
FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



This was an amazing year for Fort Bragg Police Department. The team of professionals came together on many fronts. Change is always challenging and comes with several opportunities to learn and grow.

Fort Bragg PD became an industry leader in the transition to Electric Vehicle (EV) patrol cars. While many agencies are testing the viability of using EV's as patrol cars, Fort Bragg stepped to the front and became one of the first in the nation to fully deploy them as standard. The transition to EV will save the local taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of their use. Fort Bragg PD was able to prove this was a realistic solution for patrol vehicles and is providing data to other police agencies from coast to coast as they begin to transition to EV.

Fort Bragg PD is also setting the nation's standard with homeless engagement and substance use disorders through our innovative Care Response Unit and Project Right Now. The statistics prove the programs work and are not only changing lives, but saving lives as well. The programs are so unique, researchers from UCLA and much larger police departments from across the state are contacting us for a blueprint to begin similar programs.

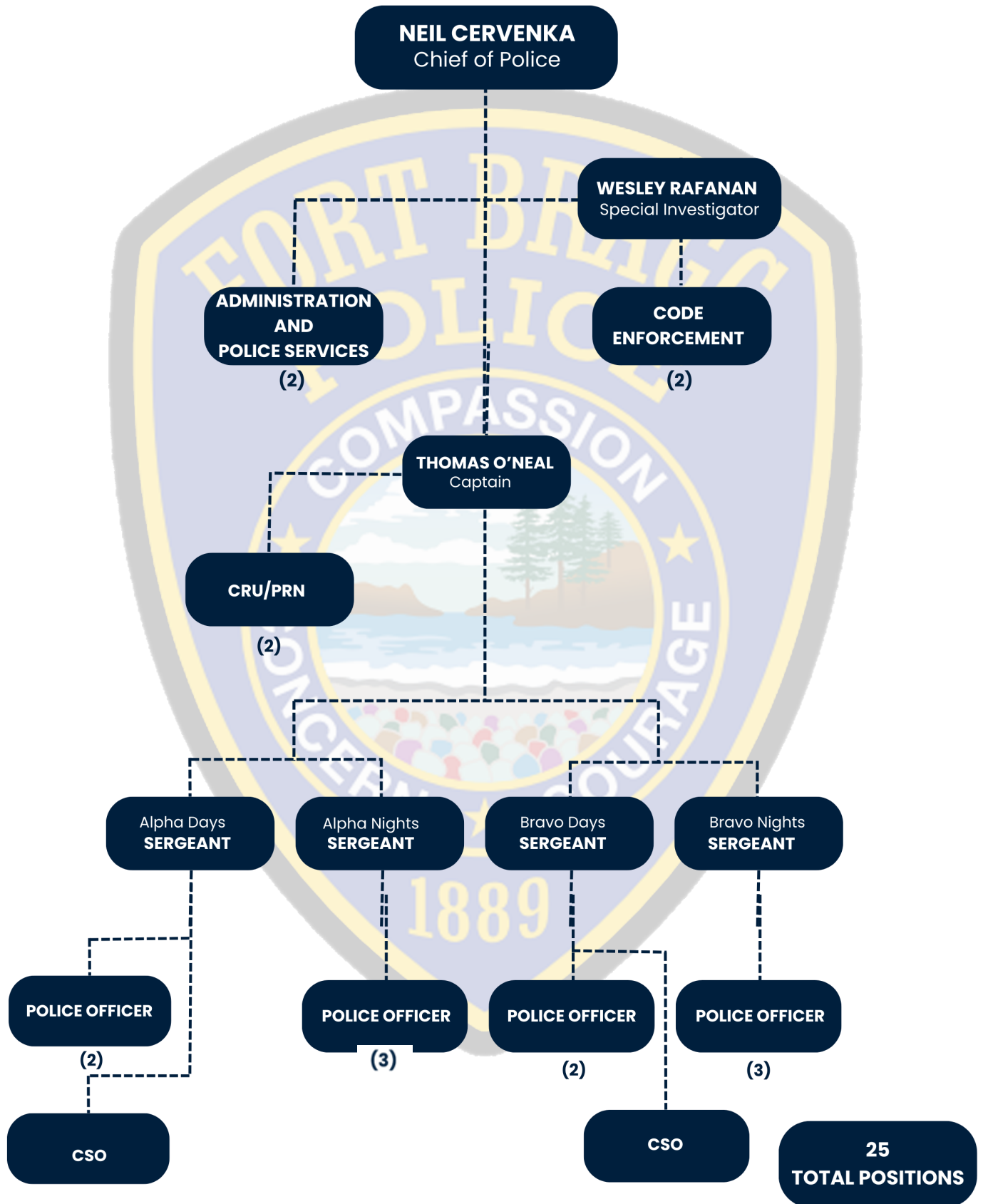
Our patrol staff suffered through low staffing for much of 2023 without complaint. Despite this, the service they provided was second-to-none. Using year-over-year comparisons, you will see this hurdle did not slow them down. Investigations were thorough and complete. They served with humble hearts and were guardians for our community. Near the end of the year, we hired several and staffing was stabilizing. We have built a solid team who hold true to our motto of "*Concern, Compassion, Courage*".



