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## Here is the police's new 'terror center'

Minister of Justice Søren Pape today gave the police a new center for eight million kroner, which will ensure that the Danes can survive a terrorist attack, a hurricane or a storm surge. What the police call 'unannounced incidents'

By: [Jan Søggaard](#)

The terrorist Omar El-Hussein's attack in Copenhagen on 14 February 2015 revealed flaws in the police preparedness for 'unannounced incidents'.

Therefore, the politicians allocated millions of kroner to strengthen Denmark's terrorist preparedness, and today the National Police's new national operations center was inaugurated by Minister of Justice Søren Pape.

He pressed the start button that turned on the large 'Hiperwall', a large screen that covers the entire end wall of the NSIOC, which means National Situation and Operations Center.

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24 screens put together into a 'Hiperwall'. Here, the police can follow both in the police's closed systems and on social media. Photo: Mogens Flindt

It is located in the National Police building on Ejby Industrivej in Glostrup, where the staff of NSIOC can look out through the windows to the parking lot in front, while curious people can not look in and follow the big screen because the windows have mirrored glass on the outside.

Around the clock, the center is ready to put the entire emergency response in motion. Not only in a terrorist attack, but also in natural phenomena such as hurricanes and storm surges, where it is necessary to prioritize and coordinate the forces of the police and emergency services.

**- A quantum leap for the police**

- It is a tool that the police need so that they can take care of us all, said Minister of Justice Søren Pape.

- This is a quantum leap for the Danish police, says the minister.

There is a 'serious' terrorist threat against Denmark, says PET, and therefore one of the screens in NSIOC shows 'National Situation'. It appears that the level of preparedness is at 'increased preparedness', which is commonplace in Denmark at the moment due to the terrorist threat.



It has cost just under DKK 8 million to build NSIOC, which is staffed with four police officers around the clock on a daily basis:

A duty officer, an operator and two employees from the NEC, the National Investigation Center and the Communications Center. At the touch of a button, the center can communicate with both Interpol, Europol and other partners, national and international.

There are 10 workplaces in the center, each with four screens and telephones, so that NSIOC can quickly go from the daily operational readiness to full staffing.

The same building in Ejby also houses the NOST - the National Operational Staff - which in crisis situations must direct the police's efforts nationally. And even though the NOST staff sits in a separate room, they have direct contact with NSIOC and the same screens.

### **Two new centers on the way**

The Police Intelligence Service has already had its own 24-hour Situation and Operations Center, SIOC, which manages PET's efforts, and at the end of the year two regional centers at the East Jutland and Copenhagen Police are expected to be taken into use.

Thereafter, the police have four 24-hour manned centers in addition to the police's 12 duty centers and the three emergency centers 1-1-2.

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The National Police's anonymous office building in Ejby houses the new operations center. It is

not exactly a bunker, nor is the center built for war, but 'only' to deal with terrorist attacks, hurricanes, storm surges and similar major 'incidents'. Photo: Mogens Flindt.

Chief Police Inspector Søren Thomassen explains that NSIOC must support the police district or districts that are affected by a major task, and ensure that there is a national overview and that resources are distributed so that there is still a balance between Eastern and Western Denmark.

The NSIOC must ensure that the affected police district has the necessary personnel, equipment and weapons and has an overview of what resources can be drawn on.

**So many - or few - officers take care of us**

At 2 pm today, for example, it appeared from one of the screens on the wall at NSIOC that there were 1734 police officers on duty throughout Denmark, in Copenhagen 763, in North Zealand 179, on Funen 97 and 12 on Bornholm.

The center must make sure to distribute staff and patrol cars in the event of a sudden 'incident', so that parts of Denmark are not completely drained of police.

NSIOC can, for example, provide helicopter support and police dogs for large-scale searches.

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On a daily basis, the center is staffed around the clock with a duty manager, an operator and two employees from the national investigation and communication center, who are responsible for the contact to e.g. Europol and Interpol. Photo: Mogens Flindt

The large 'Hiperwall' in NSIOC consists of 24 TV screens mounted on a wall, but funnily enough, most of the screens are used for 'open sources' that anyone can check on their computer: Various news sites, Ritzau, Twitter, Google Maps and Flightradar just to name a few.

Chief Police Inspector Søren Thomassen says that it is also necessary for the police to follow on social media, for example:

- Information is spread really fast via social media, so we must also follow here, he says.

But police internal systems can also be thrown up on the wall when needed. For example, there are screens where the staff of the NSIOC can follow the police's automatic number plate scanners, which are located on important roads, among other things.

With almost four 24-hour manned situation and operation centers in Denmark, it could look as if the staffs in the centers will do double work and fall over each other's legs.

Chief Police Inspector Søren Thomassen rejects this, however: - PET must ensure that the intelligence picture is constantly updated and manage PET's operations, while we ensure that the efforts are coordinated nationally and the two regional centers are responsible for the operational efforts in the police districts in Eastern and Western Denmark. .

**1 of 2** National Police Chief Jens Henrik Højbjerg, Minister of Justice Søren Pape and Police Director Svend Larsen, National Police, at the inauguration of the operations center. Photo: Mogens Flindt

**2 of 2** Minister of Justice Søren Pape presses the button that inaugurates the new 'terror center' at the National Police. Photo: Mogens Flindt.

**The editors recommend**