



Fort Bragg Police Department Annual Report 2017

Fabian E. Lizarraga
Chief of Police



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City Council



Mayor
Lindy Peters



Vice Mayor
Will Lee



Councilmember
Michael Cimolino



Councilmember
Bernie Norvell



Councilmember
Dave Turner

Mission Statement

*Fort Bragg is a small town
with a strong sense of community
that seeks to preserve its natural beauty
while providing exceptional public facilities and
infrastructure, safe streets,
and a well-planned framework
for sustainable development and prosperity.*

The Fort Bragg City Council meets on the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street, Fort Bragg, California. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in City Council meetings.



Message from the Chief of Police



Message from the Chief of Police:

Calendar year 2017 saw a continuation of incentives and programs established and brought back to the Department and the City. Our K-9 program flourished with the regular deployment of Maverick and Takoda with their partners and handlers on Patrol. Department and City staff were involved in a tabletop exercise in the Refurbished Emergency Operations Center. Especially during the summer and warmer months the Department's E-Motorcycles saw regular deployment. We are using these to help us patrol the coastal trails as well as City streets. Systems and policies were drawn up to meet Department of Justice standards for future deployment of Body Worn Cameras (BWC). This allowed for the purchase and receipt of ten BWCs that will be worn by all Patrol Officers and Community Service Officers.

The Department Drone was used to obtain footage from the damaged Pudding Creek Dam to be used by Public Works. The drone was also used to obtain data on encampments on private and City property to be used for enforcement efforts. The FBPD Cadets were utilized at various community events as well as deployed to decorate city streets with the American flag during Independence Day and Memorial Day events. Two of our officers continued their membership in the County Regional SWAT team and saw several deployments throughout the County.

All members of the Department have continued to give service to the community in a more effective manner in order to improve the quality of life of all our residents. We have committed and dedicated officers and support personnel that are willing and able to help any of our residents in need of service.

While Police Agencies across the State and the Country continue to experience various degrees of anti-police sentiment, the members of the Fort Bragg community continually expressed their support and appreciation of the members of the Fort Bragg Police Department. Every one of us is grateful and recognizes our duty to continue to give our residents the police service they have come to expect and deserve.

From top to bottom, the members of the Fort Bragg Police Department will continue to take on challenges, work hard and establish more partnerships with you, our community, to ensure the best quality of life possible for all of the Fort Bragg Community.

Sincerely,
Fabian E. Lizarraga



Mission Statement

The Fort Bragg Police Department is committed to providing excellence in police service to all segments of our Community. Acting under the tenet of Respect and Dignity for all, we strive to impact and improve the quality of life for families, the business community and visitors. We work in partnership with all segments of our community so that, together, we achieve a better standard of life by which our residents can live in an environment without the fear of crime.





