NPIA
National Policing Improvement Agency

ACPO Manual of Guidance on

DEALING WITH THE REMOVAL OF PROTESTORS

FASLANE 365 2006 - 2007

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Protest removal Guide – Faslane 2007
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All enquires about this practice advice/guidance should be addressed in the first instance to:
Specialist Operations Centre
National Policing Improvement Agency
Wyboston Lakes
Great North Road
Wyboston
Bedfordshire
Mk44 3BY

Tel: 0870 241 5641
E-mail: soc@npia.pnn.police.uk

Acknowledgements
NPIA would like to express their thanks to all those involved in the drafting of this document and in particular PS Paul Chalmers and his team from the Ministry of Defence Police Divisional Support Group (MOD DSG) Scotland, who provided the information and subject knowledge in this document.
Contact email MOD DSG – Andrew.chalmerxxxx@xxxx.xxx.police.uk

Reference Material
MOD Police report on Faslane 365
Lock-on a practical consideration (NOF Public Order)
NPOIU intelligence report on Faslane 365

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

There is currently no definitive national guidance in place for dealing with protestor lock-on, most forces have some kind of protestor removal capacity varying from a few bolt cutters up to and including rope access trained staff.

The advice within this report is not intended to be a definitive, all encompassing guide that cannot be altered, changed or improved. It is not and cannot be the final word in protestor removal, which is a perpetual and evolving process.

The report is drawn from the extensive empirical and practical experience of Protestor Removal Team officers from the Ministry Of Defence Police, Divisional Support Group, who during this campaign carried out over 500 protestor removals, without injury or complaint.

This report does not dismiss other tactics or the use of other equipment currently being used elsewhere by other forces around the UK; however it does recognise that this particular campaign was a great example of how protestors developed their lock-on as the campaign developed.

Kevin Ellis
NPIA

SECTION 1: Faslane 365

The 1st October 2006 saw the beginning of an initiative to apply public pressure on the government for the disarmament of Britain's nuclear weapons.

This large scale protest was led by a group calling themselves Faslane 365. This group was predominantly made up of residents from the Faslane Peace Camp which has been present for 25 years protesting against the governments nuclear weapon programme. Also involved were another known protest group called the 'Trident Ploughshares'.

The aim of the group(s) was to build on the success of previous mass blockades held at the HMNB Clyde and the RNAD Coulport, with an intention of carrying out a year-long continuous blockade of the site(s). This particular campaign was to last from 1st October 2006 – 1st October 2007, with the last blockade on 1st October 2007.

To achieve this aim protestors and supporters were needed to reinforce the regular peace camps to facilitate this protestors from groups in Scotland, England, Wales, and across Europe were invited.

This report should be read in conjunction with the Faslane intelligence brief compiled by NPOIU; which can be downloaded from the Genesis website www.genesis.pnn.police.uk – then follow the links: specialist operations/uniform operational support /public order/public order intelligence/Faslane.

This year long campaign was policed in partnership by Strathclyde and MOD Police, with the MOD Police supplying the teams and expertise to deal with the large amounts of lock-on's and specialist tactics used to disrupt the site(s) and primary link roads.

The campaign resulted in 131 visiting groups attending 189 separate protests

(many resulting in blockades). There were 1150 arrests by both Strathclyde and MOD Police which have so far resulted in 55 prosecutions. [1]

[1] *NPOIU Intelligence report - Faslane*

1.1 INTENTION OF THIS REPORT

It is the intention of this report to concentrate solely on the lock-on tactics and equipment used throughout the Faslane 365 campaign by the protestors. It will also look at the police solutions developed by the MOD Police in responding to these tactics. This report is not a debrief on the campaign as a whole and as such does not look at the prosecution, intelligence, evidence gathering, command structures or other police tactics used or considered throughout the campaign.

This report is designed to offer forces both information and learning in understanding the levels of 'direct action' such protestors will go to achieve their political aims. Protestor direct action is a growing area of concern across the police forces of the UK and Scotland.

Before we move on, we need to have an understanding from the protestor perspective of what is meant by the term 'direct action'

'Direct action implies rejection of the procedures and rules of the land, and having the initiative to decide for yourself what is right and what needs to be resisted, rather than obeying laws or orders. Although direct action can be seen merely as one tool in any campaigner's tool box, it is also much more than this. It means fighting for control of your own life and to attempt directly to affect the world around you, taking responsibility for your actions on your own terms'. [2]

[2] *Schnews Website*

In police terms direct action means that the protestors have consciously and deliberately decided that if and when necessary they will operate outside legal parameters. They are prepared to cause disruption, damage and trespass in the pursuit of their aim.

SECTION 2: What is meant by the term 'protestor tactics?'

Protestors need to achieve a goal in almost exactly the same way the Police need to achieve their overall strategy in any policing operation. Like the police the protestors use tactics to achieve that goal. Protestor groups have very simplified versions of how they see success on any given protest. A well known protestor website suggests that protestors judge success by:

'At the end of the protest if you are still free, unhurt and you have caused embarrassment and economic damage to your real target you have achieved success.' [3]

However, this is not every protestors aim. In some protests and certainly at Faslane the protestors tactics were even more direct. The development of their tactics were simply to block site access/egress, to block primary roads and to get arrested to flood the judicial system with cases from the protest, thereby causing administrative judicial problems and raising the profile of the protest.

Most protestor groups use Non Violent Direct Action (NVDA)and it is worth noting that the definition of this varies dramatically from protest to protest.

Some protestors are totally opposed to any form of violence, whilst others who do not accept the law as 'their law' feel the police using force to remove them are acting unlawfully. As such, the use of force against police is seen merely as self defence to prevent the police's unlawful acts. [4]

As protest has developed so has the complexity of the tactics the protestors use, and as Faslane demonstrated it is now about the equipment and guile the protestors introduce to delay the police.

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[3] *Schnews Website*

[4] *Schnews Website*

It is this increased complexity as well as the use of deterrents such as paint and solvents and the imaginative way they use such items which can turn a simple lock-on into a more complicated removal process.

SECTION 3: What is a Lock-on?

A lock-on is basically a delay mechanisms used by protestors to increase the length of time and resources used to remove them.

The more informative definition states a lock-on or to be locked on is the action of one or more protestors, fixing themselves to a location of strategic importance by means of a device or piece of hardware, as part of direct action in an attempt to stop or delay an event/action or to gain maximum publicity for their cause. They can also be referred to as lock-downs, lock-boxes or dragons. The main principle behind a lock-on is to create an immovable object that cannot be removed without specialist equipment. [5]

Lock-on attracts media interest thereby raising the profile of their cause. Protestors are fully aware of the need for officers to be specially trained in removal of lock-on. They are aware of legislation and look to ensure police comply with health and safety legislation along with an appropriate and proportionate response.

