

## Advanced Riot Control Techniques

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### 'Early Resolution'

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Civil Defence Supply has pioneered a new concept in riot control called 'Early Resolution' The Laws of England preserve the rights of the individual and all policing is by mutual consent, not subjugation or dictatorship. None of our police are armed in normal duties, nor is the military directly involved with policing. The military have a riot capability but only exercised in major internal security operations such as the troubles in Northern Ireland.

The British police faced their first major public order problems during an industrial dispute with the Miners Union. Although no deaths and a few injuries resulted, existing tactics and equipment were totally reviewed. These old methods were similar to those used in many other countries, where static ranks of police faced violent rioters. No CS gas or baton rounds are used in England and the only way to successfully solve a riot is to use advanced tactics and train officers in pro-active methods.

Civil Defence Supply was closely involved with the HM Prison Service in the creation of the Control and Restraint (C&R) programme. This was a flexible tactics concept dealing with violence ranging from one assailant upwards to full riot where massed ranks of officers quell the confrontation. The key item in C&R is the use of interlinking ARMADILLO riot shields allowing groups to be created with front, side and top cover, enabling squads to penetrate deep into a riot situation. The smaller lightweight ARMADILLO were ideally suited for police use and this shield was evaluated for the new tactics.

'Early Resolution' allows fast moving formations to break up a riot, and if under severe attack, are able to interlink and either safely withdraw, or consolidate and re-deploy to maximum advantage. Additional officers can join the formation, even if they carry shields of different styles, as a common link profile is used. The primary aim is to arrive at a confrontation, make a situation judgement, deploy and disperse or arrest. This method to resolve early prevents the situation escalating or placing officers at risk.

Added advantages of 'Early Resolution' include no Press presence as often, they have not arrived before the situation is concluded, and looting is eliminated as there is no safe haven behind which rioters can operate. The police now have the initiative, not the rioters.

### Training considerations

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Effective riot management requires a high level of officer training.

The ability to report and inform higher management of the situation and needs for additional resources and manpower, has to be part of any re-equipment programme. Training individual officers needs to consider the following:

- \* Restraining and arresting the non-armed violent attacker. Empty hands skills
- \* Restraining and arresting a violent attacker in a non-firearms situation by use of baton, shield or chemical device
- \* Domestic violence situations where the police are called to resolve
- \* Cell and custody removals. Prisoner extraction, restraint and relocation
- \* Riot formations, shield tactics, group movement and arrest skills
- \* First aid

The more senior officers need to know the following:

- \* Management of large groups and tactical deployment for effective results
- \* Communication of intelligence to upper management so that resources can be assigned
- \* These systems are broken down into three levels of crisis management, called 'Bronze', 'Silver' and 'Gold' where:

- 'Bronze' is the person in direct charge of the scene and reports back to
- 'Silver' is the major incident commander of that situation, reporting back to
- 'Gold' who is the most senior officer of the agency in charge of that operation

\* Good communications and good vehicle tasking enables groups of officers to deploy in their most effective manner. In previous incidents, the local commander simply piled more and more officers directly behind the front line of the riot. The new methods require tactical planning to contain and disperse a riot, to minimise looting and injuries.

\* Intelligence gathering. Local covert observers can be used to report back. The British police have dedicated intelligence gathering teams with long range cameras and flash for night use. Ring leaders to be identified for later arrest bringing to the Courts many of the people who organised the incident.

Riot control management

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Civil Defence Supply offers the full package of management training in riot control using qualified instructors, or contract training agreements with leading United Kingdom police forces who can train your instructors in their latest skills.

Many of the photographs on these web pages come from major UK Police exercises which have excellent realism and challenge. Training videos are available but the company prefers to invite your senior management to demonstrations here in England to enable you to appreciate the success of these methods.

Please remember that 95% of all United Kingdom police use our equipment and methods including the Royal Ulster Constabulary, and the entire United Kingdom Prison Service used in their Control and Restraint (C&R) Programme.

### Personal equipment

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Officers need the very best personal protective equipment to ensure their safety. The ARMADILLO riot shield offers maximum protection against thrown objects, shotgun and petrol bombs, but the individual officer also needs the following:

- \* Riot helmet with neck protector. Visor has fluid seal.
- \* Flame resistant overalls or uniform
- \* Padded high wrist riot gloves
- \* High leg combat boots with steel toecap and anti-stab soles
- \* Belt and belt accessories which may include a gas mask bag and mask
- \* Shin and knee protectors, forearm and elbow and groin box
- \* High Intensity Dragon or Star portable searchlight for night riot use and identification
- \* Riot Baton or side handle baton
- \* Handcuffs and other restraint and control devices

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