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

ORAGANIZATION CHART

2023

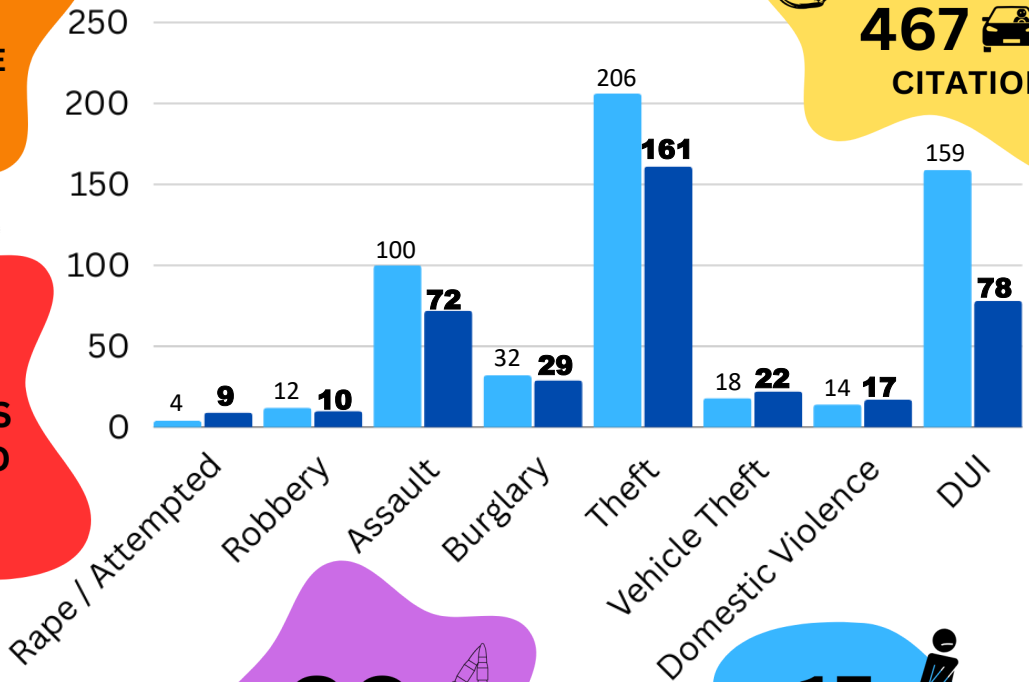


THE NUMBERS

16,648
CALLS FOR SERVICE

642 ARRESTS
467 CITATIONS

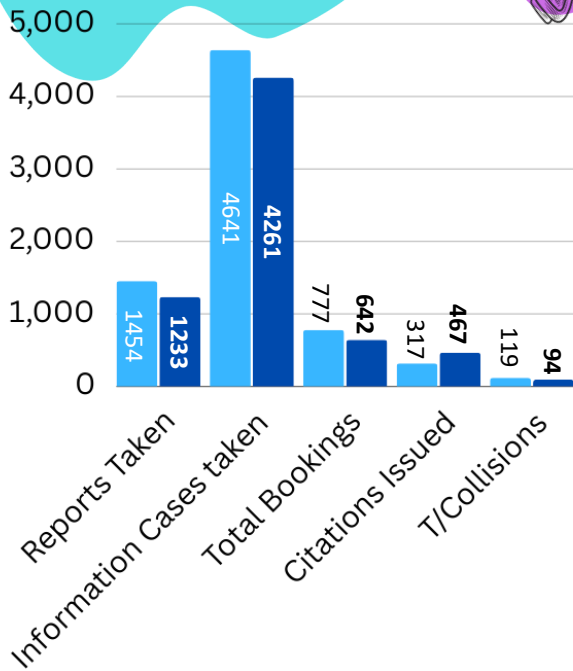
12,821
ILLEGAL PILLS
SEIZED



1233
REPORTS
TAKEN

20
FIREARMS
SEIZED

17
POUNDS OF
ILLEGAL DRUGS
SEIZED



1406
FINGERPRINTS
