant radio channels for all CIRT requests
 - when requested, monitoring the task and its status

- monitoring the local incident channel as well as the CIRT operational channel
 - ensuring they are available for the CIRT Tactical Commander as required
 - ensuring CIRT personnel have capacity and capability in line with the Police Forward Commander's requirements
 - providing tactical advice to the Police Forward Commander and Tactical Commander
 - deployment to the incident scene as required and assumption of the role of the CIRT Tactical Commander via police radio.
- The CIRT Tactical Commander role should be performed by a CIRT member who arrives at the scene first and declares themselves as the CIRT Tactical Commander via police radio. A more senior CIRT member subsequently attending the incident may assume the role of CIRT Tactical Commander by declaring this via police radio. The position of the CIRT Tactical Commander can be subject to ongoing change and should be communicated via the police radio where that occurs.
- In situations where the circumstances are sufficiently complex, the CIRT Duty Officer may deploy to the scene and perform the role of CIRT Tactical Commander.
- The CIRT Tactical Commander must:
 - where the scene is static, be available to the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander
 - conduct a risk assessment and discuss the tactical options with the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander, to determine appropriate action to be taken to manage or resolve the incident
 - as far as practicable, be available to the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander during the resolution phase of the operation or incident.
 - unless exceptional circumstances exist, form part of the IMT and attend scheduled IMT meetings. If unable to attend IMT meetings, the capability for a direct line of communication must be established and maintained.
- If the incident meets the SOG deployment criteria, assistance from the SOG must be requested by the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander.
- Where CIRT's attendance involves a death or serious injury, notifications to Professional Standards Command (PSC) will be conducted by the Police Forward Commander in line with **VPM Death or serious injury/illness incidents involving police**.
- CIRT must preserve and handle evidence in accordance with **VPM Scene management** and **VPM Seized property and special property types**. However, CIRT does not manage any associated investigation and property subsequent to an incident, as this responsibility lies with the nominated investigator.
- Where CIRT arrest and handover an offender, they must follow the standard procedures with respect to providing caution and rights in line with **VPM Arrests and warrants to arrest** as well as having consideration for human rights in line with **VPM Human rights standards**.

6.5 *Approval for the use of force*

- The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander may approve the CIRT to resolve the incident by use of force against people or a forced building entry, only after consultation with the CIRT Tactical Commander.

- In considering the application of force, the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander must be satisfied that:
 - the incident cannot be resolved by other means
 - any delay in resolving the incident may increase the likelihood of serious injury to the public, members, hostages or the offender
 - that the action (and timing of the action) demonstrates due regard to the safety of the public, members, hostages or the offender.
- As soon as practicable, the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander and the CIRT Tactical Commander are to conduct a risk assessment and discuss tactical options with respect to planning an EA (action taken to preserve life or prevent a serious deterioration of the situation).
- The CIRT Tactical Commander may take EA to resolve the incident if they are satisfied that immediate action is required to prevent serious injury to the public, members, hostages/victims or the offender.

6.6 *Withdrawal of service*

If the circumstances no longer meet the criteria for CIRT deployment, the CIRT Tactical Commander must consult with the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander prior to withdrawing or not committing CIRT resources.

7. CIRT tasked operations

7.1 *Tasked operations deployment criteria*

The CIRT Tasked Operations Unit can be requested in the following circumstances:

- planned operations or high-risk arrests where:
 - there is potential for a physical confrontation
 - it is reasonable to suspect that a person is armed with a weapon other than a firearm and the task does not meet the criteria of the SOG
 - the likelihood of a confrontation with a firearm is low.
- property searches meeting level two criteria, excluding searches that have a high probability of potentially hazardous materials or substances present that may require breathing apparatus or specialist equipment
- security tasks beyond the capabilities of general duties members and other operational areas.

7.2 *Requests for deployment - planned tasked operations*

- Complete and submit an Application for Tasked Operations form available on the CIRT intranet. The submit button will forward the completed form to the CIRT-SSD-OIC PBEA.
- A CIRT Tasked Operations sergeant will action the request. All requests for the Tasked Operations Unit will be submitted via Interpose to SSD T&C for approval.

7.3 *Request for deployment - unplanned tasked operations*

For urgent tasks meeting the tasked operations criteria:

- The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander is to contact the CIRT Duty Officer via Police Communications

- The OIC CIRT will assess the request and deploy resources where appropriate. Verbal approval for the unplanned operation can be given by the OIC CIRT
- As soon as practicable after the incident has been resolved, the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander is to ensure an Application for Tasked Operations form is submitted.

8. Close Personal Protection – dignitary protection

CIRT Close Personal Protection (CPP) is responsible for the management of protective security for Australian high office holders, diplomats, consular officials, visiting dignitaries, international protected people and others assessed to be at risk.

9. Public Order Response Team

9.1 *Public Order Response Team deployment criteria*

- The Public Order Response Team (PORT) provides a highly visible police response to assist with priority organisational issues, public safety incidents and emergency situations. PORT deploys their specialist resources in accordance with **VPM Crowd control and public order incidents**.
- Deployment can be requested where the response is beyond the capability and capacity of the local resources, including:
 - public order and community safety incidents, including but not limited to:
 - planned operations; such as protests, demonstrations, sporting events where there is a high potential for violence or a need for crowd management or public order capabilities
 - unplanned operations; such as riots, affrays or brawls, which require a need for crowd management or public order capabilities
 - enforcement or monitoring of high-risk groups; such as outlaw motorcycle gangs.
 - emergency management incidents requiring significant policing resources, such as large-scale state-wide emergencies
 - organisational priorities relating to crime or road policing.

9.2 *Requests for deployment – planned operations*

- Requests for PORT resources are to be made at the earliest opportunity through line management, using the State T&C application process.
- Requesting members should contact the PORT T&C Manager at the earliest opportunity for advice regarding the preparation of the application.
- State T&C applications will be assessed at a weekly command-level meeting chaired by the Operations Support Division (OSD) Superintendent, or out-of-sessions, and the decision communicated back to the requesting area via the relevant regional Operational Support superintendent.

9.3 *Requests for deployment – unplanned operations*

- Requests for PORT resources, submitted within 48 hrs of the operation occurring, are considered unplanned operations or 'hot tasks' and involve a redeployment of PORT resources across regional or divisional boundaries. Any request must still satisfy the PORT deployment criteria.

- Requests must not be delayed so that they fall within the unplanned operation definition. Requesting members should contact the PORT at the earliest opportunity to discuss the request and resourcing options.
- Requests regarding unplanned operations are to be evidenced with sufficient information and intelligence and will be progressed via email or telephone (dependent upon circumstances) to the PORT duty sergeant (Sunday to Thursday night shift) or the PORT duty senior sergeant (all other times) for initial assessment.

9.4 *Re-deployment of PORT resources*

- The redeployment of PORT resources must be assessed against their current tasking and proposed redeployment must demonstrate a higher organisational priority.
- The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander must consider the operational need and determine if the incident requires additional resources (in particular, specialist capability) which are not available within the impacted region/command.
- Redeployment for an unplanned operation ('hot task') must be in consultation initially with the PORT duty sergeant (Sunday to Thursday night shift) or the PORT duty senior sergeant (all other times) who will engage with the PORT duty inspector.
- Redeployment from planned tasking requires approval of the regional duty inspector in consultation with the PORT duty inspector (for tasks within the requesting region) or agreement between the requesting region's Operational Support superintendent and the TPSC duty superintendents (for tasks external to the requesting region).
- The approver will assess the request and notify the requesting Police Commander/Police Forward Commander of the approval for PORT resources to be redeployed.

9.5 *Deployment authorisation*

In circumstances requiring an urgent response the PORT supervisor may redeploy PORT resources and seek approval immediately following the allocation of resources.

9.6 *Police Commander/Police Forward Commander interaction – PORT public order incidents*

- In relation to a public order incident, once authorised to deploy, the management and tactics utilised by PORT will be at the direction of the PORT Tactical Commander in consultation with the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander and PORT Tactical Advisor, in line with ICCS.
- The role of PORT Tactical Advisor must be performed by a qualified inspector or above.
- The role of PORT Tactical Commander must be performed by a qualified sergeant or senior sergeant.
- The PORT Tactical Advisor must:
 - be available to the Police Commander/ Police Forward Commander during the initial planning and operational phase of the operation or incident
 - provide advice on:
 - tactical options and contingencies as identified in the approved tactical plan and based on current intelligence and risk

- additional specialist resources and equipment within TPSC available to the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander
- unless exceptional circumstances exist, form part of the IMT and attend scheduled IMT meetings. If unable to attend IMT meetings, the capability for a direct line of communication must be established and maintained.
- The PORT Tactical Commander must:
 - exercise command and control of PORT resources, in consultation with the PORT Tactical Advisor
 - activate the tactical plan in line with the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander's objectives.

9.7 Crowd Control Equipment

- Crowd Control Equipment (CCE) must only be deployed following a risk assessment conducted by the PORT Tactical Advisor, in consultation with the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander. For more information, see **VPM Crowd control and public order incidents**.
- Where exceptional circumstances exist, the PORT Tactical Commander may authorise the deployment of CCE without consultation with the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander, if all of the following criteria are met:
 - there is an opportunity for resolution in line with the operational objectives
 - it is not practical to obtain approval
 - any delay in resolution may increase risk of injury to the public
 - the action demonstrates due regard to the safety of the public, members and offender/s.

