



Fort Bragg Police Department Annual Report 2015

Fabian E. Lizarraga
Chief of Police



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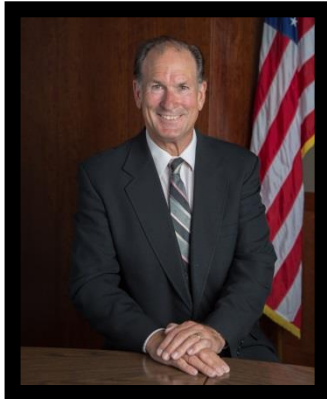
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City Council



Mayor
Dave Turner



Vice Mayor
Lindy Peters



Councilmember
Michael Cimolino



Councilmember
Scott Deitz



Councilmember
Doug Hammerstrom

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 City Manager



Message from the City Manager:

The Fort Bragg Police Department plays a central role in protecting and enhancing the quality of life in our community. On a daily basis, our police officers work diligently to ensure that Fort Bragg remains safe. They are responsible for evenhandedly enforcing the laws and promptly dealing with calls for service. Fort Bragg is a small town with a small police force and, consequently, all of our officers are required to perform a complex array of tasks. Our officers respond to accidents and emergencies, investigate crimes, patrol the streets, respond to complaints, work with local youth, and collaborate with the many agencies and institutions that serve our community.

A police officer's work is very challenging. Fort Bragg's police officers contend with difficult and demanding situations every day, whether responding to a traffic accident, intervening in a domestic dispute, or investigating a serious crime. Our police officers are well-trained, hard-working, and dedicated to serving the citizens of Fort Bragg. They have earned the strong support of the Fort Bragg City Council, the City Manager, fellow City employees, and a broad cross-section of our community.

This annual report summarizes the accomplishments of the Fort Bragg Police Department over the past few years. It serves as a testament to the exceptional work performed by the Fort Bragg Police Department's sworn officers and non-sworn personnel.

Sincerely,

Linda Ruffing



Message from the Chief of Police



Message from the Chief of Police:

In re-issuing this annual report, I want to take the opportunity to thank the men and women of the Fort Bragg Police Department for the job they continue to do, and the dedication to the community they've shown for the last year. You have persevered through a time of local political turmoil, and continued to deliver outstanding Police Service to the citizens of Fort Bragg. I also want to express my appreciation for your warm welcome and support of me as I concluded my first year in this position. I will proudly represent you and together we will attain our goals of delivering quality community oriented police services while treating everyone we encounter with respect and dignity.

I also want to thank the members of the Fort Bragg community for your continuous support and appreciation of all the members of your Police Department. I look forward to establishing and reaffirming partnerships with residents, members of the business community and all segments of our community going forward. We also remain committed to working with our youth in helping them with their goals, assisting where we can, in avoiding the pitfalls of gang and drug involvement and assuring they have every opportunity to a bright and productive future. To that end, I hope to report next year on the successful implementation of a cadet post here in Fort Bragg, for youngsters aged 14 to 20.

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. I look forward to meeting more of you as we achieve this and work together toward that end.

Sincerely,

Fabian E. Lizarraga



Mission Statement



The Fort Bragg Police Department is committed to provide 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