TAKEN

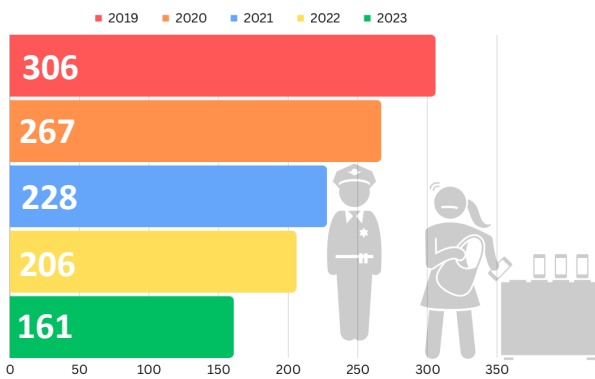
3542
ITEMS OF PROPERTY
PROCESSED

OVER THE YEARS

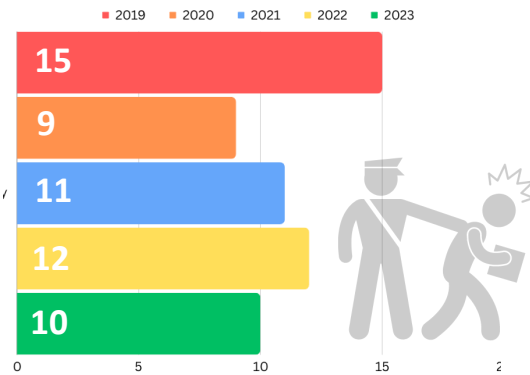
2019-2023



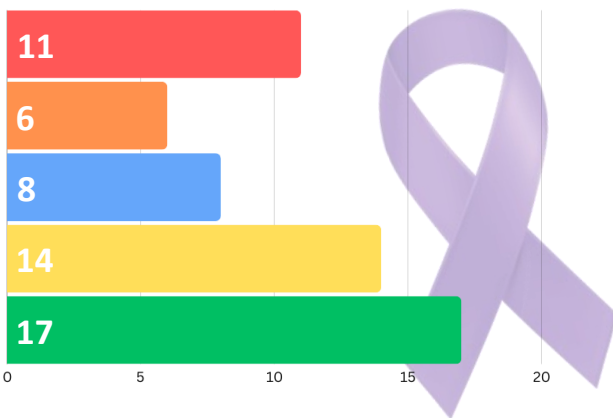
THEFT



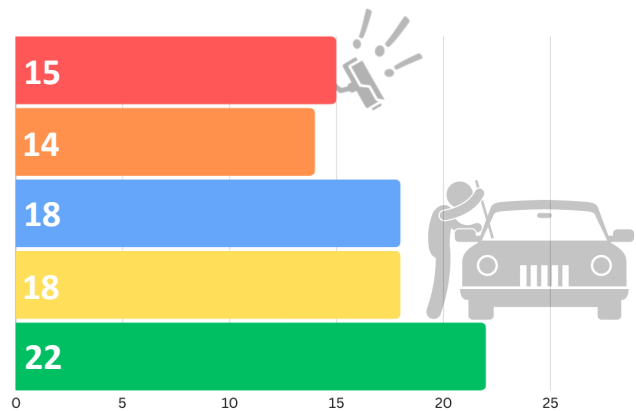
ROBBERY



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



VEHICLE THEFT

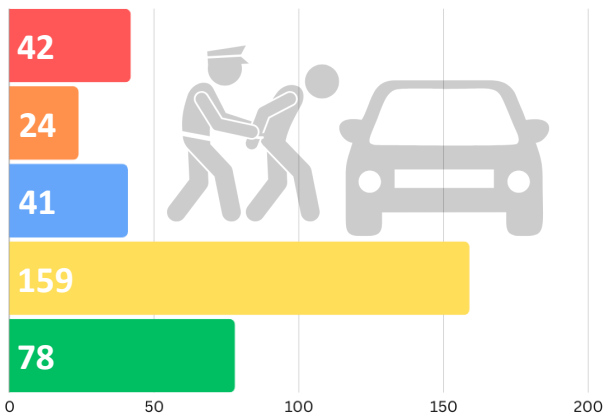


OVER THE YEARS

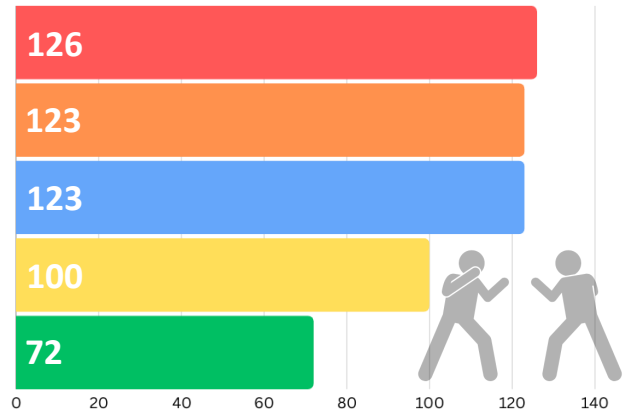
2019-2023

2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

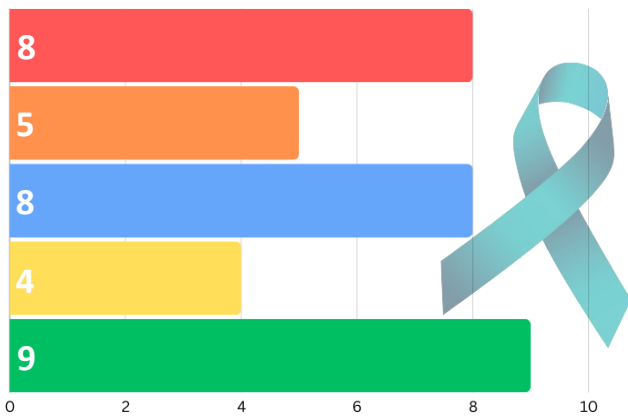
DUI



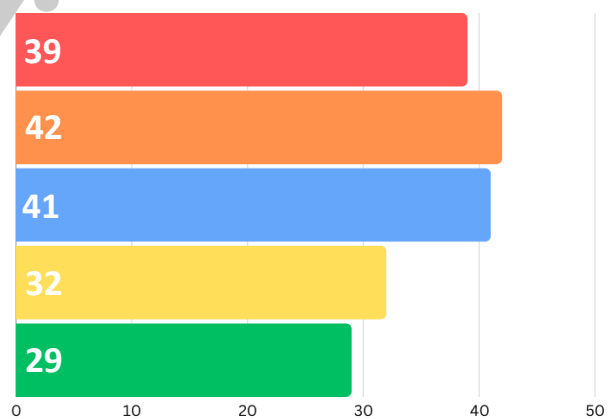
ASSAULT



RAPE



BURGLARY



RECORDS AND EVIDENCE

The Records Department consists of two full time non-sworn employees.

