

**NEAT, CLEAN AND ORGANIZED**  
**A Report on the Fort Bragg Police Department**

**May 13, 2009**

***Summary***

The 2008-09 Grand Jury visited the Fort Bragg Police Department (FBPD) and found the department fully staffed and well-managed.

***Methods***

The Grand Jury viewed the vehicles and toured the facility, including the evidence room, the holding cell, and all other areas. Jurors interviewed officers and staff.

***Background***

Under California Penal Code § 925a, the Grand Jury has a general authority to review city affairs. The 2008-09 Grand Jury undertook this charge in visiting the Fort Bragg Police Department.

***Findings***

1. The department has 24 approved positions. Current employees consist of the chief, one lieutenant, three sergeants, twelve officers (nine men and three women), two community service officers and four support staff. This constitutes a full staff. One community service officer position is frozen due to budget restrictions.
2. There is one bilingual officer who receives a pay incentive for his language skills.
3. One school resource officer (SRO) gives lectures and staff training at all Fort Bragg schools concerning safety issues and avoidance of drugs and gang involvement.
4. All new hires are subject to an 18-month probationary period.
5. The department does not have a K-9 unit due to budget constraints.
6. There is no mandatory counseling for officers who have experienced a traumatic event unless job performance is affected.
7. The department does not publish an annual report.
8. The policy and procedure manual is currently being updated.
9. Some officers complete "Train the Trainer" taser school and then provide in-house training to the others.
10. A police cadet program is being developed for youth ages 16 to 20.
11. There is a citizen ride-a-long program.
12. The County Sheriff's Office handles all dispatching for FBPD.
13. Due to the lack of an animal control officer in Fort Bragg, increased officer time is required to handle animal issues.
14. FBPD patrol cars do not have on-board computers or cameras.

15. The holding cell is in compliance with Titles 15 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations which set minimum standards for local detention facilities and are enforced by the Corrections Standards Authority of the State Department of Corrections.
16. Each officer is assigned a patrol car and takes the car home at night with the exception of one officer who lives out of the area.
17. Each officer is assigned to keep their car clean. The City of Fort Bragg Public Works Department performs regular vehicle maintenance.
18. State funding for forensics and bookings is scheduled to end this year.

### ***Recommendations***

The Grand Jury recommends that Fort Bragg Police Department:

1. assign a bilingual officer to each shift. (Finding 2)
2. continue to provide training to all SROs prior to assignment. (Finding 3)
3. pursue funding for a K-9 unit. (Finding 5)
4. mandate and provide counseling whenever an officer experiences a job-related traumatic event. (Finding 6)
5. continue to seek funding for the forensics and bookings programs. (Finding 18)
6. pursue funding for the purchase of onboard computers and cameras for the patrol cars. (Finding 14)

### ***Discussion***

The Fort Bragg Police Department facility and grounds were very clean, neat and well-organized. There was complete cooperation and the Grand Jury was welcomed to look at everything.

### ***Required Responses***

Fort Bragg Chief of Police (All Findings; All Recommendations)

Fort Bragg City Council (All Findings; All Recommendations)

Fort Bragg City Manager (All Findings; All Recommendations)