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**NORTHUMBRIA POLICE  
CHIEF CONSTABLE'S OFFICE**

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**POLICE AUTHORITY**

**Wednesday 28 January 2004**

**Report of the Chief Constable**

*NON EXEMPT*

## **1      LETTERS OF APPRECIATION**

In the quarter ended 31 December 2003, 366 letters were received expressing appreciation for assistance given by members of the force, compared to 328 in the same period of the previous year.

<i>Category</i>	<i>01.10.03 to 31.12.03</i>	<i>01.10.02 to 31.12.02</i>
From relatives for assistance following a bereavement	26	15
From motorists	34	28
From persons injured in criminal activities	22	17
For assistance concerning juveniles	8	12
For assistance in the organisation of public events	18	18
For assistance involving security	14	8
In connection with missing persons	8	7
In connection with the handling of offenders	10	5
For public lectures and demonstrations	27	11
In connection with the rescue of persons	4	5
Assistance to other official departments	60	54
For charitable donations	20	22
Miscellaneous	115	126
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>366</u></b>	<b><u>328</u></b>

## **2 SECONDMENTS**

Approval is sought for the following Home Office funded secondment which is subject to the provisions of the Police Act 1996, Section 97, Part 3, Paragraphs A and B.

### ***National Crime Squad***

Detective Constable 3214 K McBride - extension until 1 April 2007 of an existing secondment which began 31 March 1999 and was due to end on 31 March 2004.

## **3 APPOINTMENT OF COMMANDANT, SPECIAL CONSTABULARY**

With effect from 5 January 2004, Mr S Blackett (Specials Area Manager) was appointed Commandant to the Special Constabulary.

## **4 NORTH EAST AIR SUPPORT UNIT**

### **PROGRESS REPORT -OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2003**

During the period October to December 2003, the North East Air Support Unit responded to 1509 incidents from which there were 185 arrests.

There were 29 occasions when air support was denied.

A selection of noteworthy incidents is attached at Appendix 'A'.

**North East Air Support Unit**

**Summary of Noteworthy Incidents**

**Total Flying Hours**

**Helicopter Flying Hours April to December 2003**

<u>Total Flying Hours</u>	<u>Budget</u>
2003 - 1071	962
2002 - 936	966
2001 - 1009	962

**Fixed Wing Aircraft Flying Hours April to December 2003**

<u>Total Flying Hours</u>	<u>Budget</u>
2003 - 928	756
2002 - 696	759
2001 - 713	756

<b>Date</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Time of Task</b>	<b>Result</b>
02/10/03	02:35	The aeroplane attended a vehicle pursuit in the Hartlepool area.	25 mins	The pursuit was abandoned for safety reasons. The aeroplane crew kept the vehicle under observation until it stopped then directed officers to the vehicles location. The driver, a vulnerable person, was arrested for his own safety.
03/10/03	13:20	The aeroplane attended a stolen vehicle Tracker alarm in Hamsterley, Durham.	55 mins	The crew carried out a search of the area and located stolen plant equipment. Officers were directed and property valued at £20,000 was recovered.
15/10/03	23:20	The helicopter carried out a search for a male responsible for a burglary at a business premises in Newcastle.	25 mins	The crew carried out a search using the thermal image camera and located a heat source within the compound of the premises. The crew illuminated the area using the searchlight and officers were able to locate and arrest him. He was later charged with burglary.
18/10/03	04:20	The helicopter carried out a search of the banks of the River Tyne in Newcastle for a vulnerable missing person.	15 mins	The crew carried out a search and located the missing man on the river side. Officers were directed and he was taken to safety.
28/10/03	05:20	The helicopter assisted with a search for a male responsible for vehicle related crimes in the North Shields area.	30 mins	The crew conducted a search using the thermal image camera and located the male hiding in undergrowth. Officers were directed to his location and he was arrested and charged with seven offences of theft and attempted theft from a motor vehicle.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Time of Task</b>	<b>Result</b>
05/11/03	05:00	The helicopter carried out a search in Middlesbrough for an armed man believed responsible for causing death by dangerous driving	75 mins	The crew carried out an extensive search of a housing estate in conjunction with armed officers. The crew directed the officers to search under a van parked on the estate where they found and arrested the suspect.
15/11/03	04:15	The aeroplane assisted with a search around the Leven viaduct in Yarm for a vulnerable missing person.	25 mins	Using the thermal image camera the crew located a heat source on the outside of the railings on the viaduct. Officers were directed and the man was taken to safety.
16/11/03	22:00	The helicopter attended the scene of a serious road traffic collision on the A1 in Durham.	50 mins	On scene the crew used the search light to illuminate the scene for rescue workers. The aircraft was then landed at the scene and a seriously injured casualty was air lifted to hospital in Middlesbrough.
21/11/03	21:35	The aeroplane assisted with a search for a vulnerable missing person in Darlington.	15 mins	The crew carried out a search using the thermal image camera and located a heat source in South Park. Officers and paramedics were directed to the man who was unconscious and he was taken to hospital.
23/11/03	16:40	The helicopter assisted armed officers at a firearms incident in the Hexham area.	1 hr 55 min	On arrival the crew located two suspects. One got into a vehicle and drove off. The crew kept the vehicle and the remaining suspect under observation and directed officers to the respective locations. Both were arrested. One was later charged with firearms offences.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Incident</b>	<b>Time of Task</b>	<b>Result</b>
06/12/03	21:00	The helicopter deployed to a vehicle pursuit in Newcastle.	35 mins	The vehicle crashed and the occupants ran from the scene. On arrival the crew carried out a search using the thermal image camera. One suspect was located hiding in some bushes. The second was located under a skip. Officers were directed and the two men were arrested.
10/12/03	19:40	The helicopter was deployed following a reported break-in at a health centre in the Ponteland area.	30 mins	The crew located three people on the roof of the premises. Officers were informed and all three were arrested for criminal damage.
23/12/03	21:00	The aeroplane was deployed to the Middlesbrough area following several reports of vehicle thefts.	35 mins	The crew carried out a search in the area and found a stolen vehicle with three suspects in a field. Officers were directed to the location. They were all arrested and a stolen vehicle was recovered.
24/12/03	03:55	The aeroplane carried out a search in Stockton for two people responsible for an armed robbery.	30 mins	The crew carried out a search using the thermal image camera and located two suspects. Officers were directed to the location and the suspects were arrested and later charged.
26/12/03	16:35	The helicopter was deployed to search for three females who were believed to have been attacked and injured in the Blyth area.	40 mins	A search was carried out and the crew located the three females. Officers were directed and all three were taken to hospital.