

National Police Air Service Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2013



Lancashire Constabulary
police and communities together



Welcome to the review of October, November, December 2012 and January 2013 with regards to "NPAS23" (formerly ON99) the Lancashire contingent of the new National Police Air Service.

Happy New Year dear readers! As you can see from the header we have finally joined the National Police Air Service (NPAS). Officially we moved across at 7am Tuesday 29th January 2013. The North West area is the second region to join NPAS with a further four regions to join over the next 15 months.

As you can imagine we are adapting to new working practises and organisational changes, hence the delay in the newsletter as we settle down. Just as we got used to Liverpoolian, Mancunian and



Welsh accents in the regional set up we now have to turn our ears to Yorkshire!! I will be multi lingual by the time I retire. Seriously, the worries of change haven't materialised and we have quickly settled with our new Deployment and Flight control centre based in Yorkshire.

Many of you have expressed concerns about losing the local connection with the helicopter and the local issues we address. We will still

be able to maintain this. I will certainly continue with the newsletter and be a point of contact as ever for any questions or queries that come up. We still need to be aware of localised problems and operations. I will try to still hold the Pact meetings three times a year, so your continued support will be imperative if I am to be allowed to carry them

on. One of the objectives is for us to take NPAS to the public. I can't think of a better way than through our interaction with



Pact and the presentations that we carry out. Watch this space. Throughout October we attended 288 incidents. From this 18 arrests were made and from 30 missing person searches we located four people. Our hotspots numbered 40 and we completed 86 photographic tasks.

Throughout November we attended 236 incidents and from this we made 18 arrests. We had 31 missing person searches and located one person. Our hotspots numbered 36 and photographic tasks 81.

Throughout December we attended 189 incidents. From this we had 19 arrests and from 36 missing person searches we located one person. Our hotspots numbered 100 and we completed 52 photographic tasks.

Throughout January we attended 234 incidents. From this we made 31 arrests and from 39 missing person searches we found three people. Our photographic tasks numbered 88.

How to contact us :-



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OCTOBER

In Aintree, several burglaries had taken place and three offenders were disturbed by the police. One had been quickly detained, and a second whilst we were enroute. On scene we quickly located a male who at first looked like a concerned resident leaning against his front door but who on seeing the police bolted and started a merry dance through gardens and the estate. My colleague gave an excellent commentary to his whereabouts so much so that without a word, the bobbies on the ground responded to his every direction and the male was cornered and detained. I have never been on a job like that. This was a



brilliant effort from all involved and three very wanted males are now out of circulation for some while.

They say they come in three's! We completed three suicidal missing person searches one after the other in Southport, Blackpool and back to Southport, finding all three in varying states of distress.

Whilst on a training flight in Cumbria, the crew heard over the radios, that a fell runner had collapsed at Fairfield and the crew landed to assist. A doctor on scene asked that a defibrillator be collected from Ambleside which we did, at the same time taking a Mountain Rescue member up to the scene.

NOVEMBER

The onset of a full moon brought madness to the county in late November. I do believe a full moon affects people's behaviour!!!!!! Job one this night, a burglary at Morecambe where four miles away from the scene we could see this little figure running across the tip at Salt Ayre. The dog handler was talked in and the male detained. Job two and three one after the other in Accrington and Blackburn were almost identical. Two drunken sons involved in domestics with parents, ran off after causing damage. With a degree of concern for their welfare, we located one in a backyard asleep and the other in a hedge, who did



make a break for freedom but was quickly detained by officers, as commentary was maintained on his drunken running.

A Mercedes estate had failed to stop for several officers. We had turned out prior to the vehicle being lost. As we approached Elswick, we couldn't miss a set of headlights whizzing through the lanes, and on closer inspection were convinced this was the Mercedes in question. Commentary was maintained as traffic cars tried to position themselves to sting the vehicle. As the car entered Preston, and was confirmed as the wanted car it was stung and stopped and the male detained who had "borrowed" his mate's car.

DECEMBER

In Litherland a male wanted for burglary escaped an officer by jumping in the canal and swimming to the other side. As we approached the scene the male was quickly located 30 yards away in the bushes next to the tow path. Even though extremely cold there



was enough of a heat signature to locate him. In Burnley a stolen car was abandoned and two occupants made off. One was quickly caught but the second we located some way from the scene still running away. Patrols were talked in and his running was ended with a ride to the cells.

JANUARY

A pursuit on the M55 onto the M6 southbound stopped when the three occupants decamped from the car adjacent to Red Scar Industrial Estate. We followed the driver as they split up, on entering the fields. The driver made into the Industrial estate and patrols were quickly talked in and he was detained. On searching the field we located a second male up a tree and again talked the dog patrols in and he was arrested. We



couldn't locate the third. Excellent work by the two dog patrols managed to locate the third male completely hidden in a yew bush that they struggled to get him out of. The dogs also proved their worth when a search along the hard shoulder recovered all the drugs that had been thrown out prior to stopping. These three were wanted for burglary and assault as well as the drugs and pursuit. This was a first class effort by the Motorway, Traffic, the Dog handlers and us to contain this job.



And finally, just the turning up of the helicopter has the desired effect on occasions. We turned out to a disturbed break in Walton, Liverpool. As we arrived over head both offenders came out of separate gardens and gave themselves up to the Police containing the area, just because we were there. The Police Dog barking probably helped as

well!! With all the changes, I can't sort a Pact meeting out for February as originally planned. I have provisionally booked Thursday 4th April for the next meeting but I will have to get back to you to confirm this. Hopefully, as ever, I will have a guest speaker for you. In the meantime, you know where to find me and please as always don't hesitate to contact me if you feel I

can help with any issue or query you may have.

2012 has been an excellent year and I can't thank you all enough for the support you have given me. Thanks to the wonderful feedback you have provided at these meetings, it has kept local interests involved in Air Support. Long may it continue!

Regards, Mel Jeffrey. PC 6329
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