9.8 Deployment of chemical munitions

- Prior to deployment, members must be aware that chemical munitions may impact the following groups:
 - people with pre-existing heart conditions
 - people with breathing difficulties
 - elderly people or the infirm
 - juveniles and children
 - pregnant women
 - people who the member has reason to believe has a medical condition that may be worsened through exposure to chemical munitions.
- Prior to the deployment of chemical munitions, a thorough evaluation and risk assessment of the tactical options must occur, considering any reasonably foreseeable contingencies, current practice and training.
- Members should also refer to **VPM Human rights standards** to ensure their decisions are in line with Victoria Police's obligations under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.
- Post-deployment of chemical munitions, aftercare must be considered and if necessary, applied immediately or as soon as practicable. Refer to **VPM Crowd control and public order incidents** for more detail.

9.9 *Protester Extraction Team*

- Protestor extraction refers to the use of specialist tools and equipment where people have engaged in non-violent direct action. This includes instances of people gluing or locking themselves onto equipment, vehicles or infrastructure (excluding "at height" incidents; for "at height" incidents refer to section 13.1 of this policy).
- Where protester extraction is required or anticipated, the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander should request advice/assistance from the PORT Protester Extraction Team (PET) in the first instance.
- Requests for PET assistance can be made in the following manner:
 - for planned operations – must be progressed via the State T&C process (template available from TPSC intranet).
 - for unplanned operations (less than 48 hours notice or evolving incidents) – the regional duty inspector should initiate a request via the PORT duty sergeant (Sunday to Thursday night shift only) or the PORT duty senior sergeant (all other times).

9.10 *Withdrawal of service*

If the circumstances no longer meet the criteria for PORT deployment, the PORT Tactical Advisor must consult with the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander prior to withdrawing resources.

10. Dog Squad

10.1 *Capability*

- The Dog Squad provides a state-wide operational response. Canine teams are available as:
 - General Purpose (GP)
 - Detection
- All GP dogs are trained in tracking and offender control, with some having siege and emergency action capability. They can be used during incidents that do not require use of force, such as tracking and searching people or property.
- Detection dogs are trained to locate narcotics, firearms, ammunition and cash.
- If the Dog Squad cannot provide a canine team, one may be requested from an outside agency. All requests for external assistance must be made via the Dog Squad supervisor. Members must not contact outside agencies directly.

10.2 *Requests for Deployment*

- Any deployment will be made upon assessment by the Dog Squad, with resources allocated according to priority.
- The handler retains control of the dog and is responsible for any decision regarding the deployment of the dog, in consultation with the Dog Squad supervisor, unless a Police Commander/Police Forward Commander or member in charge of an incident directs that a police dog is not to be deployed.
- **Planned operations** – a formal request must be submitted to the Dog Squad as soon as possible before the operation using the Request for Service Application (located on the Dog Squad intranet). For state level events that require multiple

TPSC resources, requests must be made via the State T&C process (template available from TPSC intranet).

- **Unplanned operations or high risk/critical incidents** – requests for assistance should be made by the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander or another attending member via Police Communications.

10.3 *Criteria for deployment of GP and Detection dogs*

Deployment of Detection dogs is subject to certain criteria, outlined in the table below.

Type of Dog	Considerations for deployment
GP	Planned use • To assist with incidents including but not limited to search warrants, property searches, public events (for the purpose of deterring crime), management or monitoring of high-risk groups (such as outlaw motorcycle gangs), planned arrests, addressing organisational priorities relating to crime Unplanned use • To assist with incidents including but not limited to supporting specialist units and frontline members in sieges or missing person searches • To assist in the apprehension of offenders suspected of committing serious and violent crime including but not limited to high risk driving events, home invasion, car-jacking, aggravated burglary, robbery or armed robbery

Detection dog	Advice in relation to Detection dog operations should be obtained from the Dog Squad prior to the commencement/submission of an operation order Narcotic Detector • To assist in the search of premises/vehicles under the provisions of a relevant warrant • Where after conducting a search of a vehicle on reasonable grounds under the provisions of the <i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substance Act 1981</i> the member still believes on reasonable grounds that drugs are concealed and a further search is required • To screen public places to provide the basis for forming reasonable grounds for people to be searched under the provision of the <i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substance Act</i>. In these circumstances, an operation order is required, and must contain intelligence to support that it is an area of known drug activity Firearm/Ammunition/Cash Detector • To assist in the search of premises/vehicles under the provisions of a relevant warrant or Firearm Prohibition Order • Where after conducting a search of a vehicle on reasonable grounds under the provisions of the <i>Firearms Act 1996</i> or relevant warrant the member still believes on reasonable grounds that firearm/s as defined by the <i>Firearms Act</i>, ammunition or cash are concealed and the vehicle requires a further search • To assist in searches for abandoned firearms, ammunition, or cash relating to proceeds of crime
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10.4 Using a canine team to deal with high risk incidents

- A police dog can be deployed in preference to a physical confrontation between members and a person suspected to be armed and/or violent.
- The use of a dog as an application of force must satisfy s.462A, *Crimes Act 1958* and the operational response principles, see **VPM Operational safety and the use of force**.
- The Tactical Options Model should be considered when using a police dog as a tactical option, see **VPM Operational safety and the use of force**.

