

KENYA NATIONAL FOCAL POINT ON SMALL ARMS AND
LIGHT WEAPONS



Training of law enforcement officers on stockpile management and safe
custody of arms and record keeping

Report

12/1/2011

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ACRONYMS

AP	Administration Police
CFA	Central Firearms Bureau
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
DTFS	District Taskforce
FSO	Forces standing Orders
KNFP	Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons
KWS	Kenya Wild life Service
RECSA	Regional Centre for Small arms and Light Weapons
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

Executive summary

The proliferation and trafficking illicit SALW is one of the most serious security challenges in urban and rural areas in Kenya today. Small Arms have become a weapon of choice for criminals across the divide. Many are cases where licit weapon have been found carrying out criminal activities. This has posed a great threat to peace and security in the country.

The training targeted the law enforcement officers drawn from the urban set up areas specifically form the regular police and administrative police. This is because of the many incidences reported on the misuse of arms and lack of accountability on the arms by the law enforcement officers. The three targeted areas will be Central Province, Nairobi province and Central Rift province.

The training employed a number of methodologies which included lectures, presentations, group discussions and plenary sessions. The following topics were covered during the training; Security of Arms; Risk assessment and Mitigation; Stock pile management and Best Practices and SALW proliferation and Legal Instruments.

The key emerging issues from the discussions included; poor state of storage facilities, Laxities and negligence of the officers, lack of enough stockpiles, lack of basic record keeping supplies and lack of adequate training of personnel on proper stockpile management.

However it is imperative that the following recommendations should be taken into consideration.

1. KNFP to follow-up on ensuring that proper armories are constructed and where possible seek funding for the same course.
2. Training of senior officers on proper stockpile management and safe custody of arms
3. An assessment of the state of the armories in the police stations should be carried out to inform
4. Provision of basic record keeping materials should be enhanced

1.0 Introduction

The proliferation and trafficking illicit SALW is one of the most serious security challenges in urban and rural areas in Kenya today. Small Arms have become a weapon of choice for criminals across the divide. This has been a challenge to both national and human security.

KNFP strategic plan is based on the vision with the desire to have a peaceful, secure and prosperous society free of illicit SALW for sustainable development. In order achieve this one of its strategic objective is stockpile management. However, KNFP is committed to designing and implementation of activities which includes strong commitment on record keeping, stock-taking and collection and destruction of small arms and Light weapons.

The regional and international agreements to which Kenya is party contain explicit commitment relating to the effective management of stockpiles, including provision covering the record-keeping, safe storage, security, transport and destruction of small arms.

Effective management and security of stockpiles is important to ensure that weapons are not diverted for illicit purposes. However, in the recent past there has been increasing misuse of state owned firearms and ammunition in Kenya in the recent past. This has increased the already precarious situation Kenya is facing with the proliferation of illicit SALW among the Civilians. This has put both the human and the national security at stake.

The problem stems out of the mare laxity and carelessness of the part of the security personnel to take good custody of the state owned firearms and ammunitions and maintain proper records for easy traceability of firearms and ammunitions in case of misuse. The many cases of misuse arising from the above scenario have put the work of the security personnel at stake with rising lack of confidence for the security personnel. Some of the cases include the Siakago incidence where a drunken officer sprayed bullets to the public in a bar and killed over 5 people. This is also followed by the Kawangare incidence where the police officer killed his boss after an argument. The other cases also include cases where state owned fire arms have been used for criminal purposes and especially cattle rustling incidences.

This provided the need to train officers in charge of Armories, stations and camps on proper stockpile management, record keeping and safe custody of arms and ammunitions. This was to provide them with the basic skills and also to raise their awareness on the dangers of neglect of proper stockpile management. Also help them appreciate how proper management of state owned arms will reduce the proliferation of illicit SALW.

The main objective of the meeting was to strengthen the skills of the Law Enforcement Officers on arms control and management. The training targeted the law enforcement officers drawn from the urban set up areas specifically form the regular police and administrative police. This was because of the many incidences reported on the misuse of arms and lack of accountability of the law enforcement officers on government owned arms and ammunitions.

The training focused on systematic planning and programme management practices that support long-term implementation of Safe and Secure stock pile management for SALW and related ammunition and explosives.