[5] *Lock-on Practical Considerations (NOP)*

3.1 WHAT TYPE OF ENVIRONMENT IS SUITABLE FOR THE USE OF LOCK-ON?

Lock-ons come in a variety of shapes, sizes and complexity and can be made from every day items, which in isolation may appear innocent, thereby allowing them to get such equipment to the location without arousing police suspicion.

There is no guarantee that one type of lock-on will be used for any specific environment and police have to accept that protestors will use lock-on in any environment. The type and location of lock-on will dictate the level of response required. Lock-on at height may require the use of scaffold systems, mobile elevated work platforms and rope access techniques. Other difficulties include terrain, prevailing weather conditions, marine/water borne protests, tree protests, confined space and officer safety during large scale protests.

The type of environment is only as limited as the imagination of the protestor.

Although this report will describe in detail removal procedures for various lock-on actions, each environment brings its own problems, risks and hazards which must be considered. A full dynamic risk assessment should be carried out by any police response team prior to any removal taking place.

SECTION 4: Human Right Implications

Nothing within this report will conflict with any aspects of the Human Rights Act 1998 which sets out the rights and freedoms defined in the European convention on human rights into UK Law. Any infringement by a public authority of other person's rights must be justified. Prior to and throughout any operation all police action has to be:

Proportionate: police actions must be fair and achieve a balance between the needs of society and the rights of the individual. When an objective can be achieved in more than one way, the least intrusive method should be chosen.

Legal: Police actions must be supported by legislation or decided cases. Officers must be aware of the legislation they are using.
Accountable: Police actions are open to scrutiny. A full record must be kept of options considered and actions taken. Factors influencing decisions must be shown. This will include reasons for NOT taking action. Decision logs are vital in ensuring all relevant details are recorded during an operation to counter potential litigation or complaints.

Necessary: Police action must be necessary in a democratic society. It should be borne in mind that, due to the nature of these protests, they can lead to litigation.

SECTION 5: Health and Safety implications

The consideration of health and safety underpins the tactics employed by the police in dealing with the direct action protestor.

For each activity, especially the removal of lock-ons, the potential for serious injury is ever present. Once the police begin to take action they also take responsibility for the health and welfare of those protestors they seek to remove. It is with this in mind that the forces have to develop the ability to compile a dynamic risk assessment for each process considered.

SECTION 6: Police Response to Direct Action

As part of the information sharing on good practice I will incorporate tactics used and police response and considerations to those tactics within this report.

The initial police response when dealing with any lock-ons including tripods will be determined by the incident being spontaneous or pre-planned. If police are caught out by the lock-on or tripod being in place then consideration should be given for inclusion of the following assessments:

An initial assessment; obstruction; dynamic risk assessment should be completed by a trained protestor removal operator/supervisor, incorporating the following considerations:

- Is the lock-on on public or private land, thereby determine if the police have primacy to undertake the removal.
- Is there a need to remove the obstruction or can we work around it?
- Do you need a traffic management plan?
- Does the obstruction need to be isolated from a crowd/demonstration?
- Has the police got sufficient resources to deal with the removal, particularly in the roles of:
- Deploying a cordon to isolate the obstruction/ suitably trained protestor removal teams.
- Have you deployed Evidence Gatherers?
- If practical obtain a photograph/diagram of the obstruction.
- Do you have sufficient arrest teams, and are they in place?
- Is removing the obstruction lawful? Once the protester has been removed how can the lock-on/tripod be secured and preserved for evidence?
- Have you completed a dynamic risk assessment and are you conforming to health and safety issues that have arisen?

SECTION 7: Police Tactics

Once the protestor has established a lock-on, obstruction or blockade at strategic points and a decision to remove protestors has been authorised the police response needs to be swift, decisive and professional. The following should form part of the police consideration and tactics:

7.1 PROTEST REMOVAL TEAMS (PRT)

The use of specially trained and equipped teams is essential to minimise injury and conform to health and safety issues. PRT are in effect a control measure and should be included within the dynamic risk assessment as such. The size of a PRT will depend on the type of obstruction being removed. The Protestor Removal Party will define roles within the team, but good working practice suggests that each team should have an operationally competent supervisor, safety officer and logistics/runner all with specific responsibilities. This does not mean the PRT use separate individuals for each role. It is accepted in some PRT members may be carrying out dual roles to reduce unnecessary numbers.

7.1.1 STERILE AREA

The specialist protest removal team will require a sterile area in which to work. It is impractical for the PRT to carry out work of this nature within an area of disorder. There may be occasions where the PRT can operate within an environment of passive protest but it is important that each incident is assessed against its own merits. Within any incident the contingency of implementing a sterile area has to be considered.

7.1.2 ARREST TEAMS

It is impractical for the removal team to make the arrests. It is not impossible but logistics state that you would not want the PRT committed with custody procedures etc. It is preferable that nominated trained arrest teams are identified to work in consultation with the PRT and the Evidence Gathering Team. No arrests should be made without prior authority being received.

7.1.3 EVIDENCE GATHERING TEAMS

Trained Police Evidence gatherers, conversant with the process of protest removal should be used to record all the stages of the protest removal; this should include police requests for self release, protestor actions and subsequent police action. They should record the resistance offered along with the details of the lock-on, the arrest and any other points of evidence.

7.2 TRAINING

There is currently no national standard as to the type or amount of training officers are required to undertake to allow them to competently engage in this type of activity.

Currently forces train their own staff through a variety of different private companies. Many areas of accreditation are linked to specialist equipment where a certificate of competence is required before use.

Standards on training dramatically vary throughout the country with both complimentary and conflicting views on how to deal with various problems and the most suitable equipment to use.

There is no quick solution to this problem but the formation of a national practitioners working group should look to establish a shared approach to good practice and operational competency.

7.3 TYPES OF PROTEST LOCK-ON

There are many types of Lock-on used within the Faslane365 campaign of which will be covered in this report. There are now major advances in the quality of the material used by protestors to secure them within the lock-on.

The police have to continually develop their response and the equipment they use to keep up with the problems they encountered during the 12 month campaign.

Types of lock-on covered within the report will be:

- Chains and padlocks
- Thumb cuffs
- Handcuffs
- Bicycle locks
- Bicycles
- Arm tubes
- Wheelchair / Walking Aids
- Concrete Dragons
- Vehicles
- Tripods
- Paint and Superglue
- Disguised lock-on

7.3.1 CHAINS AND PADLOCK

This lock-on technique is easy to utilise and offers a quick and very effective fast response tactic for protestors. It is considered one of the simplest methods for protestors wanting a quick and effective delaying tactic.

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 1 (above)

The lock-on consists of a group of protestors wearing belts constructed of heavy duty ratchet straps, sewn together, with wire rope between the two layers of strap. At intervals along the length of the belt, wire loops were visible, to allow other protestors to fix their chains to their fellow protestors.

Picture 2 (on page 22)

Shows high tensile strength steel motorcycle chain and lock used within same lock-on as that in Picture 1.

Police Tactical Advice

The materials used in the lock-on were not in themselves difficult to remove, but the lock-on required manipulation of individuals to allow access for the removal team to operate. The main difficulty encountered in that manipulation was the concern for safety. Protestors in these circumstances attempt to interlock arms and hands to deny access to the removal team. As can be seen in the picture protestors attempted to hide identities through various methods such as face painting. Protestors tended to be passive resistant and as a result it required a four person lift to transport to the vehicles following removal and arrest.

It is worth noting as part of the planning process to ensure there are sufficient resources in place to deal with the amount of protestors. This should be in place prior to the removal process commencing. Removal from this type of scenario is a very physical exercise that can quickly exhaust officers. There may be a requirement to use untrained PRT officers to assist in the manipulation.

Officers should search prisoners thoroughly prior to placing in police vehicles. The potential implications for this are protestors locking themselves onto each other or to the inside of vehicles.

Considerations

- Location
- Age and number of persons
- Disability/medical conditions
- Grade/gauge of chain and padlock
- Access
- Night or daytime
- Weather
- Secondary hazards
- Traffic control
- Contamination
- Police warning regarding conduct

Good practice solutions

- Information gathering
- Risk assessment
- Artificial lighting
- Removal team skills
- Removal method planning
- Is removal necessary?
- Communication/cooperation from non team units.

Resources/equipment

Removal of the lock-on above involved the use of bolt cutters, Rebar cutter, Nike 369 and Nike 100. Police cordon to create a sterile area may be required (depends on scale of lock-on)

7.3.2 THUMB CUFFS

The use of thumb cuffs can be between two persons or the locking of one person onto or around an immovable object. This includes fence barriers, gates and other persons etc.

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 1 (above)

Shows *person to person* thumb cuff.

Picture 2 (above)

Careful assessment of lock-on will identify person is not actually locked onto barrier and no equipment is required.

Police Tactical Advice

In this instance an adapted police hand cuff key was used to successfully remove the cuff. (Details of the adapted police handcuff contact MOD Police Faslane. Contact details can be found on inside page - Acknowledgements).

This can be a difficult removal due to the closeness to the skin and the size of the cuffs. Often we find protestors have the key hidden in their possession or a fellow protestor within the vicinity has ownership or access to key. Thumb cuffs do not "double lock" and officers should be aware of the possibility of the mechanism tightening around the person's fingers.

Consideration

- Location
- Age and number of persons
- Disability/medical conditions
- Access
- Night or daytime
- Weather
- Secondary hazards
- Traffic control
- Contamination
- Police warning regarding conduct

Solution

- Information gathering
- Risk assessment
- Artificial lighting
- Removal team skills
- Removal method planning
- Is removal necessary?
- Communication/cooperation from non team units.

Resources / equipment

Removal of the thumb cuff involved the use of metal shim to manipulate the mechanism, key, adapted key, bolt cutters, reciprocating saw and Fein Multi Master. An adapted bike chain link removal tool can also be used to remove the small connecting pin.

However, the reciprocating saw generate heat and would be considered a last resort and careful use of protestor PPE must be adopted. Alternatively, if they are using the thumb cuffs on another object for example a fence or barrier, consideration should be given to freeing the thumb cuff from these first. Care should be taken over the choice of equipment used as thumb cuffs may twist whilst being cut causing injury to the protestor.

7.3.3 HAND AND LEG CUFFS

Hand and leg cuffs offer another rapid and easy lock-on for protestors to use.

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 1 (on page 27)

Consists of two males attached together using poor quality cuffs. The locks were superglued to prevent officers attempting to remove the cuffs using their own keys. Due to the poor strength of the cuffs, bolt cutters removed the cuff easily.

Picture 2 (on page 27)

The team separated the two sides of the leg cuff using the Vimpex system (hydraulic- battery powered). The protestor was then removed by the arrest team. The cuff was later removed in the custody/ process centre.

Police Tactical Advice

There is a vast range of grade of metal used in the manufacture of hand and leg cuffs. Because of this, removal equipment varies from cuff keys and bolt cutters to hydraulic and electrical power tools.

Both the above incidents involved a large scale protest. A barrier system was not an option due to the large area occupied by the protestors. In instances like this, support is required from non-team officers to protect the PRT from protestor interference. When removing rigid cuffs using rebar and Nike 369 the top bar may twist with the risk of injury. The use of the hydraulic “re-bar cutter” or the Ogura battery powered hydraulic “stubby” cutter will also suffice.

Often the locking mechanism may be jammed with broken key or super glue. Officers should position PPE between the cuff and skin if possible. We utilise Sam splints and metal arm guards, and Kevlar blankets. This is in addition to goggles, ear-defenders and helmet if needed, as standard practice.

Considerations

- Location
- Age and number of persons
- Disability/medical conditions
- Grade/gauge of cuff
- Access
- Night or daytime
- Weather
- Secondary hazards
- Traffic control
- Contamination
- Police warning regarding conduct

Solution

- Information gathering
- Risk assessment
- Artificial lighting
- Removal team skills
- Removal method planning
- Is removal necessary?
- Communication/cooperation from non team units.

Resources/equipment

Equipment for the removal of hand/leg cuffs include metal shim, cuff key, adapted cuff key, bolt cutters, rebar cutter, and Nike 369. Ogura cutter.

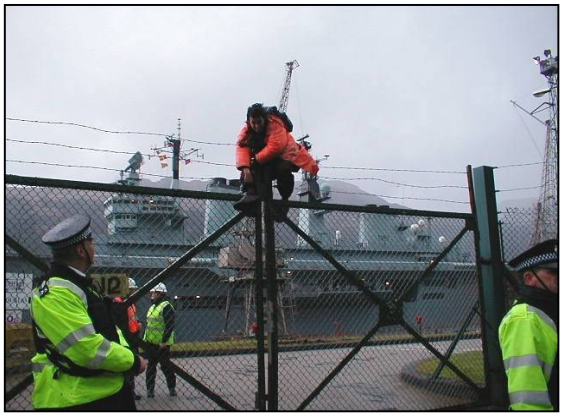
7.3.4 D LOCKS

Another simple and easily accessible type of lock-on is the D lock, which is a bicycle lock that can be purchased from any cycle shop. The larger of these locks can easily fit around the head of a protestor and link them to an immovable object or a vehicle.

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3



Picture 4

Picture 1 (above)

This image shows two protesters from a group of four. They are all attached by Interlocking bicycle D-lock around their necks. The officers that initially attended were unaware of the tactics used by the protesters and allowed one pair to super glue their hands together. The D-lock was removed using a Vimpex re-bar (Details on super glue to follow).

Picture 2 (on page 22)

The couple in this picture are again using a bicycle D-lock around their necks. The senior officer present asked them to stand up and move to the side of the road for their safety and the safety of his officers the protesters obliged. However, with interlocking d locks secured around their necks the protestors should have been dealt with in situ to reduce the risk of injury. Unfortunately they were then moved to the side of the road where their fellow protesters were situated. They were immediately surrounded by protestors who interfered, filmed and generally compromised the safety of both the officers and the protestors.

Picture 3 (on page 30)

This picture shows a protester attached by D-lock to the front of a stationary vehicle. Additional consideration was needed to secure the vehicle to ensure there was no movement. The protester was removed using a re-bar cutter. Vehicles entering or leaving establishments are especially vulnerable to lock-on.

Picture 4 (on page 30)

This male in this image is sitting on top of a gate and is using a D-lock to secure himself to the gate. This situation would only be dealt with by officers suitably trained in working at height and the use of scaffolding. Officers must have the appropriate PPE, including razor wire suits, to prevent lacerations.

Police Tactical Advice

The incident in picture one (on page 30) was part of a large scale protest. A barrier system was not an option, due to the large area occupied by the protestors. In instances like this, support is required from non-team officers to protect the removal team from protestor interference. The other images were smaller incidents and consideration for the use of barriers should be made.

Consideration should be taken for instances when the locking mechanism may be super glued.

The quality of metal used in D-Locks can vary. Some can have a thick plastic sheath fitted which may cause problems when cutting. The locking mechanism may also be super glued. They may be used to lock-on person(s) to person(s) or person to immovable object, which includes fences, cordon barriers, gates, vehicles and bicycles etc. The removal of D-locks from around the neck area is especially dangerous and requires extra precautions to ensure the safety of the protestors.

Considerations

- Location
- Age and number of persons
- Disability/medical conditions
- Grade/gauge of D-lock
- Access
- Night or daytime
- Weather
- Secondary hazards
- Traffic control
- Contamination
- Police warning regarding conduct

Solution

- Information gathering
- Risk assessment
- Artificial lighting
- Removal team skills
- Removal method planning
- Is removal necessary?
- Communication/cooperation from non team units.

Resources / equipment

Equipment for the removal of D-locks includes rebar cutter and Nike 369. An attempt should be made to locate the key for the locks from the protester or any persons in support of the protester by use of verbal communication or search. During large scale protests the safety of equipment is vital to prevent theft or interference from protestors as well as equipment being removed by other teams assisting removal etc. Although cordon incident support officers can be asked to look after equipment we have found this an unreliable way to look after team equipment. An officer from the team should be designated as equipment officer and vehicle key holder to prevent confusion.

7.3.5 ARM TUBES

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3

Picture 4

Picture 5

Picture 6

Picture 7

Picture 8

Picture 1 (on page 34)

This image shows two plastic tubes, which have been attached by a nut and bolt inside the tube. The arm tubes were coated with plaster cast with metal tin lids placed within the layers. In doing this the protesters were able have four persons locked on in close proximity to each other. A cast cutter and hand tools were used to release this lock-on.

Picture 2 (on page 34)

In picture two you can see under the outer layer of plastic tubing is a layer of concrete which has been reinforced with barbed wire.

Picture 3 (on page 34)

The arm tube in this image is multi-layered with an inner cardboard tube, then alternate layers of roofing felt and chicken wire, with an outer layer of plastic tubing. This type of arm tube can also utilise plastic and metal tubing. The materials in the layers are intended as a delaying tactic. This particular arm tube was removed using. a cast cutter and hand tools.

Picture 4 (on page 34)

This arm tube has been made from fabricated welded thick gauged steel. A void has been created which has been filled with tar. The tar had been allowed to set. Cold Cut Saw, Hydraulic Spreader, and hand tools were used in the removal of this lock-on.

Picture 5 (on page 35)

This image shows a thick gauge plastic arm tube that has had carpet underlay with metal tin lids secreted within it, taped to the pipe using insulation tape. The metal tin will curl when cut and is extremely sharp. Care should be taken

for Officer personal safety and the protester informed of possible further charges.

Picture 6 (on page 35)

The protesters in this image are using fabricated thick gauge arm tubes in several ranks across the whole road. This was carried out about a mile from the target facility causing disruption to the surrounding area as well as the intended target.

Picture 7 (on page 35)

This image shows an arm tube that has been inserted into a tree log and padded out with expandable foam. Metal rods are running through the length of the log approximately two inches from the arm tube. This has been done to delay removal.

Picture 8 (on page 35)

This multi layered lock-on has an inner area comprised of concrete and steel wire possibly a bed spring. To remove this hammer and bolster along with bolt cutters would have to be used in tandem. The first window cut has to be of a sufficient size to allow the inner debris to be removed and leave sufficient space for any other access required. Any other window needed to be cut must be of a size sufficient to allow access for safe removal.

Police Tactical Advice

Arm tubes is by far the most common method of lock-on and range in quality and construction, with the most complex requiring the use of power tools, that need extensive control measures to be put in place. These types of removal should only be carried out by very experienced officers. **ALL** arm tubes can be removed using one of the cutting methods designed.

There are many varieties of pipe that can be utilised in the construction of arm tubes. Various gauges and types of materials ranging from cardboard, to cast or galvanised metal cuffs can be used. The use of layers in arm tubes to delay the removal has developed from the likes of carpet, cloth, rope and wood to wire rope, metal, concrete, paint and tar. Most concerning is the use of items like metal tin lids and barbed wire. It is evident that items such as these are placed to booby trap the lock-on to cause injury as well as delay. Where this has been evident officers have informed the protester that further charges may arise. This sometimes has been sufficient for protesters to self release.

The use of heavier gauge metal pipes and tree logs make that it harder for the protesters to transport them to their intended target. They tend then to be deployed from fixed protester camps or sites, or from within vehicles. The use of multiple protesters to blockade roads such as picture six means that consideration should be made in the removal of individuals from one side to allow a contra flow to be set up and facilitate some movement of traffic. This tactic has been used to close major road links servicing the target facility and not the facility alone.
The removal equipment used in dealing with arm tubes varies from hand tools to hydraulic and electrical power tools.

Protestors have moved from single layer lock-on to multiple layers incorporating anything that will delay removal, damage equipment and contaminate equipment. Examples have been tar, paint, UPVA glue, super glue, steel rods, barbed wire, tin lids and glass etc. When newly developed lock-on are used it is often the case the builder will be watching to see how the team go about combating the device. If tar is used the use of fast moving cutting equipment will heat up the tar and start to clog and damage the equipment. Often hand tools including crow bars, hammers, chisels and bolsters are best used on tar.

Considerations

- Location
- Age and number of persons
- Disability/medical conditions
- Grade/gauge of D-Lock
- Access
- Night or daytime
- Weather
- Secondary hazards
- Traffic control
- Contamination
- Police warning regarding conduct

Solution

- Information gathering
- Risk assessment
- Artificial lighting
- Removal team skills
- Removal method planning
- Is removal necessary?
- Communication/cooperation from non team units.

Resources/equipment

Simple lock-on such as cardboard and thin plastic tubes require the use of hand tools and the De-Soutter medical cast cutter. Heavy gauge plastic including gas piping etc requires the use of routers to create large window openings. Thin metal and some plastic pipes require the use of De Walt shear, angle grinders and Fein Multi master. Heavy gauge steel requires the use of Cold Cut saws. Although some can be battery operated the more powerful saws powered by generators are preferred. The reciprocating saw can be utilised to assist in wooden and some multi layer lock-on.

It is important to ensure that cold cut saws do not pass through the layer and that 1.5mm to 2mm of depth should be left to finish cutting with oscillating blades such as Fein Multi master. Teams should be careful when cutting through cast pipes as the depth is inconsistent and the pipe is prone to fracture which may cause injury. Appropriate cast pipe cutters should be identified. The depth to be cut should be measured by a digital micrometer which two officers must check and confirm. The blade depth should also be confirmed and checked by two officers. The use of fibre optics to see inside the pipes can be considered to check how protestors are secured inside the pipe. The use of the fibre optic viewing system must **always** be used when using metal cutting equipment.

However, although lock-on straps or karabiners may be present they could be superglued together. Concrete within layers has been used regularly. Often this hasn't cured properly and a hammer and bolster will suffice.

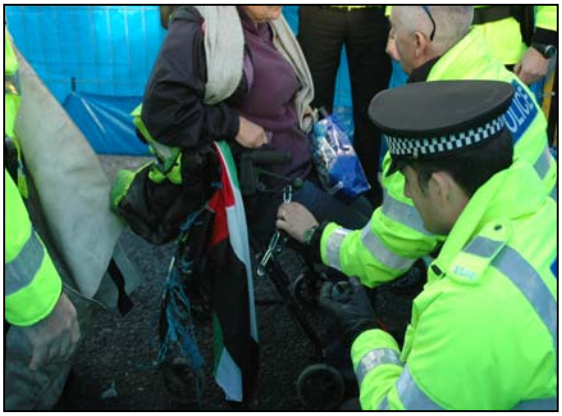
Steel wedges can be used during the removal of steel lock-on to widen the cut before using the Nike hydraulic spreader to force open the cut and gain better access.

7.3.6 WHEELCHAIR/WALKING AIDS

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3



Picture 4

Picture 1 (on page 41)

This image shows a typical wheelchair lock-on utilising an arm tube secured/welded to the chair. As in this case these arm tubes are usually metal.

Picture 2 (on page 41)

The user has been temporarily transferred from a wheelchair carried for this purpose to a Police vehicle. Care must be taken in the removal from the chair as officers should be trained in the manual handling of disabled persons.

Picture 3 (on page 41)

The wheelchair used in this image is being used as part of a multiple lock-on. Thought should be given as to at what stage the wheelchair should be removed. The dismantling of a chair should be considered and the option given to the user to self release before this is carried out.

Picture 4 (on page 41)

This image reflects the use of a wheeled walking frame with seat attachment. Although linked by hardened steel chain to the walking aid the protestor also had others linked to her with lock-on pipes. Here the issue was to be seen to deal sympathetically with a frightened elderly disabled protestor.

Police Tactical Advice

The use of wheelchairs is particularly prevalent, and always attracts a great deal of media attention. The wheelchair can be transported and wheeled to the target site easily and is often used in a multiple lock-on incident. Walking aids have been used with the user attached with chain to a zimmer frame.
The removal equipment used in dealing with wheel chairs and walking aids can include hand tools, hydraulic and electrical power tools.

Consideration should be given to setting up a full sterile area using a barrier system as you may have to use various hydraulic and electrical power tools. Due thought should be given to the sighting of a power source, mains or generator based within this area. Wheelchair bound protestors are aware that only suitably trained officers should lift them from the wheelchair. The protestor should then be placed in a wheelchair. Protestor removal teams should carry a wheelchair for this purpose or be in a position to acquire one quickly. The process of removal usually enables the team dismantling the wheel chair to gain access to the lock-on. However, if police are unable to dismantle the chair the protestors should be asked to self release to prevent the team from using cutting equipment on it. The use of a barrier system will help negate the prospect of negative publicity generated from the destruction of a disabled person's wheelchair.

With experience, there is no need to cut or damage the wheelchair, as once the person has been lifted clear, it can simply be dismantled to gain access to the lock-ons underneath. Damaging the wheelchair will only cause yourself further problems during the arrest process.

Considerations

- Location
- Age and number of persons
- Disability/medical conditions
- Grade/gauge of D-Lock
- Access
- Night or daytime
- Weather
- Secondary hazards
- Traffic control
- Contamination
- Police warning regarding conduct

Solution

- Information gathering
- Risk assessment
- Artificial lighting
- Removal team skills
- Removal method planning
- Is removal necessary?
- Communication/cooperation from non team units.

Resources / equipment

The removal equipment used in dealing with wheelchairs and walking aids varies from hand tools to hydraulic and electrical power tools. A barrier system, Police Cordon and a power source should be sought.

7.3.7 CONCRETE DRAGON

With some preparation barrels can be enhanced with other materials to supplement the concrete such as rubber, glass, steel rods or air canisters. This is an attempt to reduce the effectiveness or increase safety considerations for standard cutting equipment.

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3

Picture 1, 2 and 3 (above)

These pictures show the use of concrete dragons adapted from oil drums. In this protest outside Faslane peace camp protestors rolled out two large and one smaller concrete dragon lock-on. As the camp is positioned right next to the A814 road these had been built some time in advance and had been the subject of Intel reports. Although Police were present within the vicinity it still didn't

prevent the lock-on from being effective. One disabled protestor managed to get into position sitting in a wheel barrow and locking onto the smaller concrete lock-on. Both sides of the carriageway were blocked during base in muster.

Police Tactical Advice

The positioning of concrete lock-on is often dependant on size and weight. It is known for protestors to utilise wheelie bins near protest venue before wheeling them into position.

Considerations

- A814 blocked causing disruption to Faslane, Helensburgh and Garelochead peninsula area.
- Safety of protestors and other road users.
- Protest occurred during hours of darkness.
- Proximity to Faslane peace camp and the large number of protestors within the vicinity.
- Noise generated from protestors (whistles etc) to disrupt comms.
- Size and construction of concrete dragons
- Dragons were constructed from concrete, steel, fencing, glass and brick with plastic arm tubes secured inside.

Solution

- Prior to removal a substantial police/barrier cordon had to be put in place due to presence of a large number of activists present at the camp.
- Traffic redirected on alternative routes
- Portable lighting systems erected
- Clear one side of the carriageway first to allow contra flow system to operate
- Protestor removal team utilising generators for power cutting equipment so battery failure not an issue.

Resources / equipment

Large number of officers for cordon and traffic control. Portable lighting system, Angle grinders, demolition hammers, cold cut saws, Cast cutters, hand tools, Protestor and officer PPE.

7.3.8 VEHICLES

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 1 and 2: (above)

This vehicle lock-on reflects another change in tactic adopted by activists. This vehicle (white Ford Escort van) was being driven towards the south gate at HMNB Clyde in an attempt to blockade the gate during in muster. However, the driver and passenger were known activists and were quickly stopped from progressing to target area. The female passenger attempted to exit the vehicle and lock-on to the device pictured above by crawling under the vehicle. The driver was chained to the steering wheel and seat. If the female had been successful this lock-on would have completely blockaded the entrance area.

Police Tactical Advice

Anti War protestors have driven vehicles with blacked out windows up to gate areas and locked themselves inside the vehicle after the passenger had alighted and thrown key away. They have D-locked themselves onto steering wheels and damaged vehicle locks. Once risk assessed and all attempts failed at communicating with those inside glass have failed removal systems should be used to gain entry and unlock doors.

The D-locks can be removed, persons arrested and the vehicle pushed out of the way through the use of 'Go Jacks'. Although not yet used by protest groups in the Clyde area some groups have used similar methods but contaminated the vehicle with excrement both inside and outside.

Of concern with this lock-on was that although seized by Police the vehicle was returned to the owner by the Fiscal. They attempted it again but were prevented. The vehicle was subsequently seized and not returned. Of note here is the use of experienced officers in the correct areas to identify known activists to prevent lock-on.

We have progressed by obtaining glass removal systems which also can include the use of the reciprocating saw.

Considerations

If successful the lock-on pictured in Picture 1 and 2 (on page 48) would have generated the following problems:

- Traffic congestion at confined area
- Removal of lock-on prior to vehicle being moved
- Steel and concrete constructions dictates the used of powerful loud equipment.
- Condition of protestor under vehicle.

Solutions

- Instigation of traffic management plan
- Risk assess removal process
- Ensure vehicle stable and remove driver
- Provision of appropriate PPE for officers and protestors
- Possibly reduce noise problem by using hydraulic cutting equipment to peel back roof to disperse noise.
- Deal with thin metal casing with angle grinder and use hammers/bolsters or demolition hammer to remove concrete and access lock-on.
- Use ‘Go Jacks’ to move vehicle out of way

Resources / Equipment

PPE

Nike 369, Rebar Cutter, angle grinder, vehicle chocks, Vimpex hydraulic cutter, Nike 100, Nike spreader, demo hammer and hand tools.

7.3.9 TRIPODS

Although not necessarily a lock-on per se, tripods have been very effective at blocking carriageways and gate areas. Constructed from logs or scaffold poles they are regularly upwards of 21 feet high. They are often hidden in undergrowth or are carried by vehicle near to target area. They may be hidden amongst a large group of people using shoulder straps to secure it as they carry it along. They can be erected with protestor(s) on them in around 20 seconds.

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture3

Picture 4

Picture 1: (on page 52)

This tripod was used to access a gate area. Officers had to foot the structure until the scaffold could be tied in to ensure it didn't collapse. New systems are in place to secure structure without recourse to using officers to foot it. It is important to remember that often other protestors that are present around the structure may be supporting it to prevent collapse. Prior to them being removed the tripod must be footed by officers or secured by other means. As the removal process can take up to 40 minutes the protestor may not be in a position to self release as their legs often go numb due to awkwardness of their position.

Pictures 2,3 and 4: on page 52)

Show the use of lock-on at the foot of tripod leg and persons super gluing hand to structure to delay removal

Police Tactical Comment

It should be remembered that tripods can be used as pairs or in an interlocking configuration which again creates more problems for removal. All should be carefully risk assessed prior to removal. If a consideration is to leave it in place this should be documented and recorded with a clear rationale. Other methods have been considered to remove protestors from tripods including scissor lifts and cherry pickers. However, the bespoke scaffold system has consistently proven itself to be the most flexible, reliable and capable system available. This is borne out by the fact it's been used to remove persons from the top of fences, buildings and gates etc. The DSG Scotland PRT has two tower systems one suitable for fences, gates and tripods and the other for taller structures including buildings up to 8 metres. If acquiring scaffold systems suitable vehicles to facilitate transport should be sought and appropriate racking fitted.

As tripods can be erected so quickly it makes it difficult to prevent them occurring. Experience shows that they tend to be carried to the nearest road from where they can place an effective protest. In some cases multiple roads have been targeted paired with pipe lock-on to stretch police resources. Tripods are unstable structures and as such only trained officers should remove protestors from them. It has been known for protestors to sit or stand on the apex, sit in netting below the apex or both. Recent developments include fellow protestors super gluing hands to tripods and locking on to the base of tripod legs. Protestors have been known to cover themselves in grease or oil to prevent officers gaining control. This is geared towards extending the time it takes to remove the tripod from the road and allow the free flow of traffic

Considerations

- Safety of traffic and protestor
- Instability of structure, risk of collapse
- Condition of protestor(s)
- Risk of protestor falling

Solution

- Possible road closure and instigation of traffic management plan
- Stabilise structure
- Police cordon around site
- Request for self release/warning
- Scaffold erection by trained officers
- Tie in scaffold into tripod to stabilise
- Secure protestor and remove
- Remove tripod
- Padded matting placed at bottom tripod to reduce if fall occurs

Resources / equipment

- Police cordon
- Bespoke scaffold system
- Fall arrest equipment/trained officers
- System to secure tripod legs

7.3.10 PAINT AND SUPERGLUE

The use of superglue and paint has increased dramatically during the last 12 months.

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3

Picture 4

Pictures 1 and 2: (on page 56)

This protest occurred the day after the big blockade when most police resources had been stood down. During in muster the protestors wearing white overalls) were seen by the two FIT trained officers on approach to the gate by means of an LDV van. As the vehicle stopped they alighted and quickly poured large tubs of water based paint over themselves. They tried to run through the gates believing the FIT officers wouldn't stop them as they covered with paint. However, they did and were subsequently covered in paint. As they lay on the ground the females attempted to interlock arms and superglue their hands.

Pictures 3 and 4: (on page 56)

These Spanish protestors dressed in paper overalls walked towards the gates carrying large paint tubs. As Police challenged them they immediately poured it over themselves. The Police cordon parted as the protestors headed unimpeded towards the open gate. The gate was quickly secured and the protestors lay on the road.

Police Tactical Advice

Initially groups of protestors would jump from vehicles near the gate or on roads. They would interlock arms and superglue their own hands together. If a large enough group carry out this activity it can make access to the hands difficult. We had anticipated this tactic and obtained debonder agent from manufacturers which can cost approx £100 a litre. The use of small amount of debonder paired with warm soapy water acts as an ideal method to break up the superglue and remove protestors. Care should be taken to ensure the risk of injury to protestor is minimised. Protestors have glued hands together in lock-on and when covered in paint. Water based paints as used in the examples above tend to hamper the glues ability to set.

Large vacuum type flasks as used to carry large amounts of food by the military are ideal for carrying sufficient amounts of warm water. It will remain warm for 24 hrs.

Although this section mainly talks about paint and superglue protestors have used UVPA glue which is very liquid and contaminates equipment and clothing. Soft and hardened tar have been utilised by groups, which again causes contamination to equipment and clothing.

Considerations

- Cordon failure if in place
- Traffic problems
- Removal of glue/paint
- Contamination of officer equipment, clothing and tools
- Contamination of police vehicles once arrested
- Presence of translator if protest announced/publicised
- Injury to protestor due to paint/glue

Solution

- Traffic management plan initiated
- Reinstate cordons if possible.
- Proactive policing to prevent initial protest action
- Check condition of protestor, confirm paint water based if possible
- Officers to carry waterproof disposable suits in vehicles (if PRT)
- Polythene sheeting to cover areas within police vehicle for prisoner transfer
- Cut affected paper suits and clothing away from protestors prior to search and placing in vehicle.
- If glue ensure PRT vehicles carry warm water and debonder agent
- Provide the required PPE including safety goggles/glasses.
- Attempt to remove glue from hands and paint from facial area (i.e. eyes) If possible get protestor to wash away paint themselves.

Resources / equipment

- Debonder
- Plenty warm water and paper towels
- PPE
- Waterproof disposable overall
- Polythene sheeting
- Wiss snips
- Plastic bin bags

7.3.11 DISGUISED LOCK-ON

To prevent a potential lock-on being identified before being deployed, various groups disguise lock-on devices by various methods. This allowed them to get close to the gate areas and roads. Often officers are unaware of the possibility of disguise and unwittingly aided protestors by stopping traffic to allow them to cross roads where, once in position they would uncover the lock-on and carry out their protest.

Picture 1:Angel Wings/Steel Saltire

Picture 2: Disguised CND lock-on

Picture 3: Angel Wing

Picture 4: CND Decoy

Picture 5: Teddy Bear

Picture 1 and 3: (on page 60 and 61)

This highlights a galvanised steel lock-on able to accommodate 4 protestors. It was carried on a protestors back supported by a back pack. The back pack was itself covered by a large cardboard box used to support a large set of angel wings spanning a width of approx. 14 feet. Due to its size police stopped traffic to allow him to cross the road with others. When at the centre of the road he dropped to the ground and locked onto the steel lock-on disguised within the wings. Officers present had been prompted that the angel wings were probably disguising a lock-on.

Police Tactical Advice

Protestors would test how close they could get to the gate areas by methods such as mime actors, role play scenes and dancers whereupon one would leave a marker on the road identifying the point at which police will act. Shortly afterwards protestors with a lock-on would emerge from the crowd or wooded area and head for the marker at the protest point near the gate or on the carriageway. Police in general were unaware of this tactic. Police should be briefed on not assisting protestors in moving items to the scene.

The galvanised steel Satire was well constructed and very heavy. The level of engineering involved suggests it was constructed by a skilled engineer with access to facilities and equipment. It is not something that could be carried over a lengthy period of time. To prevent such events we believe it is vital officers are given a detailed brief of possible protestor tactics.

Considerations

Protestor and officer safety was paramount as this occurred on the middle of the road in front of the main entrance during out muster from the base.

Solution

Police barriers were erected to allow officers to work safely. Generators powering the steel cutting equipment were placed within the barrier area allowing traffic to pass either side of the protest

Resources / equipment

Barrier system, Cold Cut Saw, generators/transformers, PPE, digital depth gauge and hand tools.

Picture 2 and 4: (on page 60 and 61)

The CND symbol lock-on was approximately 5 feet in diameter. Two were built by protestors one as a decoy and the other as lock-on. Protestors at the side of the road rolled the first CND symbol onto the road knowing it would distract the police. As police dealt with this, the protestors quickly rolled the second CND symbol onto the road. Protestors pushed their hands through the disguised holes on the side and locked onto the hidden box section in the middle. It was constructed from an outer shell of ply-wood covered with tape and white paint. The outer ring had expanding foam with a steel rope through it. The straight sections leading to the centre were constructed similarly but also contained expandable ducting and tar. The centre section contained a welded steel lock-on box which had two grinding discs on the top. These were put in place to blunt/damage police cutting equipment. The protestor tactic here was to distract the police with the first CND symbol knowing it would be suspected as a lock-on before using the disruption to put the real lock-on in place.

Police Tactical Advice

Decoy symbols suggest a great deal of planning or trial and error has gone into the construction of the CND Symbols. Protestors again possibly have access to a workshop to build devices. The use of grinding plates on the top of the lock box points to an increasingly common feature of recent lock-on devices where its components are designed to damage police equipment. However, this then has safety implications for the officers using the equipment. As part of the initial response to the lock-on protestors are asked whether they constructed the device and if they know if it contains anything which may harm the officers dealing with it. They are warned that if anything is found they will be charged with Culpable and Reckless conduct (Scotland only).

Considerations

The safety of protestors and other road users driving past the base were taken into account. As others had also chained themselves onto the lock-on these had to be released first. However, the process was delayed waiting on the arrival of sufficient Strathclyde Police to effect arrest once released by ourselves. Disguised nature of lock-on meant PRT officers had to make sample cuts into lock-on to establish construction and equipment needed.

Solution

Barriers were erected and traffic heading towards Garelochead was redirected. Test cuts were made to establish construction. Knowing they were likely to be locked on near the centre of device officers cut through centre arms identifying the steel lock box. Once through the centre arms it was established they were locked on with steel Karabiners and wrist straps. These were easily removed.

Resources / equipment

Protestors are now aware that utilising several layers of materials delays the removal process by increasing the amount and variety of equipment needed to remove each layer. Similarly, they know that by incorporating tar they will damage equipment, clothing, and blades. all of which contribute to the length of time taken to remove protestors. The test cut identified that the reciprocating saw and hand tools were needed.

Picture 6:
Tea with Tony

Picture 7:
Disguised as Food and Supplies

Picture 6 (above)

This reflects the use of themed protest days as a way to disguise lock-on devices. The protestor in the Tony Blair mask has the cake and his friend has the tea except the core and bottom of the urn had been removed and a bolt secured onto an inner tube upon which two would lock-on. They attempted to get in position by offering tea to the police, however quick police action ensured they failed to lock-on. In the background the person dressed as a medical person had a hospital trolley upon which he lay with a plaster cast on his arm. They attempted to put it in place during the distraction caused by 'Tony and the tea turn' Again the obvious lock-on was prevented.

Police Tactical Advice

During protest days where only a few dress in the theme of the event it may be an indicator that these persons may intend to carry out some protest action or create a distraction for others. As with all protests two FIT/EGT trained officers are included as part of the protestor removal team.

Considerations

This lock-on was attempted during the out muster and although they did not manage to block the road or gate. The positioning of police vehicles to remove them from the scene actually blocked the road for some time. As all protestors refused to walk four person lifts were required.

Solution

As good preventative action took place there was no requirement to use cutting equipment. Workers leaving were re directed to other exits.

Resources / equipment

As no lock-on devices were successful there was no reason to use cutting equipment. However, EGT officers ensured photographs were taken in order to identify how it was constructed.

Picture 7 (on page 66)

This shows how protestors attempted to disguise a plastic box containing expanding foam and plastic arm tube lock-on. It was brought to the protest area with other food supply containers, however, when this was opened it had towels and food stuffs over the top hiding the lock-on below. This was missed by those on the Police cordon but was identified by the protestor removal team who were on standby at the scene.

Police Tactical Advice

Although not a complex lock-on it shows the value of pro-active policing and having experienced PRT officers present. Similarly, using PRT officers to assist at the briefings would enhance understanding and make supervisory officers more aware of protestor team capabilities.

The problem for policing these protests is the difficulty in identifying devices prior to the lock-on being used. Almost anything can be used to disguise a lock-on and all manner of distractions and subterfuge will be utilised to counter police tactics. Where the protest group or individual believe they are likely to be identified prior to action they will often move the site of protest. This has happened on countless occasions leading to lock-on being put in place from between 50 yards to 1 mile from the main protest site. This may draw police resources including the PRT, away from a possible lock-on action.

Considerations

This was missed by those on the Police cordon but was identified by the protestor removal team who were on standby at the scene.

Solution

At this stage during Faslane 365 many of the Sergeants and Inspectors had acquired a good knowledge of protestor tactics. The use of experienced officers to help identify possible lock-on devices combined with accurate and up date briefings would help Bronze and Silver commanders.

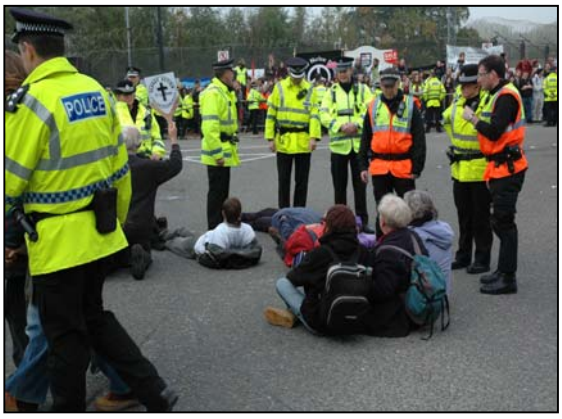
Resources / equipment

Cast cutter, PPE, reciprocating saw and hand tools would have been used to remove this lock-on.

SECTION 8: Other Issues

Due to the large number of police officers deployed during incidents at Faslane 365 difficulty was highlighted in identifying specific specialists.

Similarly the Bronze commander would encounter similar difficulties in identifying PRT officers. To counter this we can now be quickly identified by wearing the orange and yellow high visibility protective vests shown below:



The value of good police cordons cannot be over emphasised. The example above shows an incident whereby protestors tested the cordon to see how far they could push the police before they would act.

Shortly afterwards another male similarly dressed carried out a miming and placed a glove on the road as if it had some symbolic meaning. However, it really marked the point at which the protestors with lock-on devices could get to before police would act.

Other protest have taken place on fence lines, trees, on vehicles and gates.

8.1 GREENPEACE VESSEL ARCTIC SUNRISE

The use of Greenpeace vessel and crew of the Arctic Sunrise to try and enter the restricted and protected areas around the naval base using fast rigid inflatable boats generated much publicity with media on board and shore side recording all the police actions. The team and Clyde Marine Unit boarded the vessel and broke into the wheel house using MOE equipment to seize the vessel. Many logistical issues had to be solved using many assets to carry this out. Without access to Police launches, RIBS, suitably trained officers and Tug boats this may be a difficult operation for some forces to carry out.