10.5 Injury or damage caused by police dog

If a person is bitten, injured or has their property damaged by a police dog, it is the handler's responsibility to:

- notify the relevant divisional patrol supervisor and Dog Squad supervisor, who should attend the incident
- submit Use of Force App reports and complete before the end of their shift.

For all dog bites involving children or resulting in an injury requiring admission to hospital, the relevant divisional patrol supervisor must notify PSC as soon as practicable.

11. Mounted Branch

11.1 *Mounted Branch deployment criteria*

The Mounted Branch (MTB) provides a state-wide response and support capability for public order management, search and rescue, planned and targeted patrols, community reassurance and ceremonial duties. The MTB is a highly visible policing resource that promotes public confidence and safety.

The MTB can be deployed for:

- public order management and community safety incidents, including but not limited to planned operations such as protests, demonstrations and sporting events where intelligence indicates that there is a high potential need for crowd management or public order capabilities
- search and rescue for rural or urban locations, for planned or unplanned operations
- targeted patrols for local crime or public order operations
- community reassurance patrols following significant events
- ceremonial duties (limited to police funerals, police graduations, Governors' escorts and large-scale events such as Remembrance Day).

11.2 *Requests for service – planned events*

Requests for MTB services for planned events must be made at the earliest opportunity through line management as follows:

- for state level events (involving multiple TPSC resources) – request via the State T&C process (template available from TPSC intranet)
- all other requests – by completion of a Transit and Public Safety Command – Request for Services from Mounted Branch [Form VP1298].

11.3 *Requests for service – unplanned operations*

- Requests for MTB resources that are submitted within 72 hours of the operation occurring are considered unplanned operations or 'hot tasks'. Requesting members must contact the MTB at the earliest opportunity to discuss the request and resourcing options.
- Requests for unplanned operations must be evidenced with enough information and intelligence and must progress via:
 - the State T&C process where multiple TPSC units are requested
 - initial email or telephone consultations, followed by a VP1298 where only MTB resources are requested.

11.4 *Deployment authorisation*

- All deployments for unplanned operations must be approved by the OIC MTB or the Unit Commander, Mounted Branch/Dog Squad.
- Urgent deployments after hours or on weekends must be made via the on-call Specialist Response Division 265.

11.5 *Public order management deployments*

- The MTB can deploy to public order management events in support of general duties members.
- In the case of event escalation, the management and tactics utilised by the MTB at public order management events will be at the direction of the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander in consultation with the PORT Tactical Commander and the MTB Tactical Advisor.
- The MTB Tactical Advisor must:
 - be available to the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander and PORT Tactical Advisor during the initial planning and operational phase of the operation or incident
 - provide advice on pre-determined tactical options and contingencies as identified in the approved tactical plan
 - provide alternative tactical options and capabilities based on current intelligence and risk
 - manage MTB resources and implement the tactical plan
 - unless exceptional circumstances exist, form part of the IMT and attend scheduled IMT meetings. If unable to attend IMT meetings, the capability for a direct line of communication must be established and maintained.
 - attend where 12 or more mounted troopers are deployed to a public order management event.

12. Search and Rescue Squad

12.1 *Search and Rescue Squad deployment criteria*

- The Search and Rescue Squad (SARS) provides specialised advice and capabilities that are beyond the scope of general duties members.
- SARS assistance should be requested in the following circumstances, including but not limited to:
 - a SAR incident that involves a complex multi-agency response
 - SAR of a person from land and or water including but not limited to alpine areas, confined spaces, swift water, and suicides from heights
 - underwater search and recovery of evidence and/or a deceased person
 - underwater diving fatalities
 - protester extraction from heights and/or lock on devices
 - where tactical advice is required, inclusive of requests for volunteer and other land SAR assets.

12.2 *Requests for deployment – planned operations*

- Planned operations or proactive tasks where multiple TPSC units are involved must be progressed via the State T&C process (template available from TPSC intranet).
- Planned operations or proactive tasking requests should be forwarded to the PBEA SEARCH&RESCUE-SRD-OIC.
- Requests will be assessed via the WPS/SARS T&C process. The WPS/SARS Inspector is responsible for approving requests.

12.3 *Requests for deployment – unplanned operations*

The Police Commander/ Police Forward Commander should as soon as practicable either:

- request SARS assistance via Police Communications
- contact the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) via 9399 7500
- seek specialist information via the SARS intranet.

12.4 *Roles, responsibilities and command interaction*

The SARS operates within the IMS structure, under the ICCS.

