

National Police Air Service

Newsletter Spring/Summer 2013



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



NPAS is still growing with the North East contingent now officially part of The National Police Air Service. This is great news for the North West in that our borders to the east now have flexible aircraft cover, so in theory the North West has another four aircraft that are deployable to this area because of the borderless tasking approach.

It is no secret especially if you live in Preston that there is a high profile trial in progress at Preston Crown Court. We have

been heavily involved in the security of all aspects of this trial. In fact thank goodness we are the National Police Air service, as it has meant air cover hasn't been compromised in Lancashire whilst we've been dedicated to this trial. Other aircraft have taken up the slack.

It has meant we have had to use different skills with surveillance and search at the forefront of our work and use of new technology in digital down-link that we haven't used before. Also all four members of the North West group have got to know each other a lot more and that I think has improved the working relationship throughout the region.



So if you have been affected by the daily convoys and disruption I can only say it has been a vital operation and hopefully will be

Lancashire Constabulary

police and communities together

over soon. I can apologise for the noise but not the traffic congestion!!!!

Throughout February we attended 197 incidents.



From this 16 arrests were made and from 20 missing person searches we located two people. Our hotspots numbered 32 and we completed 47 photographic tasks.

Throughout March we attended 186 incidents and from this we made 12 arrests. We had 18 missing person searches and located two. Our hotspots numbered 24 and photographic tasks 77.

Throughout April we attended 174 incidents. From this we had 10 arrests and from 20 missing person searches we located three people. Our hotspots numbered 20 and we completed 58 photographic tasks.

How to contact us:



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February



In Formby, following a routine stop check, four lads made off from officers into woods. On searching the boot of the car, a rifle and pistol were located. As we arrived on scene all four broke cover. One ran into the arms of an officer, one

decided to give up "because the helicopter's here" and we located the third hiding in bushes and talked patrols in to detain him. The fourth got away. Curses!!!!

In Crawshawbooth, an 87yr old male with dementia disappeared from a nursing home. After extensive searching we located a collapsed male in a secluded area just off the main road. Patrols were quickly directed to the male and taken to hospital.

In Haydock, a female misper, before passing out, contacted police to say she was in Lyme Park, had taken an overdose, and fallen over and banged her head. She was quickly located by us and with use of the nightsun we managed to get police and ambulance to her.



In Blackpool an RTC (accident) occurred on Preston New Road where the driver made off from the scene believed drunk. It didn't take us long to identify the offender as the staggering and falling over was a dead give away as he meandered towards Kirkham.

April

In Stockport, we were looking for a high risk misper who as we arrived on scene was sighted in a silver VW Golf. With the use of the spotterscope we were able to locate and verify the Golf by registration number and talk patrols into intercepting the car. The male was taken to hospital.

In Hesketh Bank, we assisted with a search for a suicidal male who had left his home armed with a knife.

After extensive searches of the Ribble estuary we located the male slumped against a stile out at Hundred End Gutter. The crew



landed and provided first aid to the male after first searching him and removing the knife from his possession. Patrols remained with him until police and paramedics were in attendance.

In Great Harwood we assisted officers with dispersing a group of 40 strong involved in a violent disturbance.

With use of the nightsun and using the cameras we were able to provide details of groups moving away and ensure there were no counter groups forming to attack police officers trying to restore the



Although the next PACT meeting should be at the end of July, the general consensus is that I should put it back until after the summer breaks. Provisionally the next meeting is pencilled in for 10am Thursday 5th September

2013, at The Black Horse Hotel, Gregson Lane, Hoghton. Hopefully I will have someone from the Air Ambulance as my guest speaker. 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

March

On the M65 eastbound a stolen Landrover was being pursued. Overhead at junction 8 as the Landrover moved onto the Accrington Easterly Bypass. It then went off road until stopped by a dead end where the driver after initially trying to run, surrendered to Police.



In Bamber Bridge, a pursuit of a stolen vehicle came to a halt on Dean Street, three males made off and ran into a housing estate. Police indicated where last seen and we quickly located the three running through gardens.

A foot chase ensued and we provided commentary as they worked their way through the Industrial Estate and gardens until detained on Fourfields.

In West Lancashire, a vehicle was seen in suspicious circumstances at Tarlton, but lost shortly after. When checked a male wanted for murder was believed to be onboard. We lifted and the vehicle was reported at speed through Up Holland. We locate the vehicle and one male decamps from the car which then raced away at speed. We followed the male on foot for some distance until patrols were directed to the male hiding in gardens.



peace.

And finally we provided Air Support to the three day Grand National meeting, assisting with security, crowd control and that eye in the sky for the officers in charge. My favourite job of the year! Only bettered by being there in person, in my finery, in a box, sipping champagne of course!!

As far as I was concerned I was being paid for the best seat in the house.



have. If you are interested in attending the Pact meeting just drop me a line.

Regards,

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