
**NORTHUMBRIA POLICE
CHIEF CONSTABLE'S OFFICE**



POLICE AUTHORITY

Wednesday 28 April 2004

Report of the Chief Constable

NON EXEMPT

1 LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

In the quarter ended 31 March 2004, 257 letters were received expressing appreciation for assistance given by members of the force, compared to 251 in the same period of the previous year.

<i>Category</i>	<i>01.01.04 to 31.03.04</i>	<i>01.01.03 to 31.03.03</i>
From relatives for assistance following a bereavement	12	23
From motorists	30	20
From persons injured in criminal activities	10	9
For assistance concerning juveniles	6	12
For assistance in the organisation of public events	14	12
For assistance involving security	12	16
In connection with missing persons	2	3
In connection with the handling of offenders	8	8
For public lectures and demonstrations	5	10
In connection with the rescue of persons	2	4
Assistance to other official departments	37	41
For charitable donations	11	7
Miscellaneous	108	86
Total:	<u>257</u>	<u>251</u>

2 NORTH EAST AIR SUPPORT UNIT

PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO MARCH 2004

During the period January to March 2004, the North East Air Support Unit responded to 1507 incidents from which there were 228 arrests.

There were 31 occasions when air support was denied.

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

3 SECONDMENTS

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

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, International Policing Unit - Bosnia-Herzegovina

Insp 7939 P Reeve - 1 year secondment commencing 26 April 2004.

RECOMMENDATION

That the secondment detailed above be approved.

North East Air Support Unit

Summary of Noteworthy Incidents

Helicopter Flying Hours April 2003 to March 2004

<u>Total Flying Hours</u>	<u>Budget</u>
2003/04 - 1397	1300
2002/03 - 1228	1300
2001/02 - 1305	1300

Fixed Wing Aircraft Flying Hours April 2003 to March 2004

<u>Total Flying Hours</u>	<u>Budget</u>
2003/04 - 1194	1000
2002/03 - 950	1000
2001/02 - 933	1000

Date	Hours	Incident	Time of Task	Result
17/01/04	21:50	The aeroplane attended a vehicle pursuit in the Stockton area.	20 mins	The aeroplane crew, using the thermal imager, tracked three suspects who abandoned a vehicle and directed officers to their location, where they were arrested for aggravated vehicle taking.
07/02/04	15:30	The helicopter was called to assist area officers dealing with a tragic incident on the coast at Seaton Sluice when a girl was drowned in the sea.	35 mins	The crew were able to assist in quickly recovering a casualty and to verify that four persons involved in the incident were rescued by emergency services and a member of the public.
14/02/04	16:50	The helicopter was called to assist police and other emergency services at an isolated area near Alnwick where a rider had been thrown from her horse and injured.	30 mins	The casualty was airlifted to Wansbeck Hospital.
22/02/04	17:00	The helicopter was requested to assist officers in Derwentside who were investigating a case of abduction.	1hr	A vehicle used by a suspect was spotted by the crew who relayed information and directions to officers during a pursuit that followed. One person was arrested and a victim recovered unharmed.
27/02/04	12:15	The helicopter was requested to support Armed Response Vehicle (ARV) crews dealing with an incident in Gateshead.	40 mins	The helicopter crew located three persons and, due to the snow covered area being difficult to reach, an ARV crew was airlifted to a closer position and was able to quickly resolve the incident.

Date	Hours	Incident	Time of Task	Result
01/03/04	04:50	The aeroplane crew carried out a thermal image search in Middlesbrough for a suspect responsible for throwing missiles at passing vehicles and injuring a driver.	75 mins	The crew detected a suspect and directed district officers who arrested him for criminal damage with intent to endanger life. He was also found in possession of property recently stolen from a burglary.
08/03/04	13:15	The helicopter crew was requested to search an area at Berwick for a vulnerable missing person.	55 mins	The crew located the missing person, who was in an isolated location, and was then taken by ambulance to hospital.
11/03/04	01:30	The aeroplane crew carried out a thermal image search of an area of Middlesbrough for a suspect responsible for burglary at a shop.	25 mins	A search revealed a suspect concealed nearby and district officers were directed to arrest him for burglary.
11/03/04	01:55	The aeroplane crew searched for a burglary suspect in Stockton.	15 mins	The crew carried out a search using the thermal image camera and located a heat source in a nearby cemetery. District officers were directed to a man who was arrested for burglary.
13/03/04	12:50	The aeroplane crew used the thermal imager to search a wooded area in Wear Valley for a vulnerable missing person	30 mins	A heat source was detected and the missing person was then identified by the video camera. Area officers were directed to his location and he was assisted to safety.

Date	Hours	Incident	Time of Task	Result
18/03/04	02:25	The helicopter crew used the thermal imager to search for suspects responsible for burglary at commercial premises in Sunderland.	35 mins	A suspect was detected concealed in a nearby garden. Officers were directed and a man was arrested for burglary.
18/03/04	23:45	The helicopter thermal imager was used to search for a burglary suspect in South Shields.	20 mins	A heat source was detected and a dog section officer was directed to arrest a suspect for burglary.
23/03/04	16:00	The helicopter was used to airlift a police search advisor and carry out a search for a vulnerable missing person in Hartlepool District.	50 mins	Large open areas and the coast were eliminated to allow officers to be directed to specific actions.
25/03/04	21:50	The helicopter was deployed to South Shields to search the coastline for a vulnerable missing person.	35 mins	The crew carried out a thermal image search and sighted the missing person in the sea in shallow water. The searchlight provided illumination and area officers were able to safely remove the person from the water and arrange transport by ambulance to hospital.
27/03/04	00:10	The helicopter crew responded to a vehicle pursuit in Northumberland involving a van and property stolen during a burglary at Sunderland.	25 mins	The crew, using the thermal image camera, observed the driver abandoning the vehicle and running across fields where he hid and was illuminated in the searchlight. Motor Patrols officers were directed to the location and the suspect was arrested.
29/03/04	03:15	The helicopter was deployed to search for suspects responsible for burglary in Middlesbrough.	25 mins	The thermal imager detected a heat source in a nearby back yard. District officers were directed and a man was arrested for burglary.

