



CNMI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROTA



OUR MISSION AND GOALS

We are committed, prideful and dedicated to meeting the needs of the community of the island of Luta. We pledge to deliver quality police services in the most effective, ethical and professional manner. We acknowledge and accept our responsibility of maintaining social order while ensuring dignity and respect to every citizen we encounter. We strive to ensure the highest standards of quality of life through our partnerships with community stakeholders, businesses, other government and private agencies, and the community as a whole to promote a safe Luta.


Contact Us


Location: Songsong Village, Rota,
CNMI

Dispatch: (670) 532-9433/9490

Administration: (670) 532-9492

BMV: (670) 532-9491

 : Luta Department of Public
Safety

 : Luta Traffic Section



“The Luta Department of Public Safety consists of multiple sections working in harmony to ensure the continued safety of life and property on Rota.”

- **PATROL SECTION:** The officers within the Patrol Section serve as the backbone of the department. They serve the community 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. They are the primary responders to any calls for assistance made to the department. The section consists of four shifts which cover the entire the island. Patrol officers also participate in various community-oriented events in an effort to deter crimes.
- **HIGHWAY PATROL SECTION:** The specially trained officers within this section primarily focus on highway related incidents to ensure the safe travels of all motorists and pedestrians. They are all nationally certified traffic crash investigators as well as Child Passenger Safety Technicians. We also boast two of the CNMI’s CPS Instructors, who certify other officers and civilians as technicians. Highway Patrol officers commonly provide roadside safety and car seat instructions to community members to ensure they travel safely on our roads.
- **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS:** The detectives assigned to this section are well-trained in various investigation techniques and crime scene/evidence processing. Detectives also assists victims of crimes in seeking and obtaining assistance through various community, private and government partners. They are kept up-to-date with emerging technologies and techniques to aid in their duties.
- **BOATING SAFETY SECTION:** Boating safety officers are specially trained in water and dive rescue and recovery. They are responsible to respond to any water borne incidents and conduct numerous educational presentations to the fishing, boating, and recreational community. They are also active in presenting to schools and community organizations to promote safe water activity practices.
- **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS:** The SRO section is placed within the island’s lone Junior/Senior High School. They assist the school in ensuring that our students are safe. They also provide guidance and mentorship through face-to-face interactions and other educational presentations. They also serve as direct access for other sections to conduct educational presentations for their various programs.

- **BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES:** The BMV and records personnel are dedicated to providing the best and efficient services to ensure that the community are able to obtain their necessary documents such as driver's licenses, vehicle registrations, firearms identifications, police reports, etc.
- **ADMINISTRATION:** The administrative personnel dedicate themselves to ensure that the officers and other personnel of the department are maintaining the highest level of excellence. They also ensure that officers are provided with the necessary training, equipment and resources to meet the modern demands of community safety.



HOW ARE WE DOING?



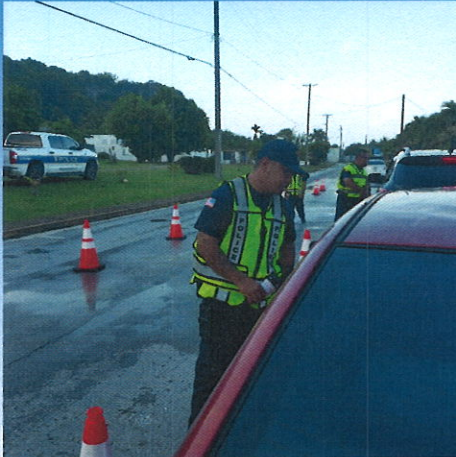
To meet the challenges COVID-19 put on our island, our officers dedicated themselves even more to serve our community and ensure the continued safety of our residents. They pulled additional hours to secure vaccines, borders, and provide protection at testing, quarantine and vaccination sites.

The opening of borders and loosening of health guidelines forced our officers to adjust to the “new normal” and find a way to still be effective while engaging our community in a safer manner. This mindset led to various training opportunities that helped our officers adjust and prepare themselves for these modern challenges. This included an increase in in-service training as well as educational training from outside agencies.