Department Summary



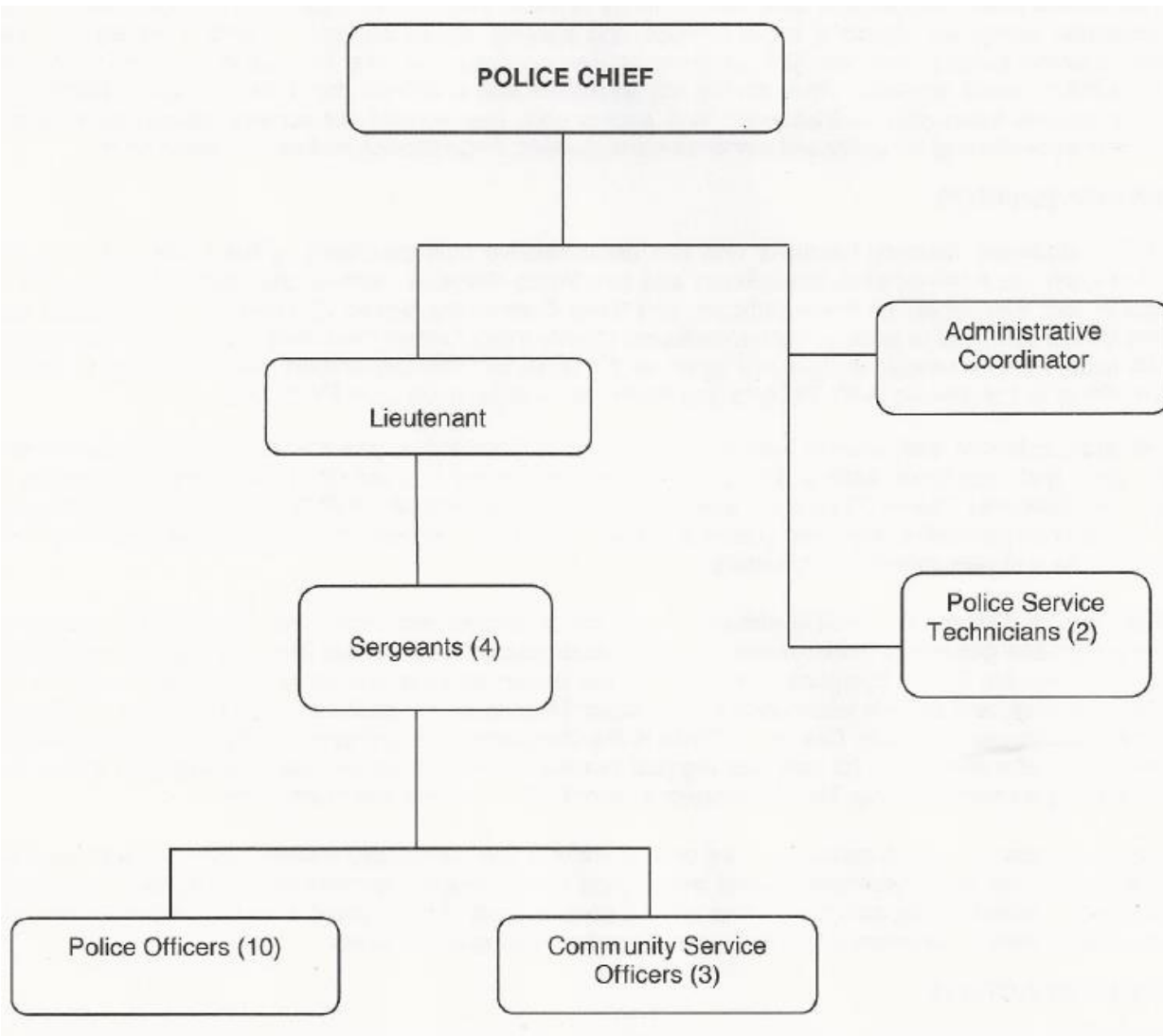
The Fort Bragg Police Department is made of up 22 full-time employees. Chief Fabian Lizarraga, Lieutenant Charles Gilchrist, Administrative Coordinator Debbie Desmond, Police Service Technician/Records Supervisor Sally Provencher and Police Service Technician/Property & Evidence Technician Lesley Bryant make up the Administrative Division. Along with administrative responsibilities, the Administrative Division is responsible for records management, property and evidence management, Live Scan services and other duties. The Operations Division is comprised of 4 Sergeants, 10 sworn Police Officers, and 3 Community Service Officers. The Operations Division is tasked with handling all items related to the enforcement of laws.

The Fort Bragg Police Department is the only law enforcement agency on the California coast between Eureka and the San Francisco Bay Area with sworn law enforcement officers on duty 24 hours per day. The Police Department is divided into 4 teams, each working 12-hour shifts. Police Officers respond to a variety of calls for service, including criminal and non-criminal incidents. Examples of criminal incidents include assault/battery, domestic violence, burglaries and public intoxication. Examples of non-criminal incidents include non-DUI traffic collisions, civil disputes, and landlord-tenant disputes.





