



Submission No 5

Watching Brief on the War on Terrorism

Organisation: Western Australia Police Service

Contact Person: Mr B J Brennan
Deputy Commissioner (Operations) State
Commander

Address: 2 Adelaide Terrace
EAST PERTH 6004



Submission: 5

WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE SERVICE

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (OPERATIONS)
STATE COMMANDER**

POLICE HEADQUARTERS
2 ADELAIDE TERRACE, EAST PERTH
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6004
TELEPHONE: (08) 9222 1434
HQ ADMIN: (08) 9222 1997
FACSIMILE: (08) 9222 1947

Ms Margot Kerley
Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



YOUR REF:

OUR REF:

ENQUIRIES:

Dear Ms Kerley

Watching Brief on War on Terrorism

Thank you for your letter dated 16 April 2003 in which you seek, "an explanation of the process employed to deal with a known terrorist incident from a State perspective, indicating precisely where Commonwealth agencies would be involved."

I have examined the Proof Committee Hansard (page 17) and note that Mr Baird was canvassing the coordination arrangements for a terrorist incident and specifically, whether or not guidelines existed that outlined the steps that must be followed to ensure a coordinated response.

To assist the Committee understand the current arrangements, I have included the relevant paragraphs from the National Counter Terrorism Plan (NCTP) and relevant 'flow diagrams' attached to the Plan.

As stated in my evidence to the Committee, the Plan is essentially a policy document and all State/Territory jurisdictions and Commonwealth agencies are in the process of developing an NCTP Handbook. When completed, the Handbook will provide practitioners with a set of Standard Operating Procedures to be followed when responding to a terrorist incident. The Handbook Working Group distributed a revised draft on 30 April 2003 and we are currently assessing its content from a 'whole-of-government' perspective.

I trust this information assists the Committee in its deliberations. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely


B J BRENNAN
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (OPERATIONS)
STATE COMMANDER

5 May 2003

National Counter Terrorism Plan

RESPONSE

59. *State and Territory governments and their agencies are responsible for the operational response to a terrorist situation in their jurisdiction. Commonwealth agencies provide support as appropriate. Operational responses to terrorist situations will largely replicate responses to criminal acts or disasters.*

Operational Arrangements

61. *Police and other emergency services will respond first to an incident, which may subsequently be identified as the result of a terrorist act. As soon as there is a reasonable suspicion that the incident is terrorism related, police will assume control and the Protective Security Coordination Centre (PSCC) will be notified.*

62. *A Police Forward Command Post, under the control of a Police Forward Commander, will be established where an incident site has been identified. Emergency services will work closely with the Police Forward Commander.*

63. *The Police Forward Commander may isolate, contain and evacuate the site and, in conjunction with emergency services, will seek to minimise loss of life and further risk to the community, and will manage the on-site investigation. To this end, the Police Forward Commander will, in accordance with local procedures, exercise control over, and share relevant information with, emergency services on site.*

64. *The Police Forward Commander reports to the Police Operations Commander who will establish a Police Operations Centre (POC). The POC will draw upon liaison staff and other specialist support as necessary to manage the incident and the on-site investigation.*

66. *A joint Intelligence Group (JIG) will be established to provide all possible intelligence support to operational commanders and will include at least ADF, AFP and ASIO liaison officers.*

67. *The Commonwealth may also provide other operational support from agencies such as ASIO, AFP, ADF (under DFACA or DACC arrangements), DIMIA, DOTARS, ARPANSA AND ACS.*

Coordination Arrangements

State and Territory Coordination

68. Each State and Territory government will determine its response to a terrorist situation. This may include establishing a SCC. The SCC will provide the communications link between the police command, the State/Territory decision makers and the Commonwealth (through the NCC/PSCC). States and Territories may also activate their emergency coordination arrangements.

69. Affected jurisdictions may consult with other jurisdictions, including EMA, in seeking any assistance that may be required from the Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies. Commonwealth Coordination.

Commonwealth Coordination

70. After the PSCC is notified that a terrorist situation is, may be occurring or has occurred, it will advise other Commonwealth agencies and activate Commonwealth crisis coordination arrangements, which may include establishing the NCC.

71. The NCC will support the NSC and the SCNS. It will liaise directly with the SCC(s). Following consultation, the States and Territories may, if appropriate, send representatives to the NCC.

72. The NIG, established by ASIO and involving all relevant agencies, coordinates and disseminates intelligence relevant to the incident.

National terrorist situation

74. A terrorist situation may be declared a national terrorist situation by the agreement of the Prime Minister and relevant Premiers or Chief Ministers. The decision, with reasons, responsibilities and parameters will be recorded.

75. Factors that may lead to the declaration of a National Terrorist Situation include the:

- scale and nature of the incident, including the use of CBRN materials;
- involvement of multiple jurisdictions,
- involvement of Commonwealth interests,
- significance of the threat,
- impact of a threat involving civil aviation or maritime operations,
- involvement of critical infrastructure, and
- involvement of foreign or international interests

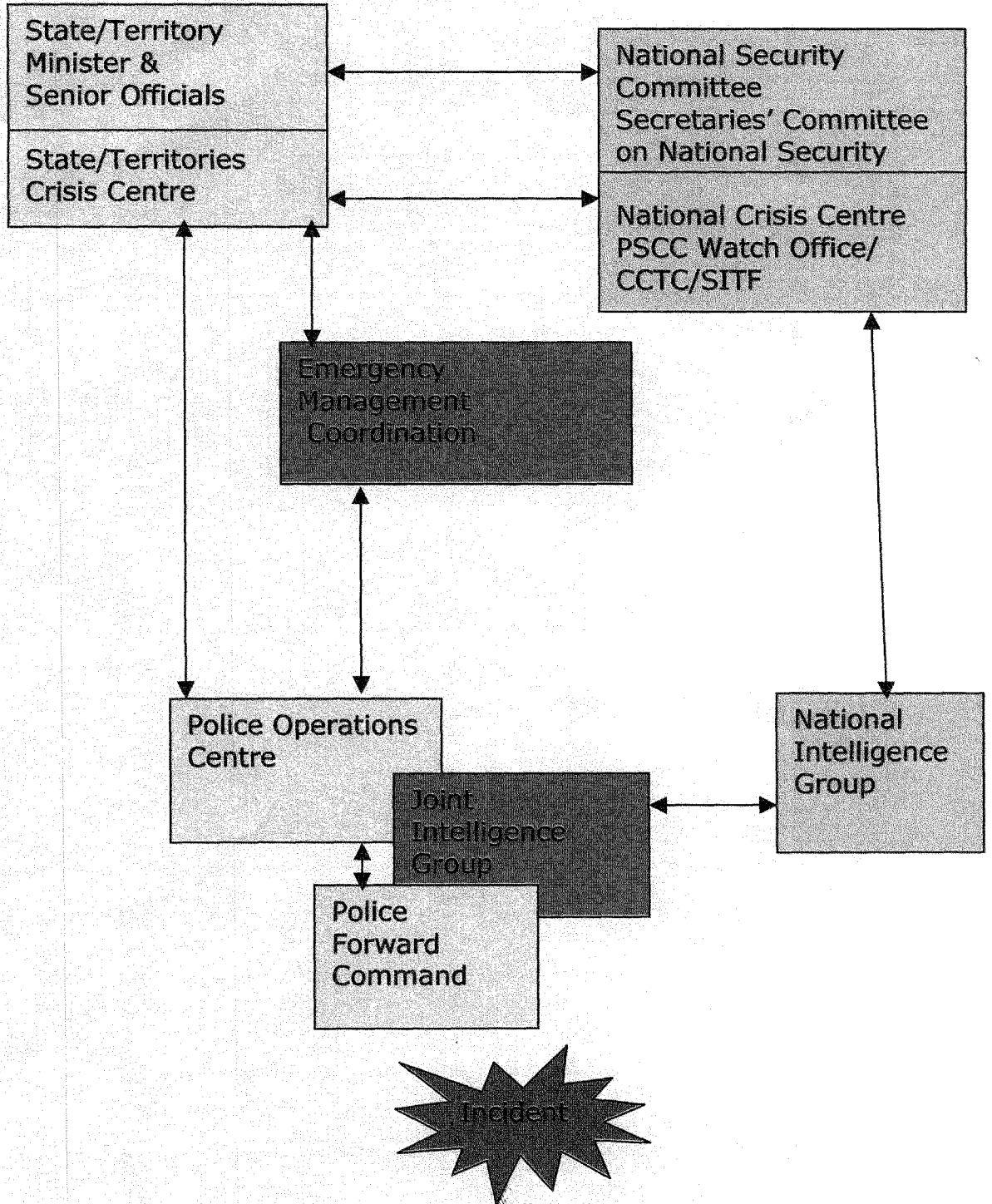
76. If a National Terrorist Situation is declared, overall responsibility for policy and broad strategy in relation to the situation transfers to the Commonwealth, in close consultation with relevant States or Territories. This may involve determining overall policy objectives, setting priorities between policy objectives where resources are inadequate, pre-positioning resources, international liaison, and determining public communication messages. The Commonwealth Government's role does not include operational management and deployment of emergency services.

77. The Commissioners of Police, including the Commissioner of the AFP, will determine the command and resourcing of the national police response.

78. In other respects the management arrangements in a National Terrorist Situation will replicate those in other terrorist situations.

National C-T Management Arrangements Attachment 1

Counter-Terrorism Management Arrangements



National C-T Management Arrangements Attachment 2

**Counter-Terrorism Management Structure
National Terrorist Situation, Multiple Jurisdictions**

