

# National Police Air Service Newsletter Winter 2013



## Lancashire Constabulary

police and communities together

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



Summer has gone!! Gales and torrential rain as I type!! Not

pleasant but not a barrier to us flying around. The only problem we have with the wind is, at take-off. We can't lift if the wind is in excess of 50 knts (57 mph approx). It's all to do with the blades and rotor limitations which could be caught in a gust and either bounce or sag which could result in them snapping off or hitting the tail (worse-case scenario!!). Any questions to the pilot please!!!



NPAS is nearly complete. The Midlands joined NPAS at the beginning of October and that now only leaves the Metropolitan Police to join sometime next year.

One of our longest serving officers, who many of you will

know, Richard Stanier retired at the beginning of September. We all wish Richard every success in his new job. That leads me on to our new observer who is currently in training, PC Gary Williams. Gary joins us from Blackpool Police and is four weeks into the new and intense course that NPAS have introduced. All going to plan and Gary is doing well and should be flying as part of the crew fully qualified in December, bringing some much needed young blood to the unit. Gary used to work on the lifeboats so guess who is being lined up as my next speaker at the Pact meeting!!

Throughout this quarter we have been busy (especially in August, 269 incidents) with over 620 incidents attended.

We have made 75 arrests (well above average) and in this three month period located nine missing persons but that was from over 126 searches, (much higher than average). Our photographic tasking is well over 100 tasks.

Operation Caretaker (although not recorded for NPAS stats) was still a success in Lancashire this year. Schools

were checked enroute back to base on all deployments in accordance with our poster campaign. You all know how it works and how successful our poster campaigns can be.



So here is a quick summary of our more notable jobs:

### August

Despite lots of pursuits, I have

only chosen one to tell you about in August. I had the pleasure of working



PC Richard Stanier

with Richard on his last night shift and were involved in a pursuit of a Mondeo which had been up to no good all day. The car was followed along the M55 onto the M6 south-bound where we picked up the car. Three traffic cars were in place to try and stop the car but the driver had other ideas and in his attempt to ram one of the police cars he lost control and left the motorway, flipping several times on the embankment.

Despite this the three occupants were uninjured and tried to run off but were all quickly detained. Cont ...

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## August cont.

In the Longridge area, we were asked to assist with a misper search for an elderly dog walker who had failed to return home. We located the misper collapsed on a farm track and were able to get medical assistance to them without further delay. In Lancaster we were asked to assist with a report of a male in trouble on the River Lune. The male had



capsized from his canoe and had been unable to get in to the bank. We located the male drifting down the mid-stream of the river and we were able to direct the in shore lifeboat to his location. Thankfully this male was wearing a lifejacket and was recovered cold but alive from the water.



## September



I think you all will have seen the large fire at St Marys School in Leyland on the local and national news. We were able to assist with our thermal camera and downlink the pictures

to the Fire and Rescue command vehicle so they could see the spread and potential hotspots to direct their resources.

We headed off to Cumbria to complete two misper searches in one day. The first was up near Workington and we quickly cleared vast rural areas without locating anyone. The second, again you may have seen on the news, was a search around Walney Island for a male who was believed to have fallen into the water there. This took us a couple of painstaking hours of low level searching and meant

that we had to land at Walney Airfield to refuel. This is something we don't get to do very often but just wish it had been under different circumstances.

Unfortunately we didn't locate him. The water gave him up nearly a week later.



In Liverpool, a driver drew attention to himself by panicking on seeing a police car. A pursuit ensued around the city centre. We were airborne in Liverpool and soon overhead. A good commentary was given on a high speed follow, with the driver showing no regard for other road users, ramming cars stopped at traffic lights. The car eventually went down a dead end and after a short foot chase the driver was detained. Good arrest!

## October

In Skelmersdale, Mischief night caused havoc with the local youth thinking it was a good idea to brick Police vehicles, barricade roads and set fire to cars and debris. This was a major resource intensive operation with us quite literally being the



eye in the sky for movement around the estate. We didn't escape either as we were lasered throughout. Hopefully a lot of arrests will follow.

A pursuit that started in Bamber Bridge was abandoned as it headed into Preston due to the manner of driving of the pursued car. The dog handler who had positioned himself with Stinger



anticipating the direction of the pursuit, saw the vehicle and was able to sting the car which was then was lost in side streets. We searched the area for the car, located it on a side street and patrols flooded the area and the driver was arrested a short distance away.

And finally a robbery in Accrington had us locating the get-away car on the M62. We followed the car providing commentary along the M62 and onto the M6 whilst firearms officers were put in position to stop the car. The car was safely stopped on the M6 at Crewe and two were arrested. That stretched the fuel a bit!!



The last Pact meeting was a great success and I thank everyone for attending and supporting us. My thanks also goes to Mark Evans from The North West Air Ambulance for his marvellous insight to the Air Ambulances work. It really was well received. The next date for the next Pact meeting is **10am Thursday 6th February 2014** at The Black Horse, Gregson Lane, Hoghton, Nr. Preston. PR5 0ED. 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.

And although it pains me to say it in November, I hope you have a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful and prosperous New Year. See you in February.

Regards  
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