Organizational Chart





Program and Personnel Review



Police Cadet Program:



The Fort Bragg Police Cadet Program is starting its second class of Cadets with four Cadets confirmed for the next Police Cadet Academy. In order to minimize costs to the Department and City, the next Academy will not begin until a minimum of eight Cadets have been identified. While awaiting the enrollment of new Cadets, the Police Cadet Program will begin holding monthly two hour trainings. These trainings will involve both the Cadets from the first Police Cadet Academy, and the newly identified Cadets. These trainings will serve as an opportunity to not only hone the Cadets skills in various law enforcement related areas, but will also work to sustain esprit de corps between the two classes. Cadets of both classes will continue to assist with various events throughout the city.

For 2017, the Cadets participated in over twenty public events ranging from parades, non-profit organization events, and department tasks. The Fort Bragg Police Department Cadet program leader from Class 01, Maria Ramirez, was awarded the annual youth volunteer award from the Jere Melo foundation. This prestigious award is awarded to only a single youth volunteer, and was accompanied by a letter of recognition from the U.S. Representative for California's 2nd congressional district, Congressman Jared Huffman.

A major milestone for the program in 2017 was the participation of several Cadets in oleoresin capsicum (OC Spray) training. This training was a mock-up of the California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) recommendation for law enforcement academies across the state. The training included Cadets being exposed to the chemical spray accompanied by performing hands-on law enforcement tasks including baton strikes and handcuffing. A total of four Cadets participated in the voluntary training.



The future of the Cadet program includes plans to expand the program into a more complex exploration of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. In the coming year, the Department hopes to assist the Cadets with potentially attending the California Highway Patrol Explorer Academy hosted at the West Sacramento California Highway Patrol training facility. Besides this training, the Department is in the planning phase of organizing a visit to the Police Academy hosted by the Santa Rosa Junior College Public Safety Training Center.



Community Involvement



Coast Police Activities League Bicycle Rodeo

Officers work with the youth in our community teaching them the rules of the road and safe habits when riding their bicycles on our local streets. One of the goals of the Bicycle Rodeo is to teach children good bicycle safety. Free helmets are given out by the Police Department to any child who needs one.



Coast Police Activities League Fishing Clinic

Shown here are youth from our community getting an opportunity to fish in a local pond during the annual Coast Police Activities League Fishing Clinic. The Fish and Wildlife Department stocks the pond, then along with other law enforcement members, help the children with their catch!



Coast Police Activities League Christmas Party

Every year staff from the Fort Bragg Police Department participate in the Coast Police Activities League Christmas Party. The children at this event are presented with a multitude of craft activities and a variety of games to play.



Community Involvement



Take Back Event

The Police Department participated in the annual Take Back Event in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). This event was successful in removing a great deal of potentially dangerous drugs and substances from our community. The Department has a "Red Box" available to safely collect unused, expired and unwanted drugs throughout the year.



Fire Safety Day

Each year the Police Department joins many other agencies such as the Fire Department, CalFire, Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, Fish and Wildlife, CalStar and PG&E on Fire and Safety Day. This event is usually held at Timberwolf Stadium and is open to all 3rd, 4th and 5th graders at Dana Gray School, who are taught various safety tips throughout the day.



National Night Out

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods a safer, better place to live. National Night Out was held at Bainbridge Park where the Police Department, along with Neighborhood Watch, put on a community BBQ.



Community Involvement



Whale Run



The Police Department provided traffic control and security for the annual Whale Run.

Day in the Park



The Police Department held the annual Day in The Park event at Bainbridge Park. There were many community groups offering activities for the children and the Police Department provided lunch for everyone. It drew over 400 adults and children from our community and all enjoyed the day!

Special Olympics Basketball



Every year many of our Police Department employees volunteer to participate in the Special Olympics basketball tournament with the Seagulls Basketball Team held at the Fort Bragg High School. The event is always enjoyed by all.

