



THE SENATE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE

Addendum to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's report on Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations

This addendum to the committee's report on Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations clarifies a statement made in the report regarding the Australian Federal Police's Operational Response Group. The committee noted that this group encompasses around 200 personnel, including an operational arm of 150 which is split into a group of approximately 50 tactical operators—the traditional SWAT members—and a group of around 100 who are trained to a certain level to deal with mass demonstrations.¹ The Australian Federal Police (AFP) advised the committee that this group of 100 has a 'less lethal' capability as distinct from a lethal capability as stated in the report.

To clarify the meaning of 'less lethal', the AFP has provided the following definition:

Use of Force in the Australian Federal Police is governed by Commissioner's Order 3 (CO 3). CO 3 provides the guidance on 'less lethal' options in the context of them being endorsed as a use of force option available to AFP members. 'Less Lethal'—refers to those use of force actions, including the application of munitions—that when applied correctly would probably not result in death. It is therefore important to note that the intent of the application of force or the use of munitions is non-lethal.

'Less Lethal' options are considered and approved by the AFP Operational Safety Committee.²

Senator Mark Bishop
Chair

-
- 1 Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, *Australia's involvement in peacekeeping operations*, August 2008, paragraph 10.14.
 - 2 Correspondence to the committee from the Peace Operations & Doctrine, International Deployment Group, Australian Federal Police, 22 September 2008.