

Response to Grand Jury Reports

Report Title: Fort Bragg Police Department and Holding Cell
Report Date: November 3, 2005

Response by: Dave Turner Title: Mayor

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with findings numbered:

1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12

- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered:

3, 10

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered 1 have been implemented. (Attach a summary describing the implemented actions)

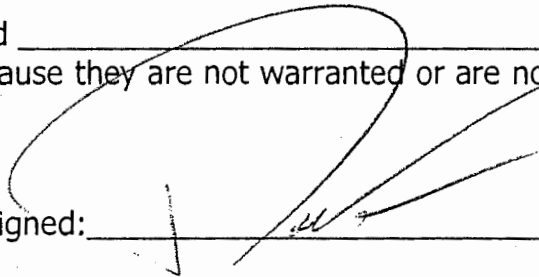
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. (attach a time frame for the implementation)

- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.

(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)

- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable. (Attach an explanation)

Date: January 10, 2006

Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 3



Fort Bragg Police Department

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R.L. Thomas
Chief of Police

To: Andy Whiteman, City manager
From: R. L. Thomas, Chief of Police
Date: December 20, 2005
Subject: Response To Grand Jury Finding Report Dated November 3, 2005

This document provides response pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05. to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations noted in their report dated November 3, 2005.

Findings:

Finding #1. "The FBPD web-site is up and operational at the time of inspection and continues to be expanded and developed."

Response: Agree.

Finding #2. "The FBPD is staffed in accordance with its budget: one Chief, one Lieutenant, four Sergeants, ten Patrol officers two Community Service Officers (CSO) (one position is vacant), six Cadets, two Police Service Technicians (one is an Evidence Room Technician), and an Executive Secretary."

Response: Agree.

Finding #3. "The FBPD staffing is affected by the number of officers on temporary disability."

Response: Disagree in part.

The officers on disability leave at the time of the Grand Jury visit have either returned to work or have retired. We have hired an officer to replace the retired officer.

Finding #4.

"Officer retention rates within rural communities such as Fort Bragg are affected by family circumstances and needs."

Response:

Agree.

Finding #5.

"Dispatching for the FBPD is performed through a contract with the Sheriff's Office."

Response:

Agree.

Finding #6.

"A high level of cooperation exists between the commanders of the FBPD and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Coast Sector Sub-Station."

Response:

Agree.

Finding #7.

"Additional safeguards for the disposal of evidence are to be implemented."

Response:

Agree.

Finding #8.

"Injury claims on the part of patrol officers have been reduced by 30% with the introduction and appropriate use of Tasers."

Response:

Agree.

Finding #9.

"The FBPD holding cell is physically located in the Mendocino County Sheriff's Coast Sector Sub-Station."

Response:

Agree.

Finding #10.

"The Fort Bragg Holding Cell lacks an audio monitoring system, resulting in non-compliance with California Code of Regulations 6031."

Response:

Agree in part.

Since the visit by the Grand Jury the County of Mendocino has installed an audio system in the cell

used by FBPD. The monitoring station is located in the Sheriff's Office. Consideration should be given to providing FBPD with a monitoring station also.

Finding #11.

"Transportation of prisoners to Ukiah or another facility is generally carried out within two hours."

Response:

Agree.

Finding #12.

The FBPD estimates that 75% to 80% of arrests are drug related (Methamphetamine or other drugs)."

Response:

Agree.

Recommendations:

Recommendation #1.

"The Grand Jury recommends that the Mendocino County of Buildings and Grounds install an audio monitoring system in the FBPD Holding Cell that is compliance with California Code of Regulation 6031. (Finding 10)"

Response:

The recommendation has been implemented. However a monitoring station should be provided to FBPD. Currently the only such station is located within the Sheriff's Office and FBPD officers cannot hear it.

In closing, the department would like to thank the Grand Jury for taking the time to review our operations. We appreciate the comments provided by the Grand Jury and welcome oversight by them and other members of the public we serve.