The front window is open Monday – Friday from 09:00 – 17:00 for the general public to come in asking questions, seeking assistance or needing to speak to an officer. For two hours a day, four days a week, Livescan services are provided to customers from as far south as Gualala.

The Records Department processes reports that need to be forwarded to the District Attorney’s Office, liaises with other County agencies such as Probation, Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services and Parole In addition to answering the phone, processing reports, there are additional duties assigned to each employee.



The Property and Evidence Room is a huge part of the additional duties of our Administrative Assistant. Each piece of found property, evidence or arrestee property has to be checked into the



evidence room and placed in a pre-designated area for storage. Property that can be released is then checked out, ownership verified and then released upon completion of relevant paperwork.

Some property releases, such as firearms, are dependent upon approval from the Department of Justice. Our Property Technician ensures that all relevant paperwork is provided to the DOJ prior to the release of any firearm.

Our Administrative Analyst is also the Custodian of Records for all police reports. She is also the Human Resources liaison and the Department of Justice point of contact for Sex and Arson Registrants, State and Federal crime report filing, Training and security updates for employees access to DOJ programs.

PATROL DIVISION



Captain Thomas O'Neal

As the Captain for the Police Department, I am proud to manage the Department's Patrol Division, Care Response Unit including Project Right Now, and all of the Department's grant programs. Additionally in 2023, I was assigned as the City's Emergency Manager, tasked with reviewing the City's Emergency Operations Plan as well as coming up with a multi-year exercise and training plan for City staff and stakeholders.

In 2023, our Patrol Division focused on honing their investigative skills and addressing crimes that are more complex by drastically increasing our use of search warrants in the course of investigations. During 2023, the Patrol Division wrote more search warrants in a year than the Division has in recorded history. This was despite the Division operating at an average of 75% of its authorized staffing levels. The vast majority of search warrants written in 2023 were related to controlled substance sales with a focus on fentanyl sales.

We applied for and received nearly \$600,000 in grants funds for various projects including the Care Response Unit, Project Right Now, and driving under the influence enforcement and education. The driving under the influence grant allows us to provide educational opportunities to the public, as well as providing funding to send nearly half of our patrol staff to specialized DUI training. In 2023, our Department's proactive enforcement related to driving under the influence reduced traffic collisions related to alcohol and drug impairment. These programs allow us to expand the services available to the public and ensure that our police officers can focus on addressing crime.

When 2024 closes, we hope to bring forward another report that demonstrates the growth our Department has made throughout the year, with that growth reflecting our motto of "Concern, Compassion, Courage".

CARE RESPONSE UNIT (CRU)



In 2023, CRU expanded its flagship model of addressing homelessness and mental health issues and is now offering additional services to the community. CRU began providing services related to individuals struggling with substance use disorder, victims of domestic violence, and first responders and community members requiring specialized emotional support.

“How can we help?” is the approach CRU uses when working with individuals they come in contact with, and in 2023 the program provided direct services to over **300** community members.

One of CRU’s specialized services is the Homeward Bound Program (HBP). HBP allows CRU to connect individuals back to their place of origin or areas where they have existing support systems (family) via bus, train, or gas vouchers. In 2023, CRU reconnected nearly 17 individuals with support systems in other communities. The support systems agreed to assist these individuals when they arrived.

In 2023, Mendocino County signed a two-year agreement with the City of Fort Bragg for CRU to continue to operate the Emergency Weather Shelter through 2025. This agreement was funded through a State Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention grant. CRU provided over 600 bed nights to homeless individuals during the 22/23 Winter Season serving 165 unduplicated individuals.



In 2023, CRU received requests from multiple law enforcement departments across the state to share data and procedures related to the CRU program with the goal of those agencies replicating CRU’s success.

