

**ESSEX POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**  
**FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY**  
Essex County Fire & Rescue Service



<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Performance &amp; Resources Board</b>	Agenda Item	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Report Number	
<b>Report Author:</b>	Station Manager - Operations & Resilience		
<b>Presented By</b>	Director of Innovation, Risk & Future Development		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Responding to Terrorism</b>		
<b>Type of Report:</b>	Information		

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That members of the board note the contents of this report for information.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Crown Prosecution Service defines Terrorism as

*Terrorism is the use or threat of action, both in and outside of the UK, designed to influence any international government organization or to intimidate the public. It must also be for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.*

Though the UK unfortunately has a long history of terrorist acts, the face of terrorism changed on the 11th of September 2001 which ultimately led to the New Dimension Programme, which ultimately led to Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) receiving National Assets of a Urban Search and Rescue team (USAR), Mass Decon Unit (now removed) and the Detection, Identification and Monitoring vehicle.

The next significant change came in advance of the 2012 London Olympics, when the UK Government established a cadre of specialist MTF (Marauding Terrorist Firearm Attack, changed to MTA Marauding Terrorist Attack, Feb 2019) responders. ECFRS established its teams in 2011, the cadre was initially formed from the National Inter-Agency Liaison Officers (NILOs) and teams from ECFRS Urban Search And Rescue facility and Leigh fire station on a voluntary basis. Following on-going discussions between the FBU and the National Employers a number of FBU members chose to withdraw from their participation in MTA.

In 2015 in order to provide ECFRS with the resilience required to ensure a response an additional station was approached and subsequently trained and brought in to the cadre. A further station was added in 2017. ECFRS currently has 45 Responders made up from

a number of On-call, Whole-time, Day-work and Flexi officers, from this group five responders have received the Team Leader training

The MTA response isn't at the time of writing a National asset, to assist with the associated expense of hosting a response a Section 31 grant is provided by the Home Office (HO). The grant received is to the value of £32,423.81 this is given to a hosting Service to aide in the purchase of:

- Equipment
- Training
- Person Protective Equipment

Equipment purchased by ECFRS to date using the grant has included;

- New Ballistic PPE
- Personal Medical packs for each responder
- Smocks for Service Response Team (SRT) members to protect against inclement weather
- Airwave San J hand-held radios for New NILO's x 2
- Airwave San J hand-held radios for Team Leaders x 2
- 50 Peltor Headsets and Airwave/Motorola adaptors. Twelve NILO's Team Leaders were given personal issue with 38 sets then divided between two vehicles for use by the Search and Rescue Teams (SRT).
- 2x Medical intervention back packs, these were provided to the two vehicles in order to provide the attending ECFRS crews with sufficient medical kit to start treating injured members of the public in the absence of the Ambulance service. These packs have a five year life span and will be replaced when the stock items reach their use by date. The items that are out of date will then be used as training stock.

## **Training**

The Service has been actively involved in the planning and delivery of the following Training events; -

Op Lame Duck; This is the Special Forces revalidation exercise for releasing hostages from an aircraft, ECFRS attend these events with colleagues from Essex Police and East of England Ambulance Service Trust (EEAST).

Ex Blue Sentinel; Another Special Forces revalidation exercise of three days duration, spanning Essex and Suffolk.

Op Holdfast; Special Forces revalidation for the counter assault team (3 days duration).

Ex Dark Horizon Tier 1

National exercise that included government departments with COBR feeds, which included a renegade aircraft being escorted into Stansted airport and culminated in an Special Forces intervention.

### Annual Multi-Agency MTA Training

All three blue light agencies have MTA response capability, ECFRS is a member of the East of England MTA Regional group, this group includes all 6 regional FRS's, Police forces and the EEAST. The group arranges the annual multi-agency exercise's which provide the responders the opportunity to develop their medical skills along with the NILO's the chance to work at a Forward Control Point with real time issues to overcome.

The list below details the locations that have been utilized for training over the last five years, these sites have provided buildings and areas that have not been known to the commanders with a view to demonstrate the difficulties that can reasonably be encountered at an incident.

Cherry Hinton	2015
Wethersfield	2016
Woodbridge	2017
RAF Wyton	2018
Bassingbourn	2019

One area of development that has come from the regional approach is the MTA aide memoir this is used as a standard template by the region.

### **Airbox MOSAIC**

Following the publication of the Kerslake report, ECFRS reviewed related policy documents against the findings of the report. In addition to the review ECFRS hosted a workshop with partner agencies to consider how Essex would deal with an event similar to the Manchester Arena attack.

The issue of shared situational awareness was identified and ECFRS subsequently undertook a trial of the MOSAIC (Mission Optimised Situational Awareness Information & Collaboration) in 2018 which at this time was being used by EEAST with the Seven Force Collaboration (Police) in the process of purchasing.

ECFRS undertook the trial to test the suitability of the software to provide a shared platform between all attending emergency services. The list below shows a number of Operations at which MOSAIC was used as a shared platform;

- Op Coin - Halloween bike ride
- Op Legion - remembrance day parades, Colchester, Saffron Walden and Southend
- Op Holdfast - SF revalidation exercise 2018
- Op Backspin & Igloo - Presidential Visits 2018 & 2019

The trial demonstrated that it is possible to have a shared platform that is accessible to each emergency service to view and track resources, share photos and video along with a timeline that enables commanders to have contemporaneous notes around decisions and risk assessments (Joint Decision Making Model - JESIP).

Post-trial an SLT paper, Business case and trial review documentation was written for ACFO Dave Bill to take to the Change Board for a decision to purchase the software and iPads which will enable NILO's to have access to pre-planned events/Operations and to be available to join spontaneous events. At the time of writing this paper the decision to purchase MOSAIC has been approved, ECFRS is now reviewing how it will purchase the

hardware/software and the best implementation method to minimize impact on ICT departments' workloads.

### **National Groups**

Nationally there are two groups that have been created to provide reassurance to the Home Office (HO) these are;

- The National Working Group (NWG) is the strategic level which requires members to be of Brigade Manager level. The group provides the assurances to the Home Office and agrees the work that is required from the National User Group (NUG).
- The NUG is the tactical level, this group will be requested by the NWG to provide assurance, review documentation and undertake any work that is set by the NWG.

Recently there has been the introduction of the MTA Joint Operating Procedures (JOPs) Edition 1 (Feb 2019) has changed to way a response to a terrorist attack will look nationally. To address the issues raised by the new JOPs a series of workshops are being run throughout the coming months, The Service has booked three spaces on the workshop taking place in July.

### **OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS**

None, this paper is for information

### **BENEFITS AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

MTA incidents represent one of the most significant operational scenarios which the Service will face.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

As set out in the paper the Service received Section 31 grant funding to contribute towards specific equipment used for MTA teams. Any cost incurred from supporting exercises is met from the current staffing budgets.

### **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

None specific to this paper.

### **WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT**

The FBU nationally have challenged whether MTA incident form part of Fire & Rescue Service role maps. An outcome of this has been recent media stories on Manchester Fire and Rescue Service using Merseyside Fire and Rescue when responding the MTA incidents.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None specific to this paper.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

None specific to this report