



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

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Director's Office

*Acting Director of Customs – James T. McDonald
Acting Chief of Customs – Major Darlene R. Merfalen*

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Two Customs Agriculture Canine Teams by Year-End

BARRIGADA, GUAM – The Customs & Quarantine Agency (CQA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) have a history of entering into Cooperative Agreements (Agreement) to prevent, detect, control, eradicