

reasonably be expected to prejudice the resolution of subsequent terrorist incidents, or endanger released hostages. Given the potential sensitivity of such information, the media may be requested to withhold the names of members of the police assault teams, their permanent headquarters or special techniques. Further, it may be advisable under certain circumstances to withhold the names and addresses of hostages, lest they be put at risk or intimidated by confederates of the hostage-takers.

Police

Perimeters: The police should move as quickly as possible to secure a cordon around the site of a terrorist incident and secure the area. In light of past experience, police will have to consider establishing perimeters that neutralize the ability of the electronic media to use telephoto lenses and other technology to broadcast developments in or close to the site during the incident. This will usually involve moving reporters and members of the public far away from the area. Telephone lines into the site should be cut immediately and the police should devise, in advance, more effective ways of establishing communication links with terrorists and hostages at a terrorist incident.

Briefing Rooms: As soon as possible after an incident begins, police should establish a location close to the site, but outside the perimeter, where police officers will be available to brief the media. In view of past experience, whenever possible police should avoid "media scrums" to brief the press.

Police Media Relations Officer: The effectiveness of police-media relations during an incident will depend to a considerable extent on the police quickly designating a senior police officer with good communications skills, media relations training and the knowledge of what is going on at the incident to deal with the media. Whenever possible, this officer should be of requisite seniority to speak with the authority of the commanding officer at the site and, thereby, be able to designate information that can be released to the press and to identify any information that cannot, at least for the time being, be released to the public on the grounds that it could endanger life or prejudice the resolution of the incident.

After the Incident: The police should consider ways to provide the media with extensive post-incident briefings and, during the incident, explore with the media ways to give the media opportunities safely to take pictures of the site for release after the incident is over.