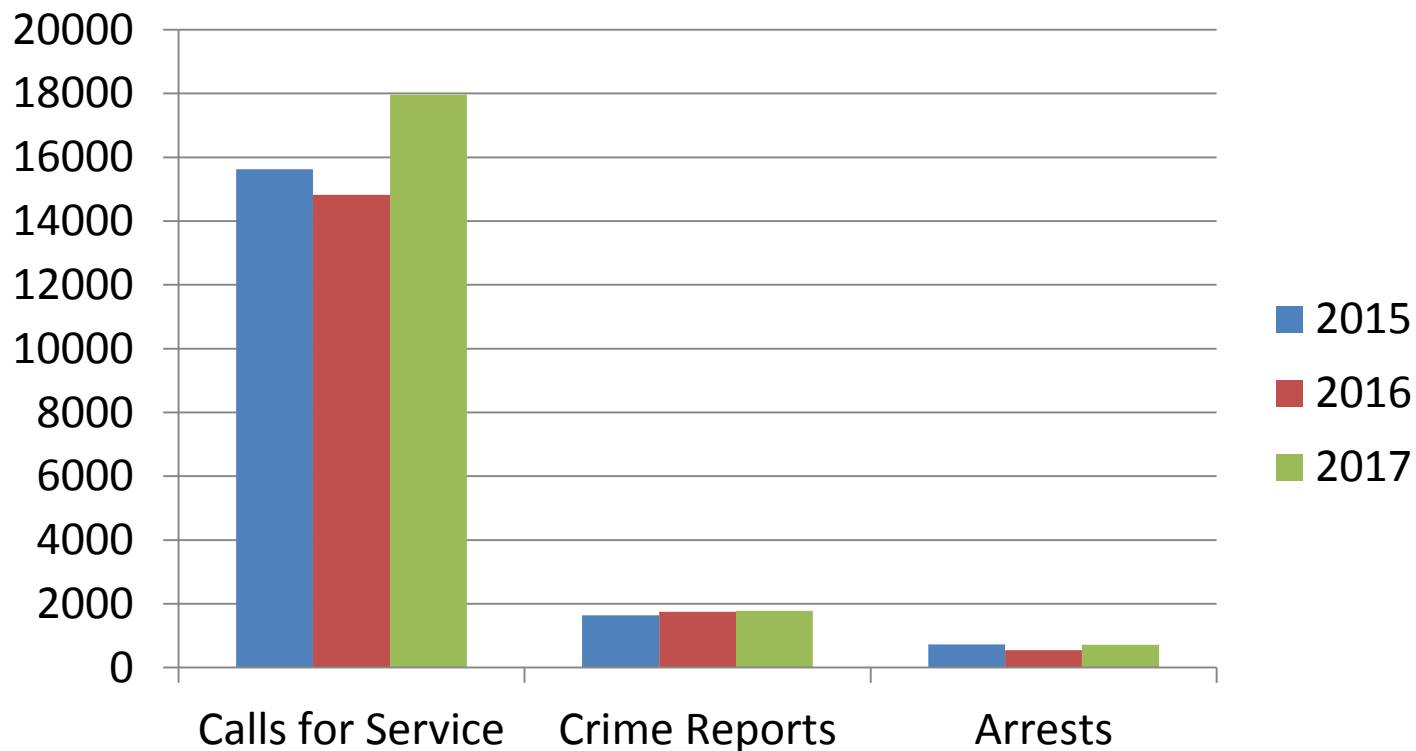


Calls for Service/Reports/Arrests



Statistics of call for service between 2015 and 2017 are as follows:

In 2015, Fort Bragg Police Officers responded to a total of 15,629 calls for service and wrote 1,643 Crime Reports associated with those calls for service, which resulted in 722 arrests. In 2016, Fort Bragg Police Officers responded to a total of 14,819 calls for service and wrote 1,749 Crime Reports associated with those calls for service, which resulted in 548 arrests. In 2017, Fort Bragg Police Officers responded to a total of 17,966 calls for service and wrote 1,777 Crime Reports associated with those calls for service, which resulted in 718 arrests.

