



Australian Government

POLFOR032 Conduct complex forensic crime and incident scene investigations

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
1	This unit was released in POL Police Training Package release 8.0

Application

This unit describes the skills required to perform a detailed investigation of complex crime/incident scenes. This will include planning for and managing complex crime/incident scene investigations, examining evidence, and reviewing the examination. This unit applies to specialist police staff as part of the forensic investigation of complex crime or incident scenes. The skills and knowledge described in this unit must be applied within the legislative, regulatory and policy environment in which they are carried out. Organisational policies and procedures must be consulted and adhered to, particularly those related to quality management, forensic investigations and work health and safety (WHS). Candidates undertaking this unit would be required to work autonomously and as part of a team. They would demonstrate the ability to critically analyse and evaluate crime scene related evidence to develop and test hypotheses. Candidates would demonstrate knowledge of sciences as they apply to crime scene investigation while performing specialised tasks across a broad range of unpredictable contexts.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Not applicable

Competency Field

Not applicable

Unit Sector

Not applicable

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
Elements describe the	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to

essential outcomes of the unit	demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Formulate a plan for complex crime/incident scene investigation	1.1 Establish type and nature of incident to determine the methodology and resource requirements to progress the investigation. 1.2 Conduct an initial risk and hazard assessment of the incident scene to identify mitigation strategies. 1.3 Analyse information to formulate a forensic investigation plan. 1.4 Assess the forensic investigation plan continually to adjust to developments within the incident scene and/or new information.
2. Manage complex crime/incident scene investigation	2.1 Identify and deploy human and physical resources for the forensic investigation. 2.2 Perform a methodical search to identify and locate physical evidence. 2.3 Determine the sequencing of evidence collection and the use of resources to maximise evidentiary value. 2.4 Identify and mitigate risks associated with cognitive bias and their impact on decision making. 2.5 Apply evidence collection techniques and sequencing to preserve evidence and prevent contamination. 2.6 Evaluate the evidence collection techniques to identify whether further evidence collection is required. 2.7 Consult stakeholder and confirm requirements throughout the forensic investigation. 2.8 Assess the incident continually to identify and manage potential risks and hazards.
3. Apply specialist forensic techniques	3.1 Assess evidence to determine whether specialist forensic techniques and evidence enhancement methods are required. 3.2 Select and apply evidence recording and enhancement methods to maximise evidentiary value. 3.3 Select and apply collection and preservation techniques to protect evidence and prevent loss or cross contamination. 3.4 Facilitate the analysis of evidence by specialists for interpretation/identification purposes.
4. Review examination critically	4.1 Review physical evidence and information gathered during initial forensic investigation to develop hypotheses. 4.2 Interpret physical evidence and available information to test the hypotheses, including the null. 4.3 Perform reconstructions and/or testing regimes to test hypotheses. 4.4 Analyse the outcomes of the examination to inform the current

	investigation. 4.5 Review forensic investigation and outcomes of examination to determine whether investigative needs have been met. 4.6 Liaise with stakeholders to determine whether further forensic investigation is required. 4.7 Assess the outcomes of the forensic investigation to reach a conclusion for recording and reporting purposes.
5. Undertake peer case work review	5.1 Review case work within a quality management system to validate results. 5.2 Review information in a case file to determine quality, accuracy, and completeness. 5.3 Form an independent opinion from reviewed information in isolation from the case file opinion. 5.4 Compare the independent opinion with the case findings for verification purposes. 5.5 Communicate feedback to the original author of the case file.
6. Evaluate and present results of scientific examinations	6.1 Review examination results for reliability and validity. 6.2 Evaluate significance of the evidence to form a conclusion or opinion within the context of the investigation. 6.3 Identify and assess further information on evidence to validate conclusions/opinions. 6.4 Collate information related to the forensic investigation for reporting purposes. 6.5 Prepare and present expert advice to inform stakeholders of outcomes of examinations and opinion evidence at Court.

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential to performance. Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed in the table below.

The ability to interpret messages and text, record observations and evidence, communicate with purpose to different communities and audiences, plan and schedule tasks according to estimated timeframes, continuously seek to learn through on-the-job observations, solve problems, work with others in a team, plan and organise activities and self-manage behaviour are core foundation skills relevant to the policing context.

Skill	Description
Learning	Reviews own practice in accordance with relevant legislation/policy.

Reading	Read and apply jurisdictional policies and procedures that relate to multi-agency operations, quality management systems, and forensic investigations. Read and analyse a range of written information on crime/investigation scene to develop a forensic investigation plan. Read and interpret data related to physical evidence in order to develop a hypothesis.
Writing	Develop a written forensic investigation plan and adjust it to address developments or new information. Write summaries of information gathered during the forensic investigation to develop initial interpretation. Compile complex reports which include conclusions and assessments of the outcomes of the forensic investigation.
Oral communication	Use oral communication strategies to negotiate stakeholder requirements throughout the forensic investigation. Liaise with internal and external agencies, services and specialists.
Numeracy	Apply scientific principles and mathematical concepts to interpret information and draw conclusions.

Range of Conditions

Not applicable

Unit Mapping Information

This unit replaces but is not equivalent to *POLFOR002 Conduct complex forensic crime and incident scene investigations*.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=98c3984e-2cf1-48a8-8ed1-85e4b92e7351>

Assessment Requirements for POLFOR032 Conduct complex forensic crime and incident scene investigations

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Performance Evidence

The candidate must provide evidence on at least one occasion that they have met the elements and performance criteria and have demonstrated the ability to:

- analyse information to establish type of incident, resources required, hazards and risks
- locate, record, and collect evidence
- liaise with internal and external agencies, services, and specialists
- identify the need for, and facilitate, specialist forensic analysis of evidence
- apply specialised forensic technology when investigating complex scene/incidents, including reconstructions, enhancement techniques and testing
- apply scientific principles to interpret information
- communicate with stakeholders and interpreting complex concepts for diverse audiences
- apply scientific methodology to support forensic analyses, logical thinking and problem solving within a crime/incident scene investigation
- develop and test hypotheses to critically develop conclusions/opinions
- evaluate and review examinations and their results
- communicate information that includes the description of a complex opinion/point of view/argument in an articulate and informative manner to a wide range of audiences
- justify conclusions/opinions and their rationale
- liaise with peers to review opinions of self and others.

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must provide demonstrated evidence that they have knowledge of:

- jurisdictional policies and procedures that relate to multi-agency operations, quality management systems, and forensic investigations
- jurisdictional quality management systems
- processes and procedures related to a multiple casualty incident (i.e., Disaster Victim Identification)
- jurisdictional standards related to forensic science and investigations
- jurisdictional legislation related to Coroners Acts, Workplace Health and Safety Acts, Police Acts and regulations, forensic procedures, and Criminal Investigation Acts

- application and limitations of forensic investigative techniques used when investigating complex crimes/incidents
- limitations, human cognitive factors, and boundaries of specialist knowledge
- current legislation, federal court guidelines, court procedures, evidentiary requirements pertaining to investigations, the legal provision of opinion evidence (including the authority and admissibility of expert evidence)
- range and strength of opinions available for the interpretation of results, awareness of impact on court.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment must occur in operational workplace situations or, where this is not available, in simulated situations that replicate workplace conditions. Assessors of this unit must satisfy relevant vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

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