1.1 The specific objectives of the meeting included;

- To Enhance participant's understanding of the proliferation of small arms issues and the existing legal instruments
- To help Participants understand the assessment of risks associated with the management of arms and how to mitigate the same.
- Promote participants understanding of the various best practices on stockpile management
- Provide participants with an opportunity to share experiences on best practices on stockpile management
- Participants understand proper record management procedures and deepen their knowledge on security of Arms and safe and secure custody of arms

2.0. Report of proceedings

2.1 Workshop preliminaries

The workshop was opened with a word of prayer from one of the participants. It was followed by self-introduction from all of the participants.

2.2 Opening remarks by Director KNFP-Mr. David Kimaiyo

The director welcomed all the participants to the workshop. He reminded the participants on the need to embrace this training as it will go on a long way in improving their work. He stressed on the need for proper stockpile management by all the security personnel. He urged the participants that their work is critical in ensuring that the proliferation of illicit SALW is reduced a great deal. The following are the main key issues pointed out by the director;

- Knowledge gained by the officers is important in improving delivery and controlling the misuse of state owned fire arms.
- The need to fast track the police reforms to enhance security. He also pointed out that those reforms starts with an individual to effect change in the entire police force. It all starts with reforming your mindset and attitudes the director said
- Emphasized on proper record keeping. He noted that the current policy on SALW has strict punitive measures especially if an officer is found to have committed an offense with a state owned fire arm under the influence of alcohol, it's not only him who will suffer the consequence but the issuing officer too.

2.3 Presentations and plenary discussions

a. Overview of KNFP

The session was facilitated by the director who gave the overview of KNFP's roles, responsibilities and mandates. The discussions majored on policy development on SALW. The director noted that the process of developing the policy is complete just awaiting cabinet approval. The process of reviewing the legislations that address the issues of Small arms is on progress too. However, there is need to overhaul the entire firearms act i.e. the 114 caps of Kenya. In his presentation the director noted that more punitive measures have been put in place for misuse of state owned arms and ammunitions. On recovery of illicit SALW, it was noted that all recovered illicit SALW are supposed to be taken to the officers in charge of police stations and all records should be kept and a signal should be submitted to vigilance and further to the central firearms bureau. The recovered arms should not stay in the armory more than one month and should be well documented. Participants were also informed that disarmament is a continuous exercise that the police should always spearhead. The need to address the demand and supply factors in addressing the proliferation of illicit SALW is critical. The following are the emerging issues from the discussions:-

- There is need to review the arms movement book to be in line with the draft policy.
- There is no central kind of registry covering all the police stations however difficulty in coordinating the issue of records. It was also noted that there different records between the police and the administration police.
- There have been cases of diversion of consignment of weapons of different destination which find itself in the country. The concern was what should be done in such a scenario.
- There was a general feeling that the police reforms are not forthcoming. The whole exercise lacks inclusivity and highly politicized.
- Human rights activists seem to forget that the police are also people and the need to support their work where applicable.
- Lack of political goodwill and enough resources to carry out the duties is a big problem
- There is need to revive the community policing program and the need to move further to the grassroots with the people. This is necessary to demystify the public perception of the police.

b. Risk Management

The session majored on how to reduce risks involved with handling of ammunitions, arms and explosives. Risk management refers to a systematic approach to understanding risk factors and how to reduce them. These are very dangerous instruments and therefore need to be handled with a lot of care. The participants were given skills on how to assess risks, management of risks and finally risk reductions methods based on both the UN and NATO models. Then reactions from the session included the following:-

- Most participants noted that most of the armories are in deplorable situations, hence there is no room to arrange the firearms, explosives and the ammunitions separately and safely.
- Most officers lack risk assessment skills and yet they are required to respond to different threats posed by the nature of their work.
- Lack of modern police facilities in a number of major police stations
- There is rise in use of detonators and homemade explosive thus the need to create more awareness on the public on the dangers of illicit SALW.

c. Stockpile management

The main aim of this session was to introduce the participants to what stockpile is all about and also widen their scope on proper stockpile management. Stockpile management basically focuses on the control and management, in all its aspects, of small arms and light weapons in state and non-state possession. It was also made clear to the participants that loss and theft of firearms should be reported immediately in a form of emergency signal. They were made aware of the fact that accountability is critical when it comes to stockpile management. It was also noted that loopholes in the laws are promoting the proliferation of SALW for example where one is bailable with only Ksh.1000 after being found in possession of illicit SALW.

d. Physical security and stockpile management of Arms, Ammunitions and explosives

The FSO (Forces Standard operations) provides a framework on how firearms should be securely stored and handled. The participants were taken through the major components of the FSO that address the custody and storage of SALW. The participants were also taken through the major threats related to custody arms, ammunitions and explosives which include the threat to local populations, financial value, active threats, attractiveness and vulnerability to theft, sabotage and attack. To address these threats requires that proper physical security and stockpile management of arms, ammunitions and explosives are taken seriously or else it will result in serious destructions. To achieve physical security of arms, ammunitions and explosives, there is need to ensure that all the risks have been assessed; restricted facilities are in place, special SALW security measures and inventory and control should be enhanced. The major issues that emerged out of the plenary discussions include the following;

- The police officers should ensure that they handle their firearms appropriately while on duty. In case of any shooting it should be done appropriate as per the guidelines of the FSO. There has been a lot of misuse in this area.
- Illicit trafficking of illicit SALW is on the rise because there is lack of detectives trained purposely to undertake this work.
- The police operations are still manual though technology has gone very far. Need to automate most of the operations such as records and use of arms detectors
- There is political harassment of the police a casing in point is where a policeman wanted to stop a car that seemed questionable and immediately they receive orders from their seniors that they should not search that car and should let it go. This is a loophole in the security sector that has hindered the fight against proliferation of illicit SALW.

e. Record keeping

- Record keeping is the key to controlling legal SALW and preventing them from becoming illegal. It is also the key to successful tracing of the origins of illegal SALW. Record keeping constitutes critically speaking the weakest link in the current operational initiatives, to achieve reduction and eradication of the illegal pool and criminal use of SALW. The importance of accurate and maintained records of all SALW is recognized in all protocols and agreements relevant to SALW control, on the international, Regional and sub-Regional level. The purpose of record keeping is to:-To identify and isolate a firearm against all others, To record the circumstances of possession and use, To identify the owner, either corporation, state or individual, Track firearm from import/manufacture to destruction/export, To identify if possible methods of diversion to the illicit market and Where appropriate to assist in the management of firearms. The participants were also informed that RECSA had introduced firearms marking which helps in identification of the firearms.

2.4 Group discussions and presentations

This session provided the participants with an opportunity to share their experiences on stockpile management in their various stations and camps. The session sought to establish the challenges faced by the officers on the ground as well as the ways they have used to overcome the challenges. The officers also were given the opportunity to give recommendations on the best way forward. The participants were put into 3 groups each with and the following were the proceedings. Appreciate what the government is doing to enhance proper stockpile management

On Best Practices the participants noted the following as some of the best practices

- I. Firearms movement register is properly maintained and updated (GP 87) in most of the stations.
- II. Daily arms movement book is updated on daily basis depending on the occurrence
- III. Chief force Armorer in the Kenya police has come up with database on fire arms held by Kenya Police
- IV. The Chief Force Armorer has an up to date records of firearms issued to divisions and command
- V. All firearms purchased are duly entered in register at CFA registry. The same case to those that are written off.
- VI. There is Monthly, Quarterly, and Annually returns which makes it easier for accountability.
- VII. Arms are being marked to ascertain which are for the Kenya police, AP, KWS, or Civilians
- VIII. Some of the armories are up to standard to enhance security of firearms and ammunitions. The armories are always under lock and key and are guarded 24 hrs.

- IX. Most of the officers entrusted to the armories are officers of high integrity and trustworthy. In case of loss of firearms it is reported and investigation commences.
- X. There is learning on the job on matters pertaining to firearms and ammunitions
- XI. When firearms are absolute or unserviceable, they are returned to the CFA for proper disposal and further course of action.

The participants too discussed some of the Challenges facing them concerning proper stockpile management. The following are some of the inputs;

- I. Shortage of armory space, most of the armories are small and old therefore the need to expand as the quantity of stockpiles has also increased as compared to when the armories were built.
- II. Recruitment should be proportional to the stockpile available
- III. Acquisition should be reviewed from time to time to enhance efficiency
- IV. Future arm movement register to include a column of time when the rifle was issued and when it was returned
- V. Standby generators and fire extinguishers should be put in place in case of emergency as these are not available now
- VI. Continuous sensitization and training to enhance skills and efficiency
- VII. Armories are not most of the time guarded because officers are sometimes deployed to other duties
- VIII. Armories are very crowded and lack space for storage of arms and ammunitions separately.
- IX. Laxities in terms of failing to counter check the serial numbers, allowing a big number of officers at the same time in the armory, delegating duties to constables without proper arrangement and lack of signing p139.

The following are some of the inputs given by the participants as way forward.

- 1. Motivation of Officers manning armories by being given special allowance as they work under risky condition.
- 2. Regular training of armorers to enhance their skills on different aspects of stockpile management.
- 3. VIP escorts should collect their arms from one central point like parliament for accountability purposes as this has been a big challenge to the armorers as they can't establish where the firearm was issued and the stations under which they are answerable to.
- 4. On stockpile security, some of the armories are located near report office where the public can see and even sometimes confuse with report office. This should be looked be corrected.

5. Introduction of computerized locks to secure the armory to prevent unauthorized access and promote safety of the stockpiles. Other operations of the armory should also be computerized.
6. Enhance provision of cleaning kits e.g. Rifle oil and daily arms movement register in some stations. Also ensure provision of GP87, GP88 and other basic record materials.
7. Seniors should avoid verbal instructions regarding issuance of arms. Senior officers should not be ordering the junior officers i.e. the armorer to issue a fire arms to another officer without proper authority.
8. Keys to the armories should not change hands without proper authority.
9. Penalty given to illegal possession of firearms should be stiff or more stringent
10. Perimeter wall should be put around the armories and should be guarded
11. Old stock of ammunitions should be destroyed and or removed from the armories for proper destruction by relevant authority.
12. Provide fire extinguishers around the armory and officers manning the armory should be provided with the relevant knowledge and skills on disaster risk reduction.
13. It has been discovered that most of the robberies are carried out by ex-police however before they are sacked investigations should be fully done and implications should be put into considerations.
14. New armories should be built or old ones expanded to provide enough space to avoid congestion and further reduce accidents
15. Quarterly meeting for follow-up reports and monitoring of progress on stockpile management.

3.0 Key emerging issues

From the discussions the following are the key emerging issues from the training

1. Armories

There are no standard armories and the ones available are very small as put by one of the officers during the training who termed his armory as the side of a corridor. The armories too lack storage facilities such as racks of arranging arms. Location of some of the armories is accessible to the public and other does not have a perimeter wall. This poses a huge security challenge to the arms.

2. Laxities of the officers

It emerged that most of the officers are not just very keen on the importance of their jobs. Some of the officers' in-charge do not bother to follow up on officers who have not returned back their arms, lack of supervision during cleaning, allowing a big number of officers in the armory at the same time and delegating duties to constables without proper arrangements are the key issues noted. This has been attributed to lack of knowledge and skills on proper stockpile management.

3. Acquisition of stockpile

It emerged that the stockpile is not proportional to the number of personnel. There is also a big number of expired ammunition that has not been disposed.

4. Lack of basic records supply and cleaning supplies

The basic record keeping materials such as the movement register is lacking in most of the stations. There is also lack of GP87, 88 and P139. The arms movement register should be reprinted to include returning officers signature and the receiving officer's signature. It should also include some of the firearms that are new in the marked and was not initially there. There is also lack of cleaning kits egg rifle oil.

5. Arms and ammunitions

There a number of unused arms that requires disposal in the armories. Some are because the CID is still having the investigations take long hence delaying the process of disposal. Also emerged that some of the armorers are just forwarding records that were forwarded earlier and records are not arranged according to the serial numbers as required. They have been doing it just for routine purposes.

6. personnel

Most of the in-charges are not trained armorers as they got on job training. Most lack basic skills on proper stockpile management skills hence making their work difficult and dangerous. There are claims that armorers are also assigned side duties which make it difficult for them to

concentrate on their work. Most of the officers too claimed to be facing harassment by their seniors who just issue instruction verbally putting the armorers work in jeopardy. During handing over or during emergencies and the armorer has to move, there is no appropriate procedures in place to follow. Mostly things are done based on official trust.

4.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

The law enforcement officer's capacity enhancement training was a very great opportunity to have all the officers highlight major challenges that face them in their line of duty. The fact that most armories do not meet the stipulated standards is shocking as this presents a major challenge in enhancing proper stockpile management. However, establishing the state of most armories will provide the mechanisms needed to improve on how the state owned weapons should be securely stored. The need to follow up on the government to ensure that these basic facilities are provided to enhance security and efficiency is very critical.

The need of officers to get periodic specialized training on stockpile management remains a very key area. This will greatly reduce the threat that is posed by the current situation that most stations even lack basic record keeping materials while officers are not aware with the threat posed by their actions in stockpile management.

It is imperative that appropriate measures should be put in place to enhance proper stockpile management to prevent licit weapons from being used for illicit purposes.

Recommendations

1. KNFP to support proper stockpile management in all its aspects.
2. Training of senior officers on proper stockpile management and safe custody of arms
3. An assessment of the state of the armories in the police stations should be carried out
4. Provision of basic record keeping materials should be enhanced

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