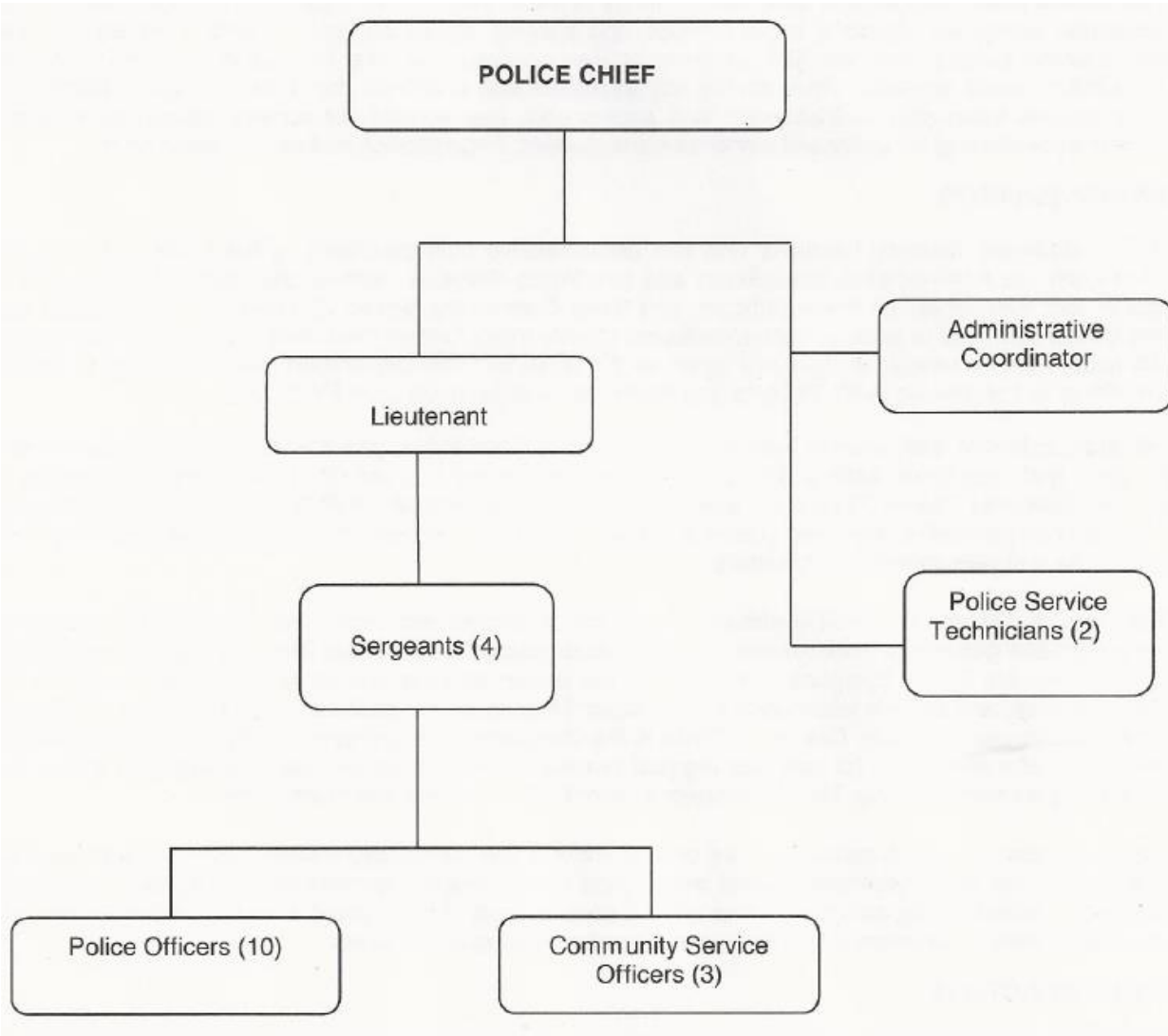
The Fort Bragg Police Department is made of up 19 full-time employees. Chief Fabian Lizarraga, Lieutenant Charles Gilchrist, Administrative Coordinator Debbie Desmond, Police Service Technician/Records Supervisor Sally Provencher and Police Service Technician/Property & Evidence Tech Lesley Bryant make 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, 9 full-time sworn Police Officers, and 2 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





Community Involvement



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 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 participates in the Coast Police Activities League Christmas Party. The children at this event are presented with a multitude of activities from a variety of games to play to decoration creation and other craft activities.



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" to 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. The Police Department had a hot dog BBQ at Bainbridge Park in 2015 to celebrate the event with the community.



Employee Recognition



Sergeant Oscar Lopez

On 06/14/15, Officer Oscar Lopez was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sergeant Lopez started his career with the Fort Bragg Police Department on 04/11/05. During his time with the department Sergeant Lopez has worked as a School Resource Officer and a Field Training Officer. He is a gang expert and has worked closely with the school system teaching the GRIP program. Prior to working in Law Enforcement Sergeant Lopez was an Infantryman in the United States Army.



Sergeant Jonathan McLaughlin

On 07/12/15, Officer Jonathan McLaughlin was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sergeant McLaughlin started his career with the Fort Bragg Police Department on 10/13/05. Sergeant McLaughlin started out as a volunteer then due to a staffing shortage was hired as a Police Services Technician. Sergeant McLaughlin worked his way up into the Community Services Officer position then went to the academy to become a Police Officer. Sergeant McLaughlin has worked as a Field Training Officer and a Bicycle Patrol Officer.