As another testament to the program’s success, Dr. Robert Marbut (past Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness) conducted a follow-up visit to our city following his 2017 report on the state of homelessness in Mendocino County. Dr. Marbut met with CRU and personally recognized the amazing progress the program has made at addressing homelessness in Fort Bragg.



PROJECT RIGHT NOW (PRN)

PRN was launched in February of 2023 and is designed to combat the opioid and substance abuse crisis for youth ages 12-24. PRN works by getting youth the assistance they need in their homes, schools, and on the street, to address the underlying issues related to their substance abuse use. PRN is funded through a combination of State and Federal grant through the California Institute of Behavioral Health Solutions and the California Youth Opioid Response. In 2023, PRN successfully met with virtually every Middle School and High School student offering services and support where needed. PRN has proudly provided direct services to over 100 youth during 2023.



500 TRAINED IN NARCAN USE!



In 2023, PRN has distributed nearly 300 doses of Narcan to the community and provided training to over 500 community members along the coast. PRN has provided direct training to both the Fort Bragg and Mendocino School Districts, businesses, and non-profit organizations. In December, PRN hosted two Spanish speaking Narcan trainings that were attended by over forty individuals.

300 DOSES OF NARCAN DISTRIBUTED!



SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Special Investigator Wes Rafanan performs complex criminal, internal, administrative and confidential investigations. He is responsible for the intensive backgrounds required for police officers, which take months to complete. Investigator Rafanan manages, directs and conducts department training. He also supervises the enforcement activities in support of the City’s local code enforcement program.

In 2023, a list of six “Core Courses” of advanced officer training was established. These courses are Collision Investigation, Interviewing, Crisis Intervention Training, Radar, Lidar, and DUI Investigations. These will be priority and mandatory for all officers to attend to greatly enhance our service to the community.

800 HOURS OF ADDITIONAL TRAINING



The Fort Bragg Police Department hosted a number of courses over 2023. Those courses included Why’d You Stop Me (WYSM), Leading the Professional Employee, Crisis Intervention, California Sex and Arson Registration (CSAR), Red Dot Firearms Instructor, and Public Records Act.

Hosting locally saves thousands of dollars while ensuring we have high quality training for staff.



WSM instructors and students



In 2023, Investigator Rafanan completed four peace officer backgrounds, two community service officer backgrounds, two police officer recruit backgrounds, and one code enforcement officer background.

California Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) conducted an audit of our backgrounds with no discrepancies found.

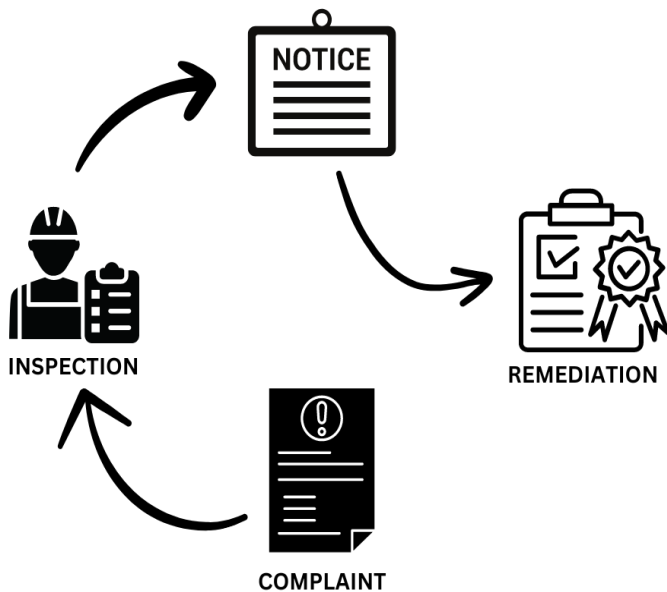
CODE ENFORCEMENT



The mission of the code enforcement team is to gain voluntary compliance by partnering with property and business owners to resolve complaints or issues before moving forward with the issuance of fines or penalties. Applying funds from the California Department of Housing and Community Development block grant, the Police Department hired and added an internal candidate to the code enforcement team. Following the direction of Chief Cervenka, the Code Enforcement team began aligning the complaint intake process, and noticing practices with industry standard.

The overwhelming majority of cases are resolved through compliance.

92 Cases Closed

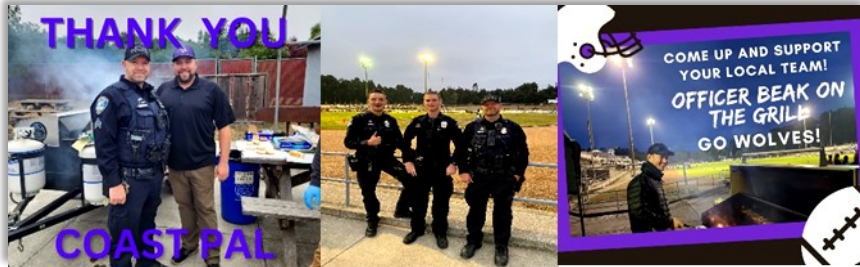


2023 by the numbers:

- 151 New code enforcement complaints
- 14 Unfounded
- 5 Administrative Hearings
- 1 Abatement warrant
- 1 Misdemeanor arrest

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

SPORTS



Go Timberwolves!

During the football season, our Officers spent their time either coaching the youth, or cooking up some delicious food at the home games! When time allowed, we always enjoyed showing up to share our school spirit and support by cheering our youth every step of the way!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

This was the first year our department hosted The Law Enforcement Special Olympic Torch Run (LETR). The LETR is an international movement comprised of more than 110,000 law enforcement personnel who choose Special Olympics as their charity of choice! Additional events include The Polar Plunge and The Special Olympics Basketball Tournament! All great events we look forward to each year!



1100 Tacos
Given Out!

2000 Attendees!



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (NNO)

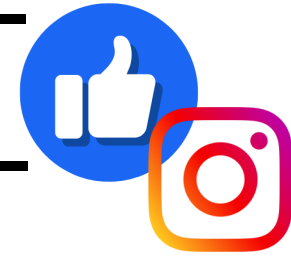


National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring place to live. The Police Department hosted our annual NNO at Bainbridge Park this year where there was tons of great food, fun games and lots of smiling faces!

Our agency participated in the other events throughout the City this year! Some of the major events noted are: Paul Bunyan Days, Carnival by the Sea and Trunk or Treat!



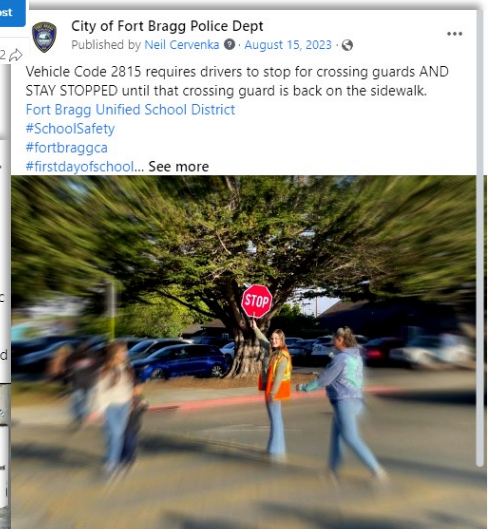
SOCIAL MEDIA



In 2023, The Fort Bragg Police Department Social Media Team utilized multiple social media platforms to disseminate important information regarding public safety, weather, traffic, and community concerns.

Beyond just providing information, the social media team strived to let you know more about us! Multiple posts were created to promote community engagement and provide insight into the multiple projects going on here at the police department.

Over 2023, our social media reach exploded! We saw a 2,600 % increase this year. We also saw a 263% increase in our Facebook Page visits, and 154% increase in our likes and follows!