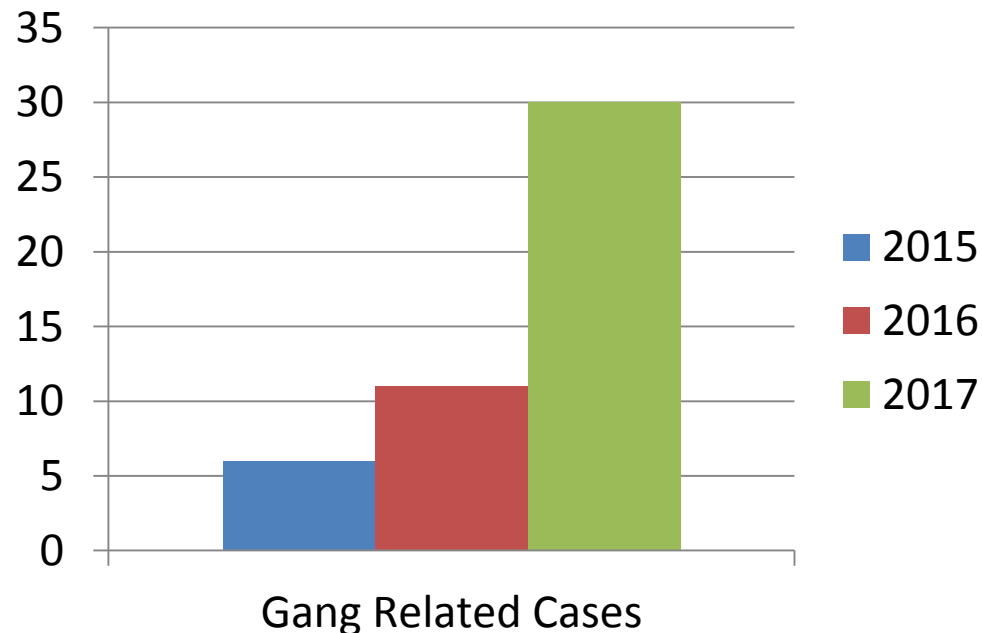




Gang Crime

Criminal Street Gangs present a threat to the safety of law enforcement and the community alike. Criminal Street Gangs are responsible for drug sales and trafficking, weapons violations, property crimes for the benefit of the gang, and violence against citizenry, law enforcement and rival gang members.

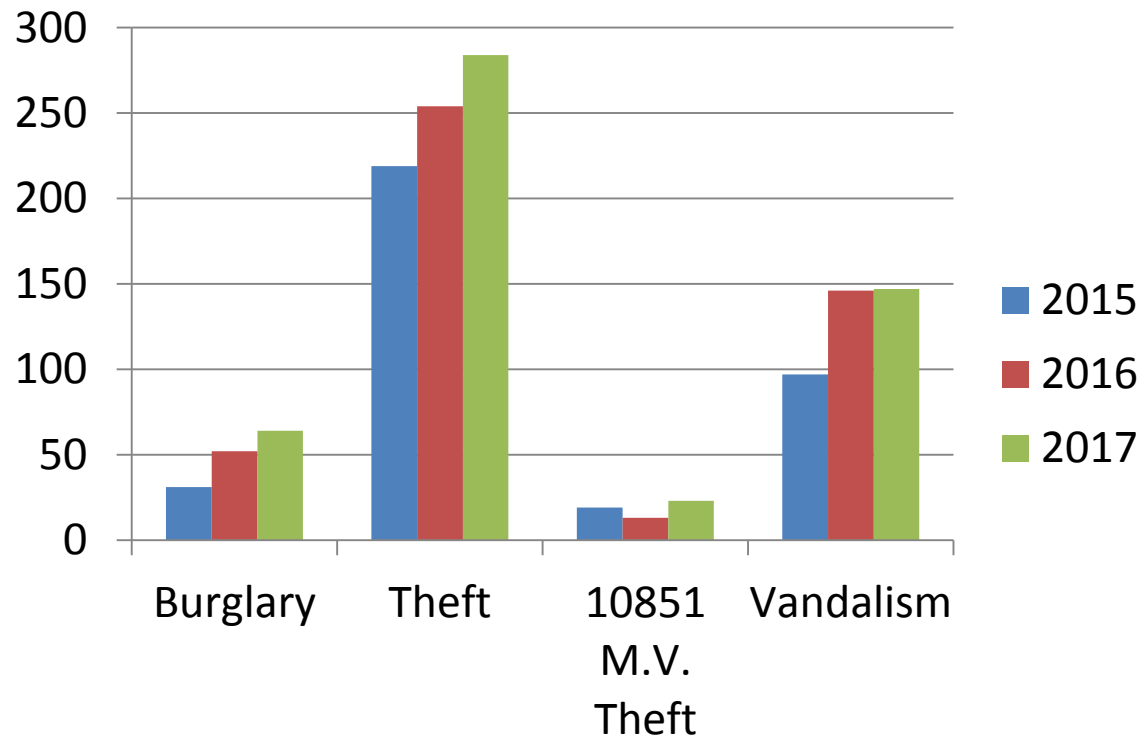
The Fort Bragg Police Department, in conjunction with local allied agencies, participates in the Multi-Agency Gang Suppression Unit (MAGSU). Statistics of reports taken for gang related crimes in 2017 are as follows:





Property Crime

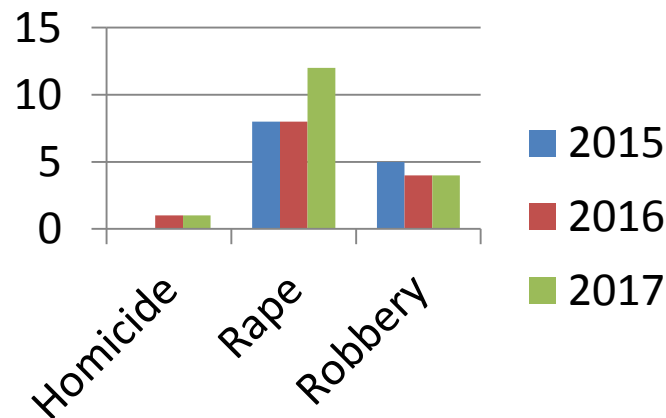
The Fort Bragg Police Department reviews the data of problem areas where community members report activities or conditions that could lead to criminal activity. Fort Bragg Police Officers conduct frequent patrols of these areas throughout their shifts and whenever time permits. These “Extra Patrols” serve as a pro-active method for catching in-progress crimes and deterring would-be criminals. Reports taken for Burglaries, Thefts, and Vandalisms from years 2015 through 2017 are as follows:



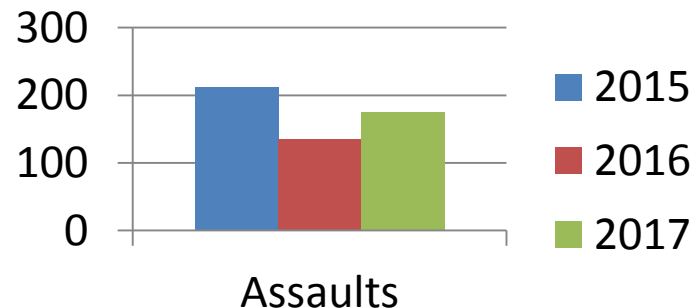


Crimes against Persons

Over the last three years, the City of Fort Bragg remained a safe place to live. Reports taken for Murder, Manslaughter, Rape, and Robbery from the 2015 through 2017 are as follows:



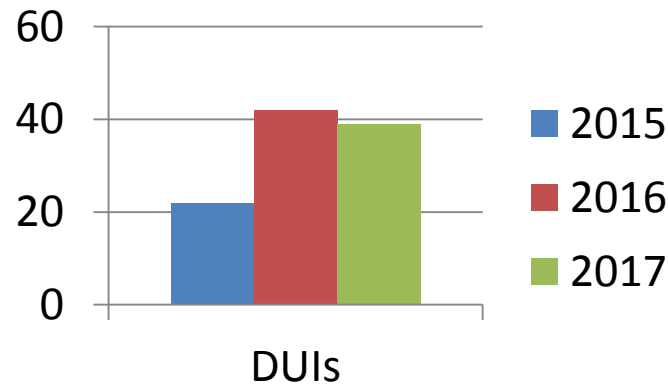
Assaults can refer to many different types of crimes against persons, including but not limited to gang fighting, simple or aggravated battery and domestic violence assaults. There was a slight increase from the previous year, but a decrease from 2015 numbers. Reports taken for assaults from years 2015 through 2017 are as follows:





D.U.I. Arrests

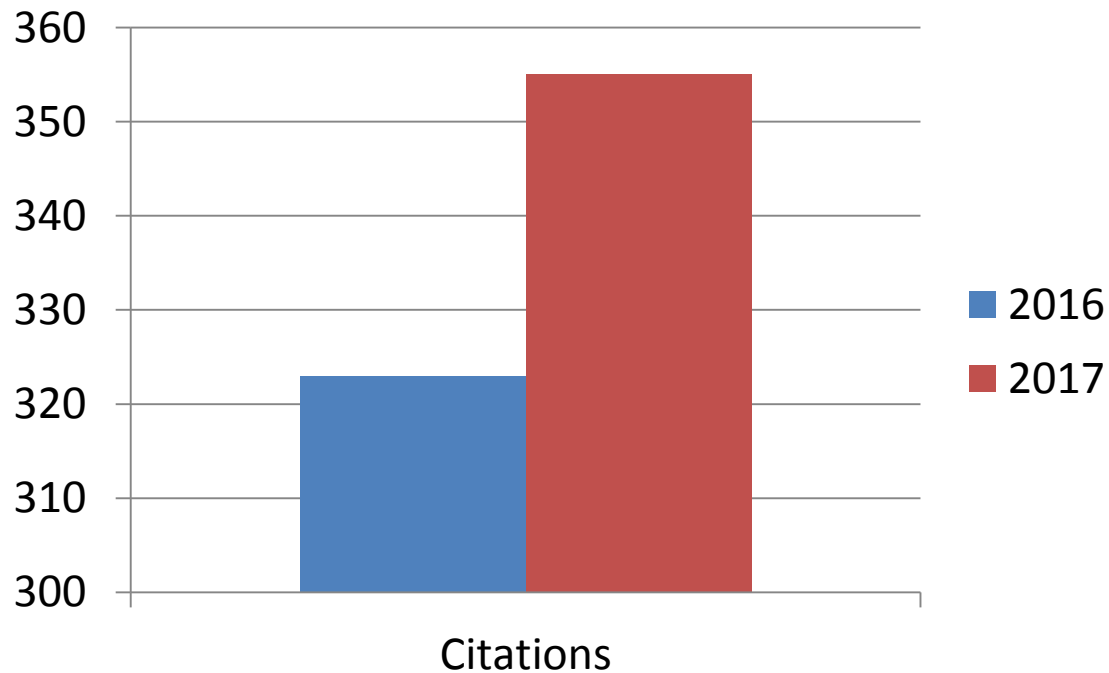
The Fort Bragg Police Department initiates traffic stops on traffic safety violators with the purpose of education and enforcement. During these stops, drivers are evaluated for the potential of being under the influence of alcohol or other substances while operating their vehicle. Below are statistics for arrests related to driving under the influence from years 2015 through 2017 :





Citations

The Fort Bragg Police Department issues citations for various violations throughout the year. These citations include violations of the California Vehicle Code, Fort Bragg Municipal Code, Warrants, and California Penal Code. Citations issued by Fort Bragg Police Officers from years 2016 through 2017 are as follows:





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