

Lancashire Constabulary Air Support Unit

Newsletter

Welcome to the review of May and June 2010 with regards to “ON99” the Lancashire Police Helicopter.

As I said in the last letter, the start to 2010 proved hectic and challenging due to the wintery conditions we were experiencing. Then we were dominated by a volcano and acts of god!

The volcanic ash goes away and we are left to deal with acts of man, which regrettably fill our days and with tragic consequences as seen in Cumbria at the beginning of June.

I think I have explained before, that we are Cumbria Air support, and we were needed without a doubt during the 2nd June, throughout Derrick Bird's rampage. I wasn't working that day but the crew that were, excelled themselves in their efforts just to get there as the weather was so awful and subsequently in dealing with the aftermath of the shootings and reporting further casualty's before moving on to try and locate this man. Harrowing times for everyone involved civilian and police alike.

On a lighter note, congratulations are in order as we have 2 newly qualified Air Observers, with both PC Norton and PC Ware passing their courses with flying colours!! I know I've used that pun before but I like it!! Both have already been in the thick of things with a job I'll mention later.

Throughout May, we have attended 256 incidents. From this 22 arrests were made and from misper searches we located 7 missing persons. Our Hotspots numbered 39 and we completed 40 photographic tasks.

Throughout June, we attended 227 incidents and from this, 31 arrests were made and we located 6 mispers. Our hotspots numbered 15 and photographic tasks 28.

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

May

We have had several good results recently, using the tracker system on board which locates signals from a device attached to cars and plant that can be activated if stolen. For example, in Stalmine we located a stolen Discovery on The Ellitson Arms car park after a short search and after a longer protracted search we located a digger, stolen in the south of England, in a remote location outside Skelmersdale.

In Preston whilst we were transiting back from a job at Blackburn, we picked up a job at Preston. A male had made off from a domestic after causing damage. We

searched the area and out side the search area located a male hiding in a small field. Officers were talked in to this male and it was in fact the lad we were looking for.

In Clayton le Moors, we were searching for a male suspected of rape. As we started searching fields, the offender actually rang the police to say he was up a tree directly underneath the helicopter as he thought we had seen him and he thought he'd get brownie points if he handed himself in.

June

As promised, our new boys were initiated with a challenging job following a serious assault. A pursuit ensued, incorporating the M65, M6, Preston and ended in Longton, where the driver decamped and fled into a house. Patrols were directed to the house and the male was arrested. This was an excellent result for the boys on one of their first proper jobs.

In Colne following a burglary at a warehouse, 3 were located on the roof of the warehouse which allowed the patrols to contain the building. When the fire and rescue were on scene we illuminated them in the night sun and they were persuaded to use the turn table ladder to come down, where they were all arrested.

And finally, we were involved in a long protracted pursuit where a suicidal male drove around Blackpool refusing to stop, threatening to slit his throat if we stopped him. The helicopter was able to follow this male so police cars weren't directly behind him. In spite of this he still drove the wrong way up the M55 and only stopped when he entered Hounds Hill Multistorey car park where he was persuaded by the Dog patrol to give up and be helped.

As always, thank you for your continuing support and please don't hesitate to contact me if you feel we can help with any issue or query you may have or are interested in attending or joining the Pact panel.

Regards

Mel Jeffrey
PC6329
ASU
01772855580

Melanie.Jeffrey@lancashire.pnn.police.uk