Employee Recognition

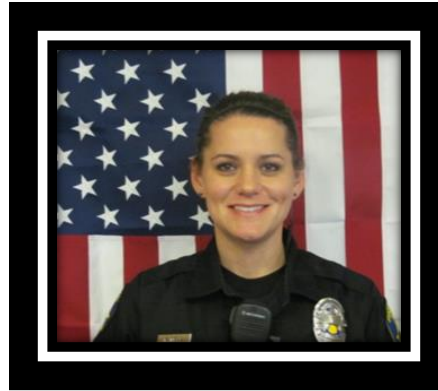


Lieutenant Charles Gilchrist

On 06/14/2015, Sergeant Gilchrist was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Lieutenant Gilchrist started his career with the Fort Bragg Police Department on 06/23/2001. During his time with the Department, Lieutenant Gilchrist has worked as a Field Training Officer, Detective and Sergeant. Lieutenant Gilchrist managed the Department's firearms training program for 14 years. He was also a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team. You can often find him working special events on his police bicycle. Prior to working in Law Enforcement, Lieutenant Gilchrist spent 10 years in the U.S. Coast guard conducting Search and Rescue, and law enforcement missions all over the world.



Employee Recognition: Police Recruit



Officer Kimberly Nell

Kimberly Nell began her career with the Fort Bragg Police Department as a Community Service Officer in the spring of 2013. Recruited to law enforcement from a local coffee house, Kimberly was said to have had a lifelong dream of serving in law enforcement.

Being a mother of three children, and wife of a tenured US Postal Worker, Kim was said to have waited a long time to begin the career she had dreamed of. With all of her children at the age of mostly self-sufficiency, Kim seized the opportunity to dive into a new career. Having never been truly exposed to the law enforcement lifestyle and culture, Kim quickly realized that law enforcement was more than just a regular '9 to 5' job. Kim found herself immersed in a culture and career where the people she serves with depend on her deeply, and the demands and expectations are higher than anything she had ever experienced.

Once Kim completed her training as a Community Service Officer, she quickly became proficient at her duties, and began developing her own methods and styles of making her position more productive and efficient. As her knowledge and interest in law enforcement grew deeper by working alongside police officers, Kim began expressing a deeper desire to be more involved, and take on greater challenges in the field as a police officer herself. Kim was chosen early in 2015, as the next candidate from within the department to attend the challenging six month long law enforcement training academy in Santa Rosa.

In July of 2015, Kim began her next phase of progression toward becoming a police officer by attending the Santa Rosa Junior College Public Safety Training Center. After months of challenging training, testing, and a deeper immersion into the law enforcement culture, Kim emerged successful, transformed, and ready to begin the next phase of her journey.

After completion of the police academy in December of 2015, Kim promptly began the Field Training Program as a Police Officer with the Fort Bragg Police Department. Kim is expected to complete the Field Training Program in April of 2016.

The Fort Bragg Police Department has been fortunate to be able to harvest local talent from the men and women within the community that are willing to serve and protect their own families and friends.