The senior SARS member should:

- provide advice regarding search tactics including but not limited to:
 - lost person behaviour
 - search planning including suggested initial actions
 - location of forward command posts, staging areas and Police Operation Centres (POCs)
 - resource and asset acquisition including specialist vehicles, aircraft and ground teams
 - other police assets applicable to the task
 - geospatial support (mapping and asset tracking)
 - engagement of other agencies to assist with incident resolution, including Air Ambulance Victoria (AAV), Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), High Angel Rescue Team (HART), the State Emergency Service (SES) and various volunteer groups.
- upon request, manage and implement the SAR response in line with the Police Commander's/Police Forward Commander's aims and objectives
- in accordance with the SAR plan, task specialist resources who are deployed in support of the Police Commander's/Police Forward Commander's intent
- unless exceptional circumstances exist, form part of the IMT and attend scheduled IMT meetings. If unable to attend IMT meetings, the capability for a direct line of communication must be established and maintained.

12.5 *Withdrawal of service*

If circumstances no longer warrant SARS involvement, but they have already been deployed, the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander must consult with the senior SARS member to ensure all resources have been cancelled and external agencies have been notified of this outcome.

13. Water Police Squad

13.1 *Water Police Squad deployment criteria and roles*

The Water Police Squad (WPS) provides specialist support to regions and commands when responding to marine SAR incidents, marine crime and law enforcement across all Victorian waterways.

The WPS must be advised and/or requested in the following circumstances:

- all marine SAR incidents that occur within Victoria, inclusive of when volunteer and other agency search assets are tasked
- marine collisions that result in serious injury or death
- criminal investigations relating to the marine environment.

13.2 *Requests for deployment – planned operations*

- Planned operations or proactive tasks where multiple TPSC units are involved must be progressed via State T&C process (template available from TPSC intranet) and submitted to the TPSC Secretariat for assessment.
- Planned operations or proactive tasking requests for WPS services only should be forwarded to WATERPOLICE-OIC. Refer to the request for service form available via the WPS intranet.
- The WPS/SAR Inspector is responsible for approving requests for WPS services.

13.3 *Requests for deployment – unplanned operations*

The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander should as soon as practicable either:

- request WPS assistance via Police Communications
- contact the RCC via 9399 7500.

13.4 *Roles, responsibilities and command interaction*

The WPS operates within the IMS structure, under the ICCS.

The senior WPS member should:

- provide advice with respect to initial actions, search tactics, available resources, and staging areas
- engage other agencies, including Volunteer Coast Guard, Volunteer Marine Rescues, Life Saving Victoria, AAV, the SES and other emergency services able to assist with incident resolution
- upon request, manage and implement the search and rescue response in line with the Police Commander's/Police Forward Commander's aims and objectives
- in accordance with the search and rescue plan, task specialist resources who are deployed in support of the Police Commander's/Police Forward Commander's intent
- manage resources including asset tracking for vessels and aircraft
- unless exceptional circumstances exist, form part of the IMT and attend scheduled IMT meetings. If unable to attend IMT meetings, the capability for a direct line of communication must be established and maintained.
- in circumstances where it is unclear which police jurisdiction has responsibility of a marine incident, provide advice to the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander.

13.5 *Withdrawal of service*

If circumstances no longer warrant WPS involvement, but deployment has already occurred, the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander must consult with the senior WPS member to ensure all resources have been cancelled and external agencies have been notified of this outcome.

14. Rescue Coordination Centre

14.1 *Roles and functions*

The RCC is situated at 100 Nelson Place in Williamstown at the WPS and SAR facility and can be contacted via 9399 7500. It is staffed 24 hours by nationally accredited and qualified SAR Coordinators.

The RCC, including the mobile command facility, has a broad range of communication equipment, technology and mapping products to assist when planning, tasking and managing SAR operations.

The RCC provides the following services:

- an entry point for all land and marine SAR tasking and inquiries from interstate police and the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre situated in Canberra
- access to SAR and WPS members, inclusive of vehicles, vessels and specialist equipment
- upon request, can assist Police Commanders/Police Forward Commanders with command, control and coordination of a SAR response, especially operations involving coastal waters where the incident is offshore, and the SAR assets involved are not locally tasked
- supply SAR assets external to Victoria Police inclusive of vessels, aircraft and ground personnel from other emergency services, government agencies and volunteer networks
- for after-hours contact for all specialist response resources and assistance, ensure appropriate duty officer and divisional patrol supervisor notifications occur, and ensure supervision in line with the Divisional Incident Leadership and Attendance Model is achieved.

15. Police Air Wing

15.1 *Equipment and capability*

The Police Air Wing (PAW) provides a state-wide response and is equipped with the following aircraft and remote pilot aircraft (RPA or 'drones'):

- Rotary Wing - AW139 helicopters
- Fixed Wing – B350ER King Air fixed wing aircraft
- All aircraft are equipped with a Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) camera capable of operating during the day or night and at various altitudes and distances, along with advanced mapping and search systems. For further information refer to the PAW intranet page for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

- Drones of differing capabilities and remote pilots who can operate them are located strategically around the state or within specialist work units. Most of the drones deployed have:
 - optical and thermal camera capability
 - capacity to operate in moderate winds and rain
 - multispectral sensors
 - counter-RPA and remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) capability to monitor drone activity and respond.
- PAW may undertake counter-RPAS operations from RPAS Hub to protect the community from nefarious and dangerous drones. Refer to the RPAS Hub for more information about how to request counter-RPA and RPAS capability.

