

National Police Air Service Newsletter Autumn 2013



Lancashire Constabulary

police and communities together

Welcome to the review of May, June, and July 2013 with regards to "NPAS23" (formerly ON99) the Lancashire contingent of the new National Police Air Service.



Summer has arrived!!
Beautiful!! Unless
you're sat in a

helicopter, in 40+ degree heat, in fire retardant overalls, helmet with no air conditioning!!! Does any one feel sorry for me yet?? No I didn't think so.

We are still growing as NPAS, with the South West joining the Service last month. The Midlands region will be joining us in



October and that will just leave the Metropolitan Police to join next year.

Thankfully normal service has been resumed, after our months of security detail at Preston Crown Court. We are now back to doing what we like best, catching bad guys and assisting our operational colleagues with all hosts of different jobs.

We have assisted in searches all around the North West, some for serious and most wanted

offenders in Cheshire and GMP which were well documented on the local and national news with successful outcomes. We were even deployed to a pursuit in South Yorkshire

but the driver obviously heard we were coming and stopped!! The beauty of our job is the variety. No two days are the same and I think that's why not only Air Support but policing as a whole is so appealing to people.

We work best as part of a team and many of the examples of the work I tell you about, is because everyone has done their bit. I have told you before our

perfect search routine is to work with a dog handler as they can search the areas that we can't, like sheds, heavily wooded areas etc.



All aspects of our work is to assist operational officers and this is extended across the whole of the Emergency Services. We are currently running familiarisation courses for Fire Officers so they can understand



our capabilities and to show what we can and can't do, as the eye in the sky and thermal imaging

camera can be a massive help at the scene of large fires. By understanding every ones role, a more efficient and professional result is achieved.

Throughout this summer we have been busy (especially in June) with over 620 incidents attended.

In a change to the old format the three months won't be broken down anymore but the arrests totals combined will be shown and how many missing people we have located. We have made 48 arrests and in this three month period located 14 missing persons. Our local and photographic tasking have increased to above average for this time of the

year and I would imagine with Operation Caretaker about to run for the summer school holidays, we will be on the up again for the next coming months

So here is a quick summary overleaf of our more notable jobs.

How to contact us:



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May

In appalling early morning weather, we managed to fight our way to Clayton Le Moors to assist with the search for a male who had made off from officers whilst they were trying to arrest him. He had jumped into the canal and made good his escape into an Industrial estate. He was located on the thermal image camera hiding up a tree. As we talked patrols in he made off again but realising he was cornered he climbed on to a coach roof where he



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remained for several hours until the cold got the better of him and he was talked down and taken into custody. Whilst in the Merseyside area, the crew picked up a disturbed burglary in Formby over the radio and self deployed as literally only seconds away. They quickly saw a female run from a drive way and on to the road. Patrols were directed to her and she was detained after a very violent struggle. The crew then started looking for her



male accomplice and found him lying in a nearby garden. He was detained by the dog patrol. Good result! ANPR (automatic number plate reader) is widely used across the whole of the country. We were deployed to look for a white Mitsubishi Warrior Pick up in the Fylde area of Lancashire which a marker on it. Why is it when you look out the window you see dozens of white Pickups? Any way after several checks we did locate the right Pickup using the Spotterscope and a stop was put in on the vehicle. It was all in order but just shows how quickly information is transmitted in this day and age.

June

We are still being lasered and this month there were two arrests made in Bootle and Skelmersdale.



A series of burglaries at Spar shops and alike all over the North West had been linked to a stolen vehicle with Merseyside connections. The car was spotted, pursued and lost in Penwortham. We had lifted for the pursuit when informed that the car had been abandoned on the Golf course. With the help of a local farmer we quickly located two males fleeing down the river bank some distance from the car and police officers. Some creative flying by our pilot cut their path off, too which they raised their hands in surrender and

turned round and made back to the pursuing officers. This was a great result and cleared up a number of burglaries/robberies around the North West. It's not always the spotting and catching that is satisfying. This job in Southport had three make off from a crashed stolen car. As the helicopter arrived on scene it was thought that they had made into fields. On starting the search a trail of footprints could clearly be seen across the fields and into a little copse of dense woods. This info was relayed and officers contained the woods. The aircraft then made a tactical withdrawal from the area. The offenders, thinking the Police had



gone, then walked out of the woods into the arms of the dog handler and his colleagues. So we caught them without actually seeing them! Merseyside are running a big Operation to combat motorcycle nuisance. You may have seen coverage on the local news. It really is a big problem not only in Merseyside but Lancashire as well. The use of the helicopter makes it a safer situation to deal with. We can follow, record and pass information to officers to save any pursuits. Remember the cameras on our helicopters are so good that we will identify offenders from the footage. Oh yes the bike gets seized as well.

July

Misper month! In very rural central Lancashire, we assisted with the locating of a suicidal misper. When located he was in serious need of urgent care so the decision was made to land in the field and then convey him to Hospital. This meant that Colin one of our observers was left in the field with all the kit from the back of the aircraft. Long walk home. In contrast to another misper in Penwortham, who had contacted the Ambulance service asking them to find him. Unfortunately they couldn't find him so we were asked to assist. A mile from where he said he was, we found him lying in the middle of a



football field down by the river, waving frantically for help. The ambulance were informed of his location. And finally, how is this for cheeky! In Ormskirk, three decamped from a stolen car. As we were making two were detained running across fields but the third was still outstanding. A householder then disturbed a male in his garden and gave chase causing the lad to loose his jacket and shoes before making good his escape through a stream. He then has knocked on a door, a street away and asked the householder to call him a taxi as he said



he'd been kidnapped in Liverpool, beaten and dumped in Ormskirk with no shoes.

They did and thanking them he left in a taxi. Due to all the police activity they did ring this in but although he was traced in a taxi travelling to Formby, he managed to escape.

And finally, we have on a couple of occasions this month, been called to assist with escapees from Kirkham Open prison. Always found that amusing for some reason, "open" prison. Any way I digress, and on each occasion they were rounded up and returned to whence they came.

Owing to retirements and shift covers in September, the PACT meeting will have to be put back to 10am WEDNESDAY 9th October 2013 at The Black Horse Hotel, Gregson Lane, Hoghton, Nr Preston. PR5 0ED. I am still hopeful



I will have a guest speaker from the Air Ambulance. Keep the information coming and as always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you feel we can help with any issue or query you may have. If you are interested in

attending the Pact meeting just drop me a line. We are also now on Twitter, @NPAS_Warton, happy tweeting! Regards, Mel Jeffrey, PC 6329 ASU 01772855580 Melanie.Jeffrey@lancashire.pnn.police.uk