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- A. All Provincial Commissioners  
South African Police Service
- B. All Provincial Heads  
Operational Response Services

### **POLICY: DIVISION: OPERATIONAL RESPONSE SERVICE: THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF AREA CRIME COMBATING UNITS (ACCU'S)**

- A+B 1. This circular serves as current ACCU policy and must be distributed to all area commissioners and ACCU commanders.

#### **2. Introduction**

- (1) Section 205(3) of the Constitution determines the main functions of the South African Police Service (SAPS), which are to prevent crime, combat crime, investigate crime, **maintain public order**, protect and secure the inhabitants of South Africa and their property; and to uphold and enforce the law.
- (2) In terms of section 17(1) and (2) of the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No 68 of 1995), the National Commissioner, subject to section 218(1)(k) of the Constitution, must establish and maintain a national public order policing unit. Section 118(1)(k) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1993 (Act No. 200 of 1993) remains in force by virtue of paragraph 24 of schedule 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996).
- (3) As mandated by the Constitution, the former Public Order Police (POP) were mainly responsible for supporting stations in maintaining public order. The decrease in the number and intensity of major demonstrations, violent marches and labour unrest since the inception of the new democracy has necessitated a strategic refocus of the activities of POP units.
- (4) The new Public Finance Management, 1999 (Act No 1 of 1999), demands value for money budgeting and hence the optimal utilization of a highly trained and skilled resource such as POP units, in order to address crime in both an integrated and coordinated manner.
- (5) At a management forum meeting on 19 and 20 July 2001, a decision was taken to

transform the POP units into Area Crime Combating Units (ACCUs). This implies that the newly formed ACCUs would focus on crime combating and prevention operations as a primary function but also be responsible for public order and crowd management operations in support of stations. As a result the implementation process to transform these units was implemented concurrently with Resolution 7 of 2002.

### 3. Goal

The purpose of this Instruction is to give direction to all role-players at national, provincial and area level with regard to roles, functions and responsibilities concerning the functioning of ACCUs.

The goal of ACCUs is to maintain public order by combating serious and violent crime, policing public gatherings, rendering specialized operational support to other units/components/divisions and ensuring effective information management. These units provide specialized operational support to police stations and other units to function in a normalized situation.

### 4. Principles

- (1) All standard policies and procedures not affected or altered by instructions that are applicable to POP units, such as the Crowd Management Policy, are *mutatis mutandis* applicable to the functioning of the ACCU.
- (2) ACCU will be responsible for maintaining public order. It is, therefore, crucial that every area commissioner and ACCU commander ensures that the capacity, capability, skills and equipment required to police public gatherings and combat public violence are continuously developed and maintained.
- (3) The Crime Combating capacity is a national competency delegated to area level to focus on crime combating and crime prevention operations within a specific area. In order to maintain this capacity, national assets such as armored vehicles (Armoured vehicle policy 9/1999POP) and specialized equipment (Equipment policy 4/1999POP) may not be redistributed from these units to stations or any other units without consultation and the written approval of the divisional commissioner: Operational Response Services (ORS).
- (4) ACCU are allocated to every single policing area and will take the name of the area in which the unit is located. The planned strategy is that these units will be deployed on an area/cross area/provincial basis. National deployments/interventions will be the responsibility of the Divisional Commissioner: ORS.
- (5) Due to the nature of tasks conducted by ACCU's, reservists as prescribed in National Instruction 1/2002, cannot be utilized by these units.
- (6) Professionalism and strict discipline are inherent trademarks of these units and must be promoted and maintained at all times. These units must exhibit the highest respect for the code of conduct of the SAPS.

### 5. Definitions

"Area Crime Combating Unit" means the former POP unit allocated to every single policing area

to assist the Area Commissioner with crime combating and crime prevention interventions in a specific policing area in order to stabilize volatile and violent crime areas and scenes;

*"Medium to High Risk Interventions / Operations"* may involve the following: taxi violence, gang-related crimes, acts of urban terrorism, rapid response to armed robbery and cash-in-transit heists, support to the NIU, the Special Task Force, VIP Protection, crowd management, urban and rural operations, and stabilizing of serious crime incidents;

*"Tactical Intervention"* may include the following: way-lay operations, tactical movement (urban and rural), follow-up operations, reconnaissance operations, anti-ambush techniques, house clearance operations, cover and concealment, assessment and planning, map reading and weapon handling;

*"Crowd Management"* means the policing of assemblies, demonstrations and all gatherings, as defined in the Regulation of Gatherings Act, 1993 (Act No 205 of 1993) whether of a recreational, peaceful or an unrest nature;

*"Maintenance of public order"* can refer to almost every regular day-to-day policing task requiring specialized skills to normalize destabilized areas.

