



Operations – National Resilience (NR)

NR Mobilisation

The first quarter of National Resilience Fire Control (NRFC) Operations have now been reviewed. The period from 31st March to 31st May saw NRFC manage a total of 152 calls from NR asset hosting FRS. Of these 152 calls only 17 related to mobilisation requests and 135 were administrative requests.

The maintenance of competence for NRFC staff is ongoing and is supported by the NR Command and Control (C&C) Capability Team. The C&C team will undertake an assurance of NRFC in Q4 of the 2017/18 business year.

Work is continuing to add additional specialist resources such as drones that can be deployed as national assets to the NCAF Electronic Support System (ESS)

Command and Control – NCAF review

The revised Enhanced Logistics Support (ELS) assurance process is underway, with all 9 teams being assured by the C&C Capability Team in accordance with the amended KPI's. This will replace the existing self-assessment/peer review process. Once completed an assurance report will be presented to the ELS User group in November, with a consolidation report presented to National Operational Effectiveness Working Group (NOEWG). To date 4 teams have undertaken the assurance process and the capability remain on target to complete all 9 prior to the November ELS User Group meeting.

The C&C Capability Team are currently undertaking a review of the SHA criteria and documentation held on the ESS, in addition to developing SHA awareness within FRS.

An information note was released on 22nd August requesting FRS to review their SHA arrangements in conjunction with the LRF and provide a return update to enable the information held on the ESS to be updated. SHA awareness forms part of the wider NR awareness events in addition to the FRS SHA liaison Officers roles and responsibilities.

Raising the awareness of NR, NCAF and the associated documentation within FRS remains a priority within C&C, with numerous events being held to assist FRS to be better prepared in the event of a major Incident. This remit has now increased to include FRS control rooms and the NGO's in partnership with DEFRA.

USAR Assurance

The Capability Team commenced the 2017/18 CPD workshops at the UKRO event in Hull on 7th September. The event was aimed at USAR Tactical Advisors with further CPD workshops to be arranged for USAR Instructors and Search Dog handlers in late 2017 and early 2018.

Year 3 assurance has commenced and a number of identified elements of the USAR Concept of Operations were assessed during exercise "Black Kite" hosted by Tyne & Wear FRS in June 2017. A further exercise is programmed for March 2018 and will be hosted by Merseyside FRS.

HVP

The HVP self-assessment assurance process concludes on 31st October having opened on 1st April. Fourteen FRSs have yet to start their submission at time of writing. The HVP Capability Team are working to ensure all FRS complete a submission. The outcomes of this process will be incorporated into the 2018/19 assurance visit programme.

Collaboration and R&D is ongoing with Environment Agency covering procurement of Flood Modules (50,000 lpm units) which are compatible with the existing HVP system.

A new coupling adapter which connects HVP hose to EA trailer mounted pumps and greatly increases their operating distance is being introduced. These will be procured by EA and allocated to all HVP and Hose box modules.

The Capability Team are working with LFB following Grenfell Tower on change of HVP impeller type to provide greater pressure and potential use of HVPs to supply aerial appliances and/or rising mains.

The first HVP instructor training course to be delivered under the new NR training model ran from 25th September at Devon & Somerset FRS.

Flood Rescue

A DEFRA funded NRAT Capability Officer for Flood Rescue took up post on 10th July. Meetings have been held with DEFRA and Home Office to scope out work and identify priorities. Key areas for DEFRA are assurance of National Flood Rescue Assets and revision of Flood Rescue Concept of Operations.

Improvements to asset status recording and validation are being worked on in conjunction with NRFC. This will incorporate Boat Rescue teams and Tactical Advisors.

CBRNE – MD Futures Project

In February 2017, a decision was reached by Home Office ministers to reconfigure the deployment model of Mass Decontamination to a faster more scalable response. This has been achieved by replacing Incident Response Units (IRUs) with Mass Decontamination Units (MDUs).

The new Mass Decontamination capability will consist of 28 x MDUs, supported by 6 x Mass Decontamination Support Units (MDSUs), and 2 x Mass Decontamination Training Units (MDTUs) strategically positioned around the country.

The MDTUs will be stowed as an MDU and available for recall to attend an operational incident if required. MDSUs will contain additional MD equipment to support an MD sector.

Work is underway to support the Police with the storage and deployment of Police PRPS which can be used by either agency during a CBRNE incident.

The new capability is expected to go-live on 1st October 2017, prior to which the current IRU capability will be maintained.

Consultation with rep bodies on the stowage of the new MDU, revised policy, guidance, and mobilising models was successfully completed in May 2017, involving representation from FBU, FOA and RFU.

The MDU reconfiguration work, which included updating existing service contracts, was completed by Babcock Critical Services in mid-August.

NFCC and NRAT have assisted Home Office in securing 6 x prime movers for those FRSs that did not previously have MDD/R (Disrobe/Rerobe) units. These have been donated by the following FRS at nil cost which has ensured the implementation of the new capability can still meet the projected timescales of the project:

- Cambridgeshire
- Cheshire
- Hampshire
- Surrey
- Kent
- Shropshire

It should also be noted that Lancashire and Tyne & Wear FRSs also offered NFCC their assistance in donating prime movers. Sincere thanks to all of the FRS listed above for their assistance.

Familiarisation of the Mass Decontamination Instructors (MDIs) has been completed by NRAT and is currently being cascaded to MD staff. NRAT is providing weekly reports to Home Office on progress to meet the 80% assurance rate agreed with rep bodies for go-live.

MTFA

A total of 5 terrorist attacks have taken place on UK mainland this year. It is of note that none of these attacks have involved the use of firearms by the perpetrators although a number of OPERATION PLATO declarations have been made.

This experience has led to the initiation of a review of the “Joint Operating Principles for Emergency Services – Responding to a Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack” guidance – often referred to as the JOpS document. This work, led by the Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism (OSCT) will result in the publication of Version 4 of the JOpS which will acknowledge that a mass casualty event caused by terrorist action may have another means of attack other than firearms. The response principles will remain broadly similar, and there remains an expectation that the FRS will be a part of the multi-agency response.

This new version is intended to be completed in early autumn, and is well advanced at the time of writing. It will also involve an extended description of the role of the FRS when fire is involved in such an attack. At this stage no new acronym for an ‘incident type’ has been offered in the context of this update. It is felt better to wait until there is national agreement on this matter.

Following agreement with the Deputy Director of the Home Office National Resilience and Fire Programmes a temporary post has been created within National Resilience in order to develop an MTFA Concept of Operations. This post has been filled by an Officer on secondment from West Yorkshire FRS. The first draft of the ConOps has been completed and is now subject to consultation prior to finalising at the end of September 2017.

The Home Office led uplift of the national MTFA capability is underway. This involves the doubling in capacity of two existing teams and the introduction of a number of new teams on a scale similar to those existing Home Office Model Response teams, and the development of a smaller team concept to support the national response. This uplift is supported by NFCC and NR leads. A Home Office chaired Task & Finish group is in place to support the uplift.

A number of meetings have taken place to inform the NJC work relating to the current pay negotiations. FRS have been consulted with, and informed about, the progress of this issue. It has been a useful medium in which to develop a consensus view on a number of complex issues.

New guidance has been released to FRS in the guise of the most up to date National Operational Guidance (NOG) document and also an agreed proficiency framework against which FRS can train their staff. It is likely that this guidance will require further review following the publication of the JOpS v4.

The issue of Fire Hazards Management is very topical following the discovery of ‘Molotov Cocktails’ in the rear of the van used in the London Bridge attack. NFCC have worked with NPCC who have issued guidance to all Police Forces to manage their expectations of what the FRS may be able to achieve in such a scenario. This communication has been shared with all FRS.

Work has also been completed on a suite of 3 videos which have been circulated to all FRS. These videos are MTFA Non-specialist responder, MTFA Specialist responder, and MTFA ‘On a Train’

If access to these videos is not available then please contact Dave Walton, NFCC MTFA Capability Lead at Dave.Walton@westyorkshire.gov.uk

Counter Terrorism (CT)

It is recognised by the NFCC Lead Officers for National Resilience, Interoperability and CBRNE that the governance arrangements for all FRS CT related matters should mirror those in operation within the NPCC.

The relationship with CBRNE and MTFA and the role undertaken by the FRS National Interagency Liaison Officer (NILO) is also recognised.

To that end a proposal to rename the Interoperability strategic reference to CT and to extend its remit to include CBRNE, MTFA and NILO under the strategic leadership of London Fire Commissioner was approved by the Operations Coordination Committee on 6th September.

Dany Cotton as LFB Commissioner takes on the role as NFCC strategic lead for CT. Steve Apter takes on the role as NR CBRNE Capability Lead. Dave Walton remains the NR MTFA Capability Lead along with Graham Ellis as NILO Capability Lead.

The new structure is set out in the diagram below.