Reach

Instagram reach ⓘ

1.7K ↑ 198.9%

Visits

Instagram profile visits

Reach 2,387 ↑ 210.4%

Facebook reach ⓘ

2.3M ↑ 2.6K%

Visits

Facebook visits ⓘ

100,545 ↑ 263.9%

New likes and follows

Facebook Page new likes ⓘ

983 ↑ 154.7%

LEADING THE CHARGE

In the summer of 2023, Fort Bragg PD put its first EV patrol vehicles into service. Within a very short period of time, four 2023 Ford Lightning Pro SSV police trucks were quietly patrolling the streets of Fort Bragg. Because of private, state, and federal grants, the decision to move to EV's will save tens of thousands of dollars of general funds.

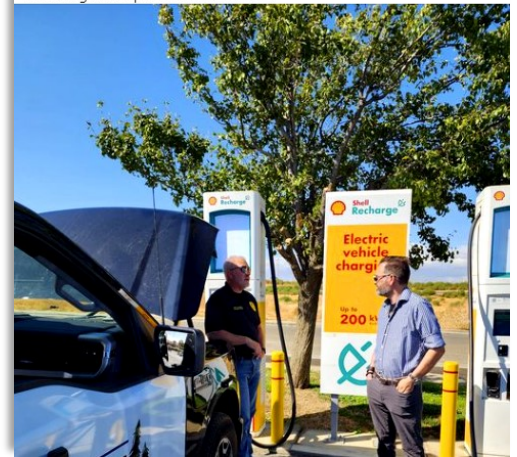
These trucks represented half of the patrol fleet and drew attention wherever we went. One of our trucks was driven to CopsWest - the largest law enforcement expo and training event on the west coast - in Ontario, California. Hundreds looked at it and several agencies are now exploring the real possibility of a patrol fleet which is completely electric. Along the way, several community members stopped to look and ask questions.

In the first five months, these four trucks saved over \$7,000 in fuel costs including the increase in electricity bills. When the patrol fleet is completely electric, the projected annual savings is over \$40,000. Due to thousands of less parts, standard annual maintenance is also saving thousands of dollars and hours of mechanic time.

While moving to EV patrol cars was far outside the norm, Fort Bragg PD is proving the concept for the rest of the country.

City of Fort Bragg Police Dept
Published by Jon N Gretchen · September 30, 2023 ·

At our next stop!
Had another great interaction with an EV owner traveling from the opposite direction! They had not seen an electric Ford Motor Company F150 Lightning before. They explained their family have been owners of F150s for years and were excited to see an electric option on the market.
What a great experience!... See more



Reach 1,583,768

Impressions 1,617,279



2023 ANNUAL AWARDS

Officer of The Year



Officer Jarod Frank

Professional Staff of the Year



Administrative Analyst Lesley Bryant

Award of Excellence



Care Response Unit

Hannah Nanez & Janette Ornelas

Distinguished Service



Captain Thomas O'Neal

Distinguished Service



Administrative Analyst Lesley Bryant

Chief's Award



Officer Padriac Ferris

Chief's Award



Captain Thomas O'Neal



2023 MADD AWARDS

In 2023, Officers Beak and Frank were presented awards in Sacramento from Mothers Against Drunk Driving Northern California (MADD).

Every year, MADD honors law enforcement for the number of impaired driving arrests made annually along with first responders, prosecutors, probation officers and MADD volunteers for their life-saving efforts those who investigate and arrest at least 25 individuals driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs over the course of the previous year, are awarded a “23152” pin. 23152 is the vehicle code for DUI.

Combined these officers arrested *142 drivers* who were determined to be operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

Officer Frank was one of five out of the 250 officers who were awarded their 23152 pin to receive the “Century Award”. The Century Award is given to those that investigated over 100 incidents resulting in the arrest of a driver under the influence of alcohol.



New faces in 2023



Community Service Officer

Amanda Pacheco

October 2023



Sergeant

Nayeli DeLeon

December 2023



Police Officer

Humberto Arellano

December 2023

Fort Bragg Police Department

Mission Statement

The Fort Bragg Police Department will show concern for our community, have compassion for all those we serve, and exemplify courage to do the right thing.

Motto

Concern, Compassion, Courage

SINCE 1889