From the beginning of the Fiscal Year, the mindset was tailored to a more training and preparation focused one, as opposed to a reactionary response. National certifications in various courses were afforded to our officers as well as bi-weekly in-service training sessions to keep them updated. This new focus on training greatly enhanced our abilities to engage in the community in a more community-oriented, education-driven practice.

HOW ARE WE DOING?



Highway Patrol re-engaged and participated in national campaigns under the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The Drunk, Drugged, Distracted, and Drowsy Driving campaign as well the Click It or Ticket Mobilization were two of the main campaigns Highway Patrol excelled at. Additionally, our instructor was able to conduct a Child Passenger Safety Technician certification in Saipan after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19. Highway Patrol's participation in these national campaigns aims to reach zero traffic related fatalities through coordinated agency-to-agency efforts that helps reduce risking driving behavior by changing safety culture. Our impaired driving program strives to achieve significant reduction in traffic crashes, fatalities, and injuries on public roads. During these campaigns, Highway Patrol increases the number of high-visibility enforcements (HVE), checkpoints, educational presentations and other community events designed to help achieve their goals. The Highway Patrol section enlists the help of other sections to carry out their missions.



The Boating Safety Section conducted educational presentations to the boating community, fishermen and the school throughout the year. Their goal was to ensure that safe boating practices are exercised during every water-borne activity. They also conducted numerous boat inspections to ensure that all vessels are equipped with the appropriate safety equipment. They also increased patrol throughout island's beaches and tourist attractions to ensure a safe environment for everyone. Additionally, they increased their number of in-service training for their dive rescue team, going from once a quarter to twice a month to ensure efficiency and proficiency.

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS/PARTNERSHIPS:

- **Partnership with Department of Youth Services and System of Care:** The Department of Public Safety is proud to give support to our partners in their efforts to spread awareness on.

- Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault prevention

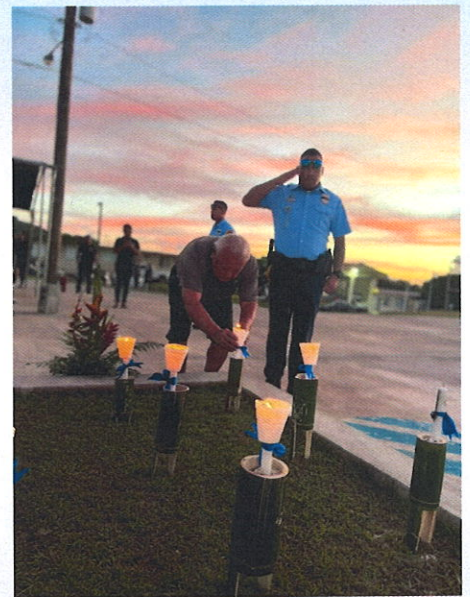
- Domestic Violence Awareness

- Cancer Awareness

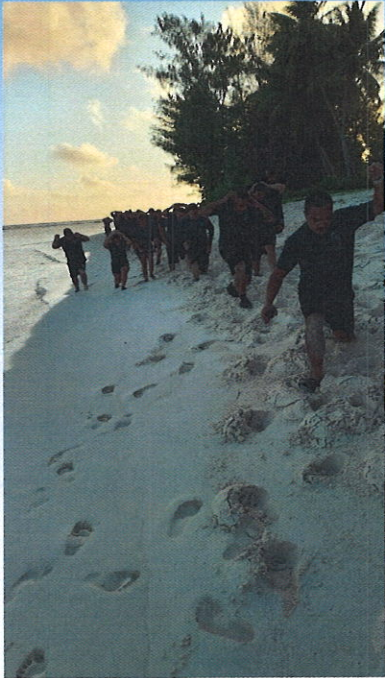
- Parent Leadership

- Teen Dating Violence Awareness

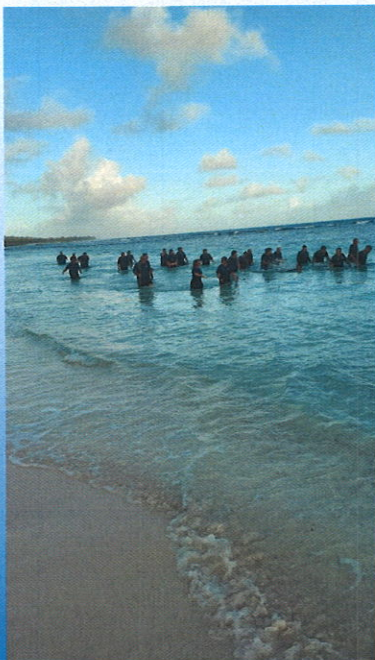
- **Annual Coastal Clean-up:** The Department of Public Safety together with partner departments and agencies help protect our environment by collecting trash and cleaning up our local beaches.
- **South Pacific Games:** All sections in the Department of Public Safety comes together to ensure the athletes safety in the water and on the roadways.