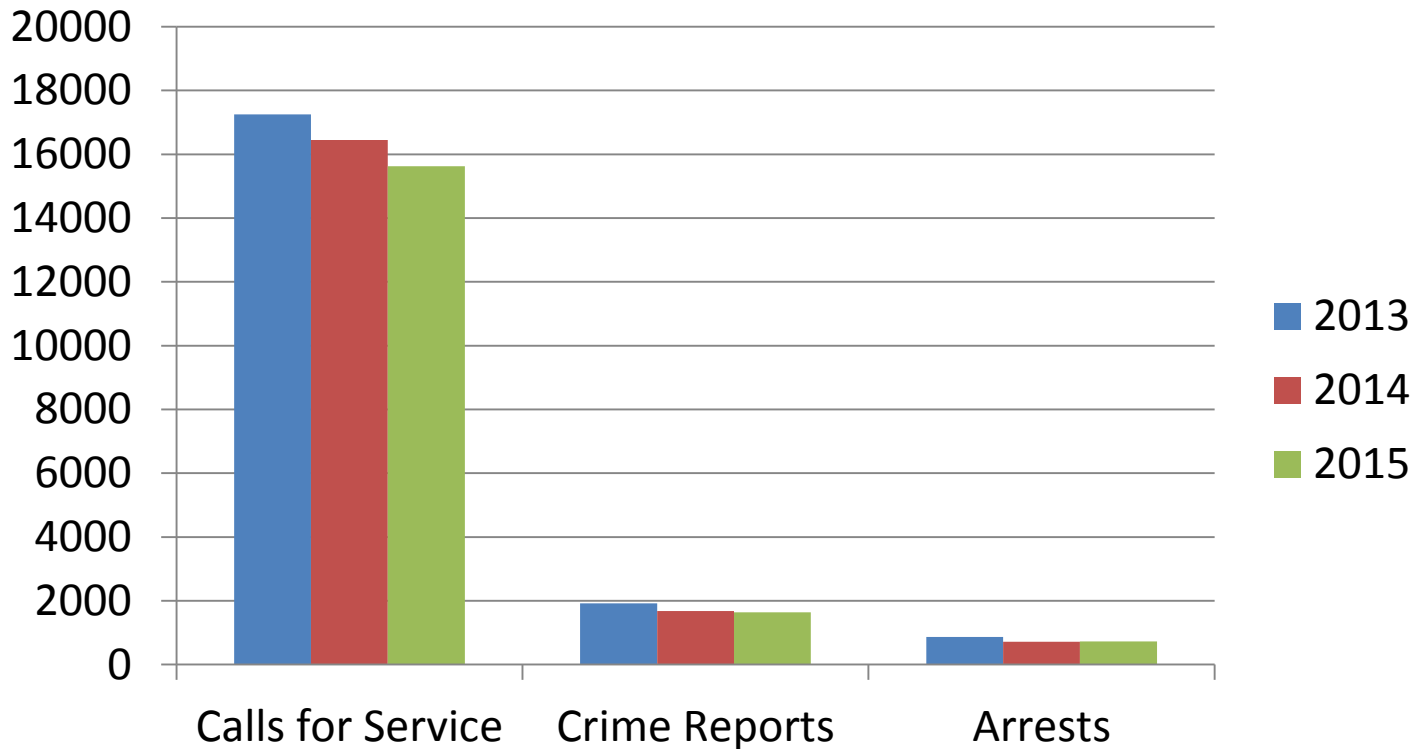
The Fort Bragg Police Department currently employs 4 Police Officers who have previously served the department in the capacity of Community Service Officer.



Calls for Service/Reports/Arrests



In 2013, Fort Bragg Police Officers responded to a total of 17,147 calls for service and wrote 1,925 Crime Reports associated with those calls for service, which resulted in 869 arrests. In 2014, Fort Bragg Police Officers responded to a total of 16,350 calls for service and wrote 1,681 Crime Reports associated with those calls for service, which resulted in 721 arrests. 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.

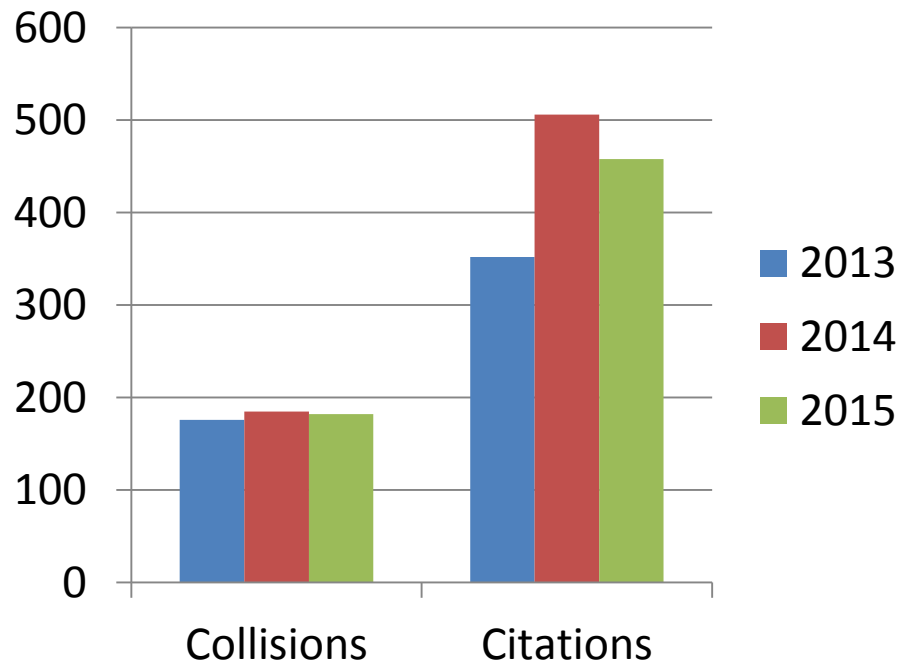




Traffic Safety

A major concern for the Fort Bragg Police Department and community alike is traffic safety. There have been many street improvements in recent years, increasing the safety of motorists traveling within Fort Bragg city limits.

The Fort Bragg Police Department initiates traffic stops on traffic safety violators with the purpose of education and enforcement. These two aspects combined lead to greater driver awareness and an ultimate goal of decreasing traffic collisions, thus increasing traffic safety in our community. Below are statistics for the number of traffic collision reports taken and traffic violation citations issued by Fort Bragg Police Officers from years 2013 through 2015 :



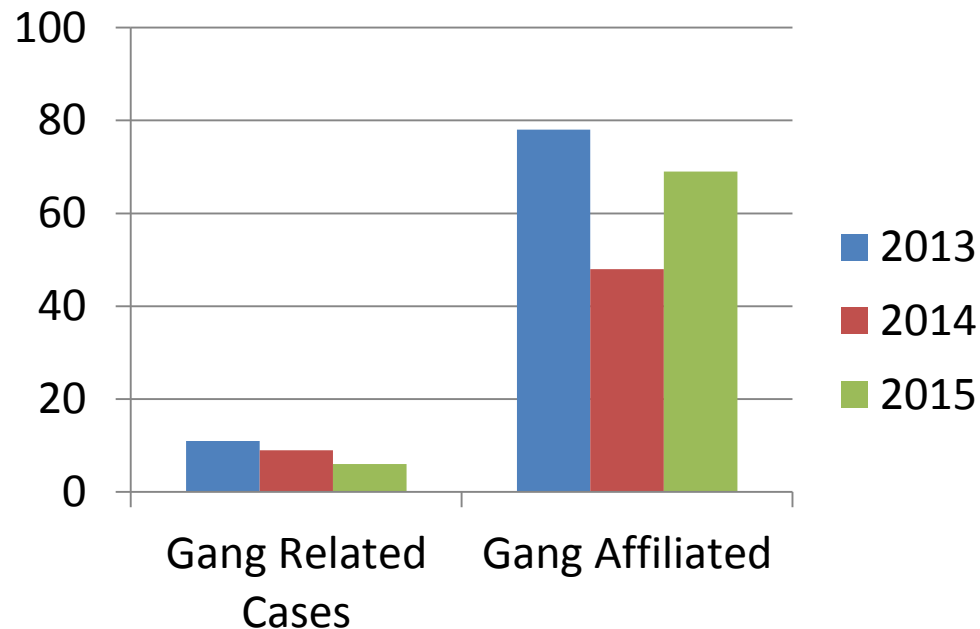


Gang Crime



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, violence against citizenry, law enforcement and rival gang members, rape, and murder.

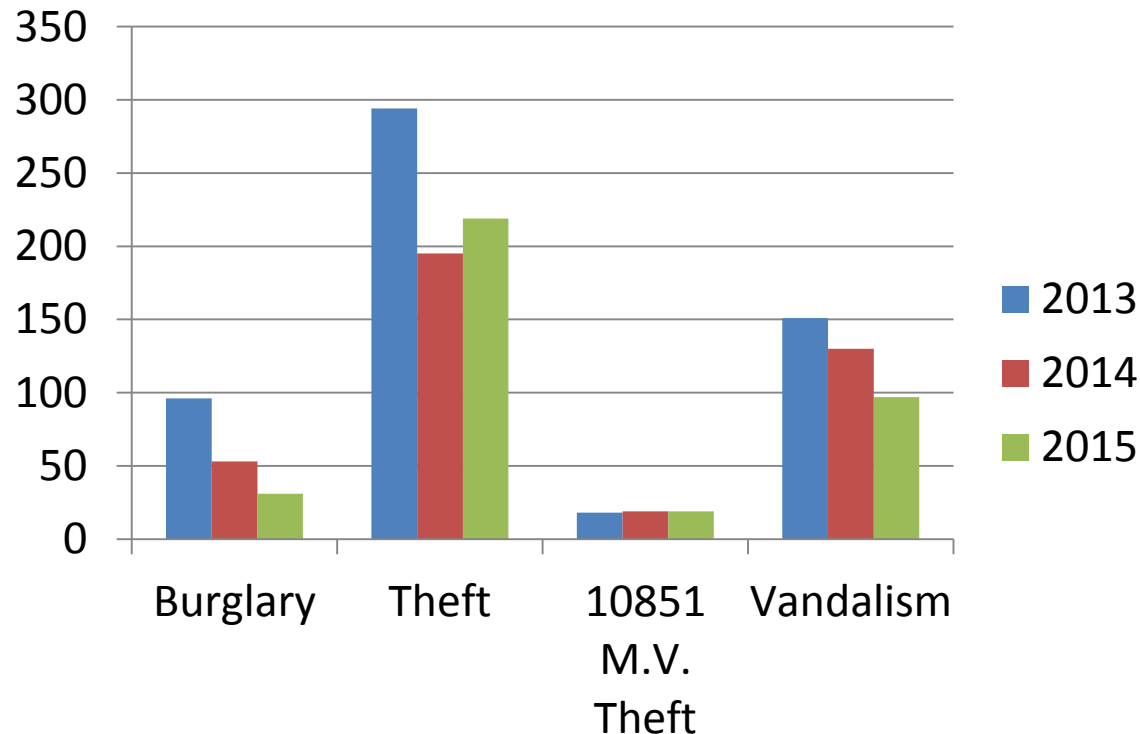
The Fort Bragg Police Department, in conjunction with local allied agencies participates in the Multi-Agency Gang Suppression Unit (MAGSU). Statistics of reports taken for gang related crimes in 2015 are as follows:





Property Crime

The Fort Bragg Police Department retains a list 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 2013 through 2015 are as follows:

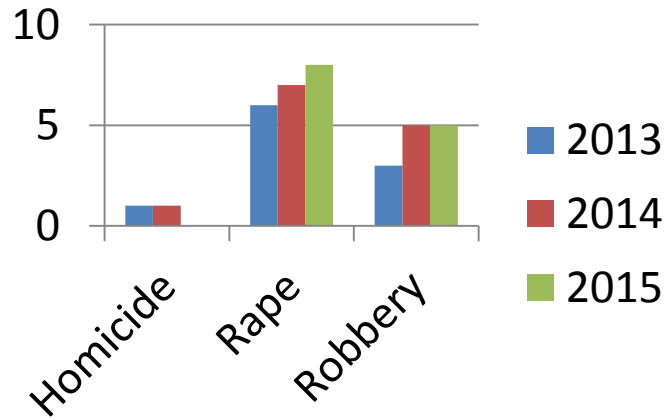




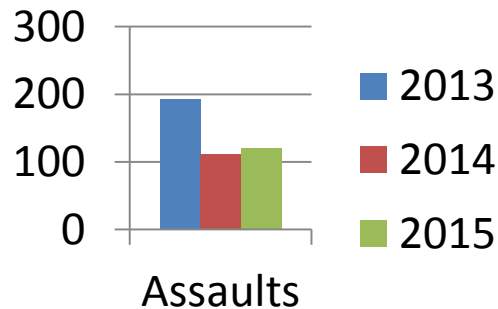
Crimes against Persons



Over the last three years, the City of Fort Bragg remained a safe place to live. The number of homicides dropped to zero while robberies remained at five. Reported rapes increased by one. Reports taken for Murder, Manslaughter, Rape, and Robbery from the 2013 through 2015 are as follows:



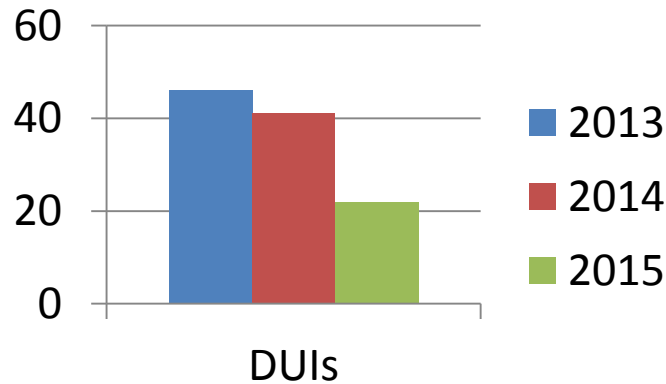
Assaults can refer to many different types of crimes against persons, including but not limited to gang fighting, simple or aggravated battery and domestic violence assaults. There was a slight increase in 2015. Reports taken for assaults from years 2013 through 2015 are as follows:





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 others substances while operating their vehicle. Below are statistics for arrests related to driving under the influence from years 2013 through 2015 :





END