*"Public violence"* means the unlawful and intentional performance together with a number of persons, of an act or acts which assume serious dimensions, and which are intended to disturb the public peace and order in a violent manner or to encroach upon the rights of others.

*"Serious and violent crime"* refers to the following:

- Crimes against the state as determined by the National Commissioner and/or the relevant provincial commissioner
- Crimes of murders involving prominent persons, the judiciary, politicians or members of the SAPS
- Crimes of robbery or attempted robbery of financial institutions as determined by Crime Threat Analysis (CTA) or Organized Crime Threat Analysis (OCTA)
- Crimes of armed robberies or attempted armed robberies of registered cash-in-transit carriers
- Crimes of vehicle hijacking (in which the victim is shot) or vehicle hijacks that appear on CTA or OCTA
- Identified crimes of specific robberies or the theft of firearms
- Identified crimes of a serious or violent nature such as serial murders or rapes
- Crimes of inter group violence that appears on CTA or OCTA in flashpoint areas including; political violence, taxi violence, train violence, gang violence and faction fighting
- All actions aimed at disrupting the farming activities of commercial concerns for ideological purposes or as a result of labour disputes, land issues, the desire for revenge, in order to air grievances or as a result of intimidation that is racist-related.

## 6. Functions and tasks of Area Crime Combating Units

### (1) Purpose

#### **To maintain public order**

This includes the combating of serious and violent crime by means of **intelligence-driven operations**, the policing of public gatherings, the rendering of specialized operational support, and ensuring that information is managed and used effectively.

### (2) Functions

#### (a) **The combating of serious and violent crime**

This includes the prevention of prioritized serious and violent crimes by conducting crime-combating operations in support of the crime-combating strategy, stabilizing incidents of public violence and responding to incidents of serious and violent crime (such as cash in transit heists, armed robberies and also transport sector violence and farm attacks) to protect people and property and to arrest suspects.

(b) **The policing of public gatherings**

This includes conducting crowd management operations at big events and public gatherings where there is a possibility of violence, and rendering assistance by controlling perimeters, protecting key points, managing crowds and providing tactical reserves at big events and public gatherings.

(c) **Rendering specialized operational support**

This includes rendering operational support to border police in border operations, assisting other police components or divisions such as detectives in the search, apprehending and escorting dangerous and violent suspects, assisting the VIP Unit in protecting VIPs by controlling perimeters, protecting key points, managing crowds and providing tactical reserves. In addition embassies are secured in view of high-risk threats, assistance is provided on request, high-profile crime scenes are secured, and urban and rural terrorism is combated.

(d) **Ensuring that support functions are effective**

This includes the effective utilization of Human Resources Management, Finances, and Logistics.

(3) **Information management**

In order to achieve the above, the ACCU must **ensure that information is used and managed effectively**.

This includes acquiring and capturing all relevant tactical and operational information on the functions of ACCU, as well as on all public order incidents, events or operations and ensuring a constant flow of accurate information on the incident, event or operation.

(4) **Command and control**

(a) **Area level**

The Crime Combating capacity is a national competency delegated to area level aimed at focusing on crime combating and crime prevention operations within a specific policing area. The ACCU commander will report directly to the deputy area commissioner: Operations/Uniformed Policing.

Responsibilities

- Ensuring the effective and efficient functioning of ACCU in terms of paragraph 6(2)
- Managing and coordinating the deployment of ACCU members in accordance with area priorities
- Ensuring that the capability, capacity, skills and resources of the ACCU are effectively maintained and upgraded to ensure public order by

managing public gatherings and combating public violence, in accordance with national policy and instructions

- Ensuring an effective information gathering and assessment process to focus on serious and violent crimes on a continuous basis
- Providing all support services to ACCU from the area level such as finance, logistics and human resources management

Ensuring that all logistical equipment issued to ACCU members only be withdrawn or transferred in consultation with the respective area commissioners, the provincial head: ORS, ACCU commanders, and on recommendation of the respective provincial head: ORS.

- Ensuring that regular evaluations/inspections are conducted.

All support service activities must be managed through the office of the area commissioners.

(b) Provincial level

The provincial head: ORS remains responsible for the policy and standards of ACCU but not for the day-to-day command and deployment of these units at area level. However, the provincial commissioner can instruct the provincial head: ORS to carry out specific provincial operations or to deploy ACCU members across area boundaries in consultation with the relevant area commissioner.

Responsibilities

- Advising the provincial and deputy provincial commissioner: Operations/Uniformed Policing on aspects relating to the division: ORS
- Ensuring the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of ORS strategies, policies, standards and procedures
- Ensuring the development and setting of provincial policy, standards and procedures in accordance with the procedures laid down by the National Commissioner for policy formulation
- Coordinating all functions and tasks at the request of the Deputy Provincial Commissioner: Operations/Uniformed Policing such as -
  - provincial task team operations;
  - joint area/provincial operations; and
  - the placement and location of units in consultation with area commissioners.
- Ensuring the operational command of big events
- Coordinating and monitoring all cross-area operations
- Managing and coordinating all ORS training on provincial level.
- Managing and coordinating ACCU operational inspections/evaluations

on provincial level:

- Ensuring that all logistical equipment issued to ACCU members only be withdrawn or transferred in consultation with the various area commissioners, provincial heads: ORS, and ACCU commanders on recommendation of the respective provincial head: ORS.

All transfers to and from ACCU must be recommended and approved by the office of the provincial commissioner.

(c) National level

The divisional commissioner: ORS is responsible for maintaining this national competency and capacity to provide effective crime combating and crowd management duties in order to maintain public order. The National Commissioner can also exercise his authority to order national operations in terms of which the ACCU can be mobilized and deployed, as per paragraph 2(2) *supra*.

Responsibilities

The divisional commissioner: ORS will be responsible for the following:

- National strategic direction
- Developing and setting national standards, policy and procedures in accordance with the procedures laid down by the National Commissioner for policy formulation
- Monitoring and evaluating compliance with the policy and standards
- Ensuring a continuous and effective information-gathering and assessment process to focus on serious and violent crimes of national interest
- Effectively managing national assets such as armoured vehicles and specialized equipment
- Carrying out and coordinating national operations
- Developing formal and in-service training
- Determining criteria for structures and personnel levels
- Standardizing logistical resources (equipment and vehicles, including armoured vehicles)
- Development and standardization of operational standards and procedures
- Performance management

In cases in which the policy relates to other divisions, the relevant divisional commissioner must be consulted.

National deployments must be managed by the national ORS office.

(5) Carrying out of functions

The Area Crime Combating Forum (ACCF), chaired by the Deputy Area Commissioner: Operations/Uniformed Policing, will collect and analyze crime information on a daily basis and may also receive requests from police stations for support during crime-combating operations.

The ACCF will identify and plan the operations to be carried out by the ACCU. The ACCU commander will appoint an operational commander to manage all ACCU operations relating to these functions and tasks. All operational commanders and officers must be sufficiently trained in the planning and carrying out of operations.

All operations must be carried out in terms of existing National Instructions, policies, standards and procedures.

It is crucial to understand and at all times take into account that these units will not permanently supplement police stations with personnel, even though these shortages may exist at certain stations. The aim of these units is to participate in planned intelligence-driven, crime-combating operations in support of stations, as indicated in paragraph 6(2).

(6) Selection and training

(a) Selection

The selection of suitable applicants/candidates for posts in ACCU should be conducted in cooperation with the provincial head: ORS, the deputy area commissioner: Operations/Uniformed Policing and the area commander of the ACCU.

(b) Selection criteria

The current selection criteria, as developed and prescribed, must be maintained for all ACCU members.

During the ACCU implementation period all potential ACCU members must undergo the prescribed, decentralized in-service training modules at unit level in crowd management techniques and tactical intervention training. This is to ensure that all ACCU members be declared competent in the skills that are relevant to their posts.

(c) Training

All operational members must undergo the prescribed in-service training modules at least once a year. This will ensure that all operational members maintain high standards and adopt the latest approaches in the field of tactics.

All operational members must be assessed to ensure operational capability. This will ensure the operational effectiveness of both members and equipment.

Training policy, standards and the presentation of national coordinated training will be the responsibility of the ORS training and development section at Head Office.

Decentralized, in-service training will be the responsibility of the ORS training coordinator at provincial level.

Every unit must have dedicated trainers who will be responsible for the coordination of all in-service training presented at unit level. The trainer must, in conjunction with the unit's appointed skills facilitator, also develop the operational skills of operational members and help to implement the unit's skills plan.

This will ensure that every operational member has a training record which will contain a record of all the training needs and training received by each member. The appointed trainer must update and maintain the training file.

Training for ACCU includes the following courses:

- Operational Commanders' Training (OCT) for operational, company and unit commanders (includes operational planning)
- Crowd Management Techniques (in-service training)
- First Line Operational Manager (FLOM)
- Tactical Intervention Techniques (in-service training).

The level of in-service training must be maintained by ensuring that there are an adequate number of well-trained instructors to ensure the same standard of training is received by all ACCU members.

All training development will be coordinated from national level (Divisions: ORS and Training). All learning programmes/courses must be submitted to the Division: Training for approval before they are presented.

(7) Human Resources Management

- (a) Organizational Development (OD) and Human Resources Planning (HRP)  
OD and HRP refer to the structuring of units and the determination of ideal personnel levels.

The relevant Management Services and Human Resources Management sections will support line management in this process.

- (b) Provisioning of Human Resources  
This process refers to the recruitment, selection and placement of human resources at units.

The provincial head: ORS, supported by the provincial HRM office, will be responsible for these activities.

Selection criteria will be determined by the Section Head: Crime Combating Operations at ORS, Head Office. This Section Head and the respective provincial heads: ORS must each play an active role in the appointment of unit commanders.

All appointed unit commanders must be well trained in public order matters.

- (c) Human Resources Management (HRM)  
This refers to the administration of HRM functions. The provincial head: ORS will be responsible for the administration of these functions.

Units will be subjected to national HRM policies.

- (d) Career path in ACCU

All ACCU members will have various mobility options in ACCU's, with regard to movements vertically, horizontally and laterally. All mobility will be determined by the required competency profiles and individual skills.

Vertical mobility: members may move from one post to another post at a higher level, for example from a section member to a section leader.



Horizontal mobility: members may move from one post to another post on the same salary level, for example from Visible Policing at a police station to a section member at ACCU. Members may also move in the post of platoon commander from ACCU to National Intervention Unit (NIU).

Lateral mobility: members may move to a higher salary level but remain in the same post, for example from the rank of constable (post level 5) to sergeant (post level 6) but remain a section member.

(8) Budget and finances

ACCU budget must be allocated to the various provinces for distribution to area level.

The budget must be maintained by the area and managed by the area commissioner with the area management.

Overtime claims to be recommended by the deputy area commissioner and approved by the relevant authority according to approved policy.

Nationally initiated operations must be financed by the office of the divisional commissioner: ORS. All provincial cross-border operations must be financed by the relevant provincial commissioners.

All prescribed existing financial procedures must be followed, if applicable.

(9) Logistical support structure

All prescribed existing logistical and provisioning procedures must be complied with, if applicable.

At all times it must be ensured that no logistical resources are transferred or redistributed without prior consultation and recommendation by the respective provincial heads: ORS.

All ACCU members must be equipped with all the specialized equipment that is required to conduct their duties.

All specialized equipment must be determined by the divisional commissioner: ORS, in consultation with the divisional commissioner: Logistics.

All allocation and redistribution of physical/logistical resources must be determined by the provincial commissioner in consultation with the area commissioner (deputy area commissioner: Operations/Uniformed Policing) and respective provincial head: ORS.

Armoured vehicles must be managed by the office of the Divisional Commissioner: ORS but the day-to-day maintenance of the vehicles is the responsibility of the respective areas.

(10) Structures

ACCU are specialized units that are specifically trained to deal with all functions and tasks mentioned in paragraph 6(2). ACCU members must function and work together in teams/platoons in order to function properly and carry out medium-risk tasks and crowd management operations safely and effectively. In carrying out these duties specific techniques and methods are used that require a specific formation or number of police officials to carry out a task.

In accordance with this principle ACCU structures were designed and capacity allocated based on the minimum number of police officers required to perform a specific task. The allocation of resources to each area must be in accordance with crime threats and standard criteria used to develop the Resource Establishment Plan of the SAPS.

## 7. Guidelines for the implementation, communication and evaluation of ACCU's

### (1) Implementation

The divisional commissioner: ORS, the section heads: ORS, the provincial heads: ORS, the respective area commissioners and ACCU commanders will be responsible for the implementation of the policy.

At Head Office an implementation steering committee will be established under the chairmanship of the section head: Crime Combating Operations in the Division: ORS to design and carry out the implementation plan. The provincial commissioners and provincial heads: ORS must facilitate the process in the provinces.

Implementation must commence after approval by the National Commissioner and must be completed within three months.

### (2) Communication

The divisional commissioner: ORS, the section heads: ORS, the provincial heads: ORS, the respective area commissioners and ACCU commanders will be responsible for informing the members of the policy.

At Head Office the implementation steering committee will be tasked to design and carry out the communication plan. The provincial commissioners and provincial heads: ORS will facilitate the process of informing members of the process in the provinces.

The target dates mentioned above will also apply.

In accordance to the Minimum Information Security Standards (MISS) document the classification of the instruction is "Confidential".

### (3) Evaluation

In order to ensure the effective functioning, as well as command and control of ACCU, regular evaluations must be conducted to ensure that all directives and instructions are complied with.

The ACCU Commander must conduct at least one evaluation/inspection every month and at least three detailed evaluations/inspections annually.

The provincial heads: ORS must, in consultation with the province, establish an evaluation/inspection team that must evaluate/inspect every ACCU at least once annually.

The Division: ORS Head Office, Section: Crime Combating Operations must visit each ACCU at least once a year to conduct an evaluation.

Signed

**DIV COMM**  
**DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER : OPERATIONAL RESPONSE SERVICES**  
**A H LAMOER**

**DATE:**

Signed

**DEPUTY NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: OPERATIONAL SERVICES**  
**SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE**  
**L C A PRUIS**

**DATE:**