- **Man Amko' Take Over Day:** Once a year the Department of Public Safety is honored by one of the island's elders as they assume the role of acting Department Director.
- **Police Officers' Memorial:** This year we held our biggest ceremony honoring our brethren who have passed before us. We paid them respect and honor through a meaningful and heartfelt ceremony that highlighted their service to the department and the commonwealth.



PHYSICAL FITNESS FIT TO LEAD

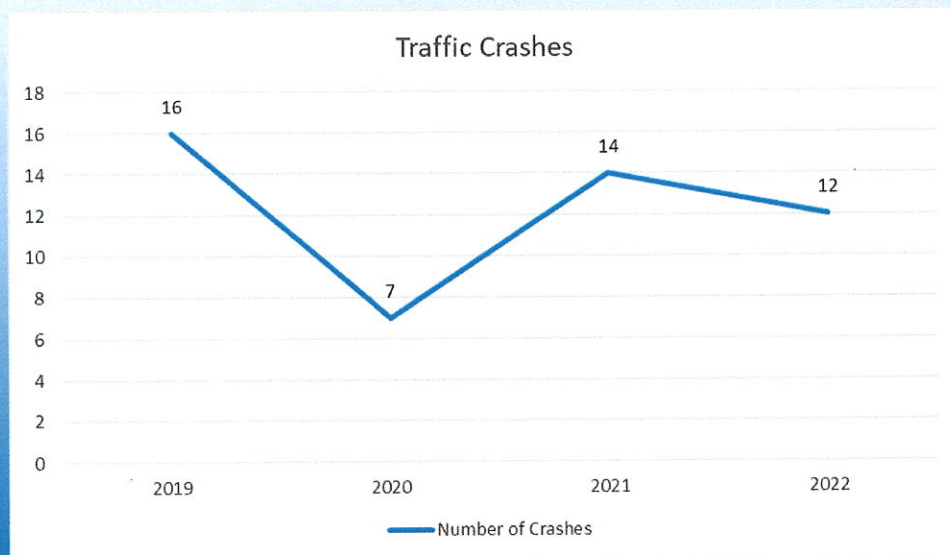
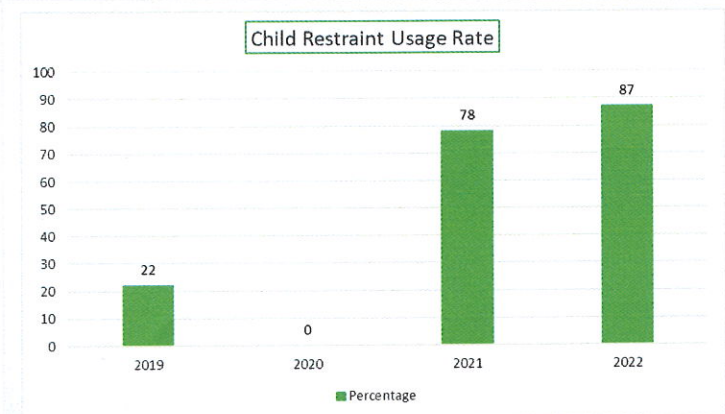
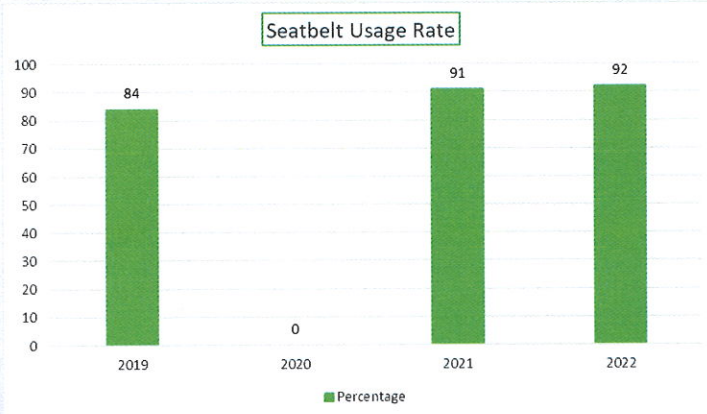
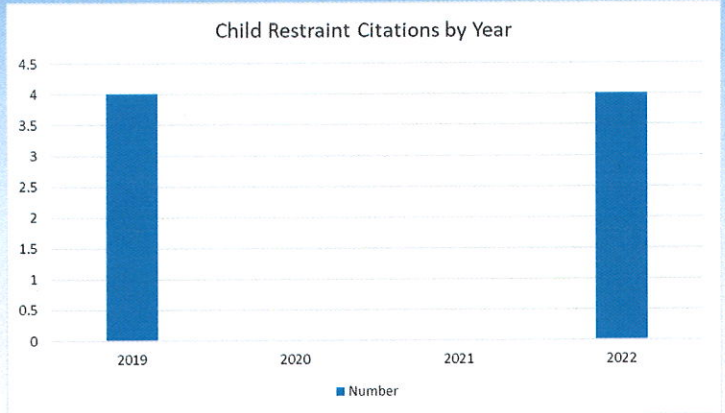
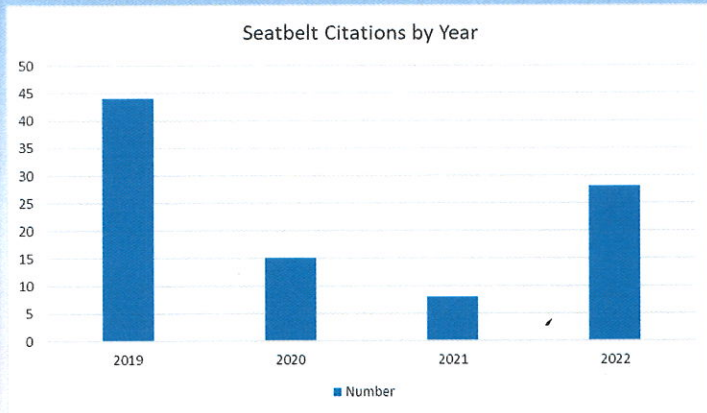


COVID 19 taught us a lot of things. One of the main lessons we learned was that our physical, mental, and emotional fitness was critical in order to effectively carry out our missions and accomplish our goals. With that in mind, the department revamped its physical fitness program and implemented a rigid training schedule that focused on improving the mind, body, and heart. This fell in line with the eventual Fit To Lead program enacted by Governor Ralph Torres.



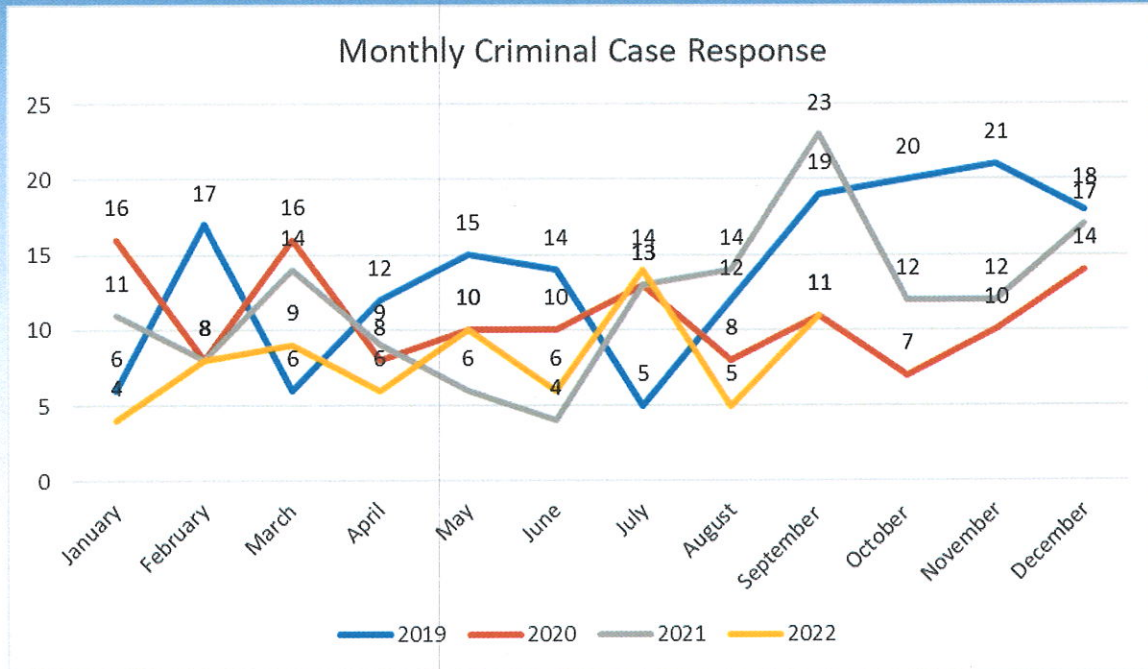
CUMULATIVE DATA

The following data on the charts illustrate the increase/decrease on Occupant Protection/Child Restraint enforcement and usage rates from 2019 to present. It should be noted that the huge decrease in Years 2020 and 2021 are due to the impact of COVID 19 and the focus shifting towards a response to that.



CUMULATIVE DATA

The data on the graphs illustrate the number of complaints responded to by officers by our department; comparing responses from 2019 to present on a monthly basis.



The chart below illustrates Boating Safety's response to various calls for service

DISTRESS VESSEL	11	OVERDUE FISHERMAN	4
RUN-AGROUND	0	FLARE SIGHTING	7
SEARCH/RESCUE	3	ESCORT SERVICES	12
UNDER WATER UXO	0	STRANDED WHALE	0

EXPENSES FOR FY 2022

PL 22-08		ARPA	GENERAL FUND
NOP	57		
PERSONNEL		\$879,664.00	\$1,408,521.00
OPERATIONS		\$8,710.00	\$208,488.00
	TOTAL		\$2,505,383.00



CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED:

Funds allocated to the Department of Public Safety, Rota still poses a huge challenge for us. The Department of Public Safety runs a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week operation. Funding for the cost of operation are insufficient, this includes overtime, fuel for operations, and purchasing of critical equipment to efficiently complete our everyday tasks as a law enforcement agency. Although we were able to procure new vehicles in the past few years, they have yet to be fully capable of responding due to a long delay in funding for emergency devices such as lights and sirens. Additionally, the rise in fuel costs throughout the world has impacted us here on Rota especially. This has led to a decrease in patrol and highway operations. Also, the maintenance costs for our fleet has been costly and yet remains underfunded. This has led to 4 vehicles being rendered inoperable.

However, despite the funding allotted to the Rota Department of Public Safety being inadequate and insufficient, our officers and staff continue to report to work with a smile on their faces and dedication in their hearts. They understand that some sacrifices must be made in order to protect life and property, prevent crimes and the fear of crime, and to promote a safer Rota. Our officers and staff have always stepped up to the challenges faced by the department and have provided for some of the department's shortfalls out of pocket. Examples of these include meals for detainees, toiletry items for detainees, and cleaning supplies. We remain dedicated to ensuring that our mission statement is accomplished.

SUCCESSSES:

- The hiring of 6 officers through the 26th Police Academy Cycle
- Increase in the police vehicle fleet
- Renovation of Operations Building under D16AP00066 under the CIP-CNMI-2016 -6 Rota Landfill Construction (redirected to DPS Renovation)
- Renovation of Liyo' compound to house Boating Safety and Administration
- FEMA project *82213 for the renovation of DPS Building A and B from typhoon damages.

