



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT



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****MEDIA RELEASE****

Proactive Policing Leads to Capture of Potentially Violent Felon 05/13/2025

On May 12, 2025, at approximately 9:29 PM, an officer of the Fort Bragg Police Department was conducting routine traffic enforcement in the downtown area when he observed a vehicle driving northbound in the 200 Block of N. Main Street. The officer observed the vehicle travelling over the posted speed limit and they utilized a speed detection device to confirm that the vehicle was travelling 41 miles per hour (MPH) in the posted 25 MPH zone.

The officer conducted a traffic enforcement stop and identified the driver of the vehicle as Juan Yepez Pena, 32 years old, of Lathrop, California. A records check revealed that Yepez Pena had a felony warrant from 2019 out of Menlo Park, California, for 285(i) PC – Sodomy without Consent involving Drugs or Alcohol.

Yepez Pena was arrested on the outstanding warrant and issued a citation for violation of 22350 VC-Speeding. Yepez Pena was transported and booked into the Mendocino County Jail.

An internal records check showed that Yepez Pena has had no other contacts with our Department.

“This type of proactive law enforcement 24 hours a day is what helps keep our community safe,” said Fort Bragg Police Chief Neil Cervenka, “What began as a traffic safety stop, turned into the capture of a person wanted for a serious felony driving through our city.”

This information is being released by Captain Thomas O’Neal. All media inquiries should contact him at toneal@fortbraggca.gov.

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