15.2 Services and assets

PAW provides the following key capabilities through its services and assets:

Capability	Service and asset
Aerial observations	Supporting planned and unplanned police operations using the following: • advanced augmented mapping systems • RPAS (overt and covert) • FLIR and daytime camera systems Supporting any task where aerial vision provides an enhanced police response and increases safety for police members, including pursuits and evades, public demonstrations/events and sieges
Searches	Supporting enhanced search ability through the following aircraft capabilities: • speed • endurance • lift capacity • camera/mapping systems (including RPAS)
Rescue	Supporting rescue and lifting of up to eight persons in an emergency Working with the SAR, WPS and specialist units to support aerial and specialist rescue operations in all terrain
Tactical operations	Supporting: • urgent and critical incidents and operations with SOG • Specialist tactical options use • SOG and K9 tactical deployments Providing search warrant overwatch and situational awareness to operatives on the ground of offender movements or issues that may impact the operational effectiveness/safety of members/public or the operation itself

Rapid deployment	Supporting the rapid deployment of personnel to critical incidents and crime scenes in remote/distant locations This may involve: • Crime Squads • Homicide Squad Detectives • Major Collision Investigative Unit • SAR • Clan-Lab personnel Ground crews should also respond for relief and return transport
Training	Supporting ongoing training and qualification achievement and enhancement for PAW members to maintain service delivery requirements Monitoring training and qualifications for members who are remote pilots and coordinating training for members to become remote pilots, to meet the standards set out in the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulations. Refer to the RPAS Hub for more information
Public reassurance	Supporting planned and unplanned targeted patrols to provide reassurance to the community, including at public events and post critical/other police incidents Providing aerial observation of public order management operations

15.3 *Police Air Wing assets and services –requesting deployment*

Deployment is only permitted after assessment by the PAW, with resources allocated according to priority. The assessment is determined by the following:

- urgency of the task/response
- number of ground units responding/available to assist
- whether the task is routine or covert
- age of the task
- offence type
- descriptions of any relevant offenders/missing persons/vehicles
- whether a cordon has been established
- direction of travel
- terrain
- weather
- any relevant obstructions/issues.

The following table sets out how to request specific PAW services and assets:

Service	How to request
Planned operations/ targeted patrols/proactive tasks	A formal request must be submitted to the PAW as soon as possible before the operation/task, by submitting an Air Wing Task Request [Form 490] located on the PAW intranet page Ensure the task is approved by a supervisor prior to forwarding and forward a copy of any relevant operation orders to the PAW Tasking OIC PBEA. For state level events that require multiple TPSC resources, requests must be made via the State T&C process (template available from TPSC intranet page)
Unplanned operations or high risk/critical incidents	Requests for assistance should be made by the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander via Police Communications
SAR incidents including missing persons in rural areas	Contact the RCC for assessment and coordination of deployment by the SAR Coordinator. Refer to SAR intranet page for more information Other specialist support options such as MTB, RPAS, WPS, SAR and Dog Squad should also be considered
Tactical deployment requests	To be requested by the SOG Tactical Commander
RPA (drones), remote pilots, and counter-RPAS	VPM Remotely piloted aircraft systems sets out the requirements for use of RPAS. For more information about how to request RPAS services via PAW or order local RPA assets for area use or find a remote pilot for an existing RPA, refer to the RPAS Hub Counter-RPA operations are only permitted for predicted events or where intelligence suggests drones pose a risk to aviation space or community safety and may only be flown by specialised remote pilots. Refer to the RPAS Hub for more information about how to request this service from PAW

15.4 Information and footage management of Police Air Wing assets and services

Any information about PAW service use and assets, and footage collected must be made available in perpetuity unless lawfully disposed. Lawful disposal may only occur if permitted within disposal schedules set out in policy, and in the manner directed.

- The informant using the aircraft or remote pilot aircraft is responsible for collection, handling, retention and archiving of footage, unless PAW direct otherwise. All footage must be uploaded on Evidence.com post flight.
- PAW is responsible for all other information and digital asset management. This must occur in accordance with **VPMP Information use, handling and storage** and **VPM Recording devices, CCTV and digital asset management**.

16. Technical Surveillance Unit

16.1 *Role and call out criteria*

- The Technical Surveillance Unit (TSU) provide a technical surveillance capability to support the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander and other support services at incidents.
- Audio and visual data is provided to command stakeholders to provide “live” intelligence and post incident evidence on activities occurring within the inner perimeter.
- TSU attendance should be considered for but is not limited to the following circumstances:
 - sieges
 - barricade incidents
 - armed offender incidents
 - hostage incidents
 - terrorism incidents
 - any of the above incidents that are protracted in nature or located in remote or rural locations
 - incidents where SOG criteria are met.

16.2 *Requests for deployment*

- TSU provide a 24/7 “on call” response capability to respond to critical incidents.
- Requests for TSU attendance must be made through Police Communications.
- Requests for TSU deployment should be made as soon as practicable.

17. Victoria Police Monitoring and Assessment Centre

17.1 *Responsibilities*

Victoria Police Monitoring and Assessment Centre (VPMAC) is responsible for:

- identifying and monitoring significant incidents by scanning computer aided dispatch data, open sources and CCTV across the state
- strengthening frontline policing responses to significant incidents, with intelligence support in as near to real-time as possible
- issuing notifications regarding significant incidents to the recipients contained in the Incident Notification Guidelines.

VPMAC’s engagement in significant incidents occurs either:

- through state-wide monitoring
- on request of the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander.

Requests for VPMAC intelligence support will be continuously assessed based on competing and urgent demands.

17.2 *Responsibilities during significant incidents*

During significant incidents (e.g., emergency or significant security events), the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander can request, via Police Communications, that

VPMAC provide intelligence support, prior to the intelligence function being established under the ICCS structure. This support includes but is not limited to:

- interrogating Victoria Police databases and open sources
- providing the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander with tactical intelligence.

When an intelligence function has been established under the ICCS structure, VPMAC must provide formal handover of their intelligence function to the POC's intelligence function.

For protracted incidents, VPMAC will support the intelligence function under the ICCS structure as required.

Investigative and advisory services

18. Crime investigation and forensic services

- Crime Investigation Units (CIU) or crime squads; see **VPM Crime attendance** – initial action for call criteria.
- Any forensic field service; see **VPM Scene management**.

19. Counter Terrorism Command

- Refer to **VPMP and VPMG Counter terrorism**.

20. Media Unit

20.1 *Notification*

- Planned operations – the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander should consult the Media Unit during the preparation of the operation order, if relevant or required.
- Unplanned operations – the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander should notify the Media Unit through Police Communications. If required, a member from the Media Unit will attend the scene.
- If in attendance, the Media Unit representative will form part of the IMT and attend scheduled IMT meetings.

20.2 *Management of the media*

The following action should be taken by police:

- Establish a clearly defined area as a media area, as close as practicable to the incident. This area should be allocated having regard to both operational and media requirements. Give access and direct all members of the media arriving at the scene of an incident to this location.
- Brief the Media Unit before any information is given to the media at the scene. If a Media Unit member is unavailable, the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander or delegate should ensure the regular dissemination of current and accurate information to the media.
- The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander or delegate should be available for media interviews if required.

- Only prevent photographers and camera operators from taking photographs for operational reasons.

The following action should be taken by other agencies:

- The management of the media is the responsibility of the control agency. Several agencies have appointed media officers. If they are not in attendance, the Police Media Unit may assist as required.

21. Professional Standards Command

PSC will attend critical incidents to either conduct or oversight the investigation. See **VPM Death or serious injury/illness incidents involving police, and VPM Complaints and VPM Discipline** for further details.

22. Employee support services

22.1 *Meals and refreshments*

- The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander should consider providing meals or refreshments to employees at operations or incidents. Options include providing a meal allowance, purchasing meals or use of the Field Catering Unit (FCU).
- Approval of the Police Commander/Police Forward Commander is required to use the FCU in emergencies or where there is an approved operation order. In other circumstances, region/command/department head approval is required. The FCU will invoice the region/command/department for its service.
- The State Emergency Management Plan provides guidance for supply of meals to those attending emergency incidents. State agencies involved in emergency response and recovery activities as part of their normal activities will initially fund catering from their budgets. For major emergencies some funding supplementation may be provided.
- The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander may approve the supply of meals to members of the public assisting police in an emergency.

22.2 *Wellbeing services*

- The Police Commander/Police Forward Commander should consider the support services available for employee welfare through Wellbeing Services, Human Resource Command. Contact Wellbeing Services directly on 1300 090 995 (24 hours).
- Wellbeing Services comprises of:
 - Police Psychology Unit
 - People Welfare Unit
 - Peer Support Unit
 - Police Chaplaincy
 - Onelink
 - Police Veterans Support
 - Internal Witness Support Unit.

Related documents

- VPM Emergency management response
- VPM Crime attendance – initial action VPM Operational safety and the use of force
- VPMP Counter terrorism
- VPM Human rights standards
- VPM Searches of property
- VPM Scene management
- VPM Complaints
- VPM Discipline
- VPM Death or serious injury/illness incidents involving police
- VPM Crowd control and public order incidents
- *Victoria Police Act 2013*

Further advice and information

For further advice and assistance regarding this policy, contact the specific work unit or your supervisor.

Update history

DATE UPDATED	SUMMARY OF CHANGE	FORCE FILE NUMBER
07/10/19	VPMP Specialist support has been converted into new format. Terminology and processes updated, Senior Police Command Cadre embedded into the specialist response framework, roles and interaction between operational and tactical command clarified.	
25/01/22	Updated to reference VPM Searches of property	FF-187958.3
13/12/22	Reviewed and amended to reflect current practice.	FF-187958.3
10/04/24	Amended to clarify VPMAC's information sharing responsibilities during significant events.	FF-238485 FF-227892
	Amended to reflect the adoption of SSD request for service form and clarify approval procedures for SOG deployment.	FF-198235 FF-149877.6
	Amendments to include the Police Air Wing as specialist unit.	FF-237950 FF-211407
	Amendments to ensure consideration is exercised when CIRT and SOG are deployed into Aboriginal communities and to ensure the roles and responsibilities for CIRT members are clear when deployed to incidents in an assist capacity.	FF-219578.6

1/07/2024	Minor changes referring to new VPM Crowd control and public order incidents and text inclusion.	FF - 252202
02/09/2025	Consequential amendment to replace reference to Use of Force Form 237, 237A-D with Use of Force App for 20/05/25 Use of Force App rollout, update name from VPMP Complaints and discipline to VPM Complaints and VPM Discipline, amendment to update related document references	FF-266536

Appendix

Specialist support deployment - quick reference guide

Support Service	Deployment Criteria
Senior Police Command Cadre	- The SPCC will deploy to critical incidents where the level of expertise required to manage an unplanned incident is determined to be within the scope of the SPCC members - SPCC members may also be called upon to command events of state significance - When authorised or requested, the SPCC will deploy through one of the following pathways: - state level Risk Evaluation Meeting (REM) - Counter Terrorism Advisory Group (CTAG) meeting process - unplanned activation of the SPOC, when no other specific SPOC Commander has been identified - via the duty commissioner - direct request of SOG Tactical Commander, via the Security Services Division Superintendent (business hours) or via the TPSC duty superintendent (After hours).
Special Operations Group	- High risk operations or incidents where there is a probability of confrontation with a person who is armed or reasonably suspected to be armed with a firearm or other lethal weapon, including planned operations, sieges and searches for offenders armed with firearms - Level three searches of properties, as the entry team (see VPM Searches of property) 'Active' clandestine laboratories, where determined by a risk assessment conducted by the Clandestine Laboratory Squad - A terrorist incident or significant politically motivated violence - All hostage incidents - Covert surveillance, reconnaissance or other tasks beyond the scope, expertise, skill level or capability of general duties police or other operational areas - Hostile Vehicle Threat/Attack.

Bomb Response Unit	• Incidents involving an improvised explosive device (IED) to assess or render the IED safe • Assessment and resolution of situations involving: - suspicious packages/items that are suspected to be IEDs - suspicious packages/items that are suspected of containing chemical, biological or radiological hazardous material where the dispersal system is mechanically, electrically or explosively initiated - clandestine explosive laboratories or home-made explosives - the presence or location of commercial explosives, pyrotechnics, detonators or military ordnance within the community • Post blast site attendance to conduct a site safety assessment, locate unexploded IEDs or explosive material • Bomb threat incidents • Incidents involving or where intelligence indicates the presence of man traps or booby traps • Searches of buildings or locations for explosive ordnance reconnaissance • Where hazardous or precursor materials are located which are unsafe to manually handle, requiring the use of BRU remote positioning vehicles • Any critical incident such as siege/hostage taking incidents, where the skills, tactics and equipment of the BRU may increase the likelihood of a safe resolution to the incident.
Negotiator	• People threatening or attempting suicide or self-harm • Armed offenders, whether hostages are involved or not • People experiencing a mental health incident or condition where negotiators could be of assistance in resolving the incident • All hostage incidents.
Critical Incident Response Team	• High risk incidents where there is a probability of a violent confrontation with a person, or it is reasonably suspected that a person is armed with a weapon (including sieges, barricade incidents, and searches for armed or violent persons). If a firearm is involved, the SOG must be notified • Mental health related incidents where, persons are threatening suicide and/or intervention is beyond the scope, expertise and capability of general duties police • Incidents that meet the SOG deployment criteria, pending the arrival of the SOG • Security tasks where there is an identified need or threat, including Internationally Protected Persons, holders of High Public Office and International Dignitaries • Other tasks including planned operations approved by the CIRT Tactical Advisor in which the deployment of CIRT specialist skills or equipment is likely to provide the most appropriate level of response.
Public Order Response Team	• Public order and community safety incidents, including but not limited to: - planned operations; such as protests, demonstrations, sporting events where there is a high potential for violence or a need for crowd management or public order capabilities - unplanned operations; such as riots, affrays or brawls, which require a need for crowd management or public order capabilities - enforcement or monitoring of high-risk groups; such as outlaw motorcycle gangs. • Emergency management incidents requiring significant policing resources, such as large-scale bushfire or flood emergencies. • Organisational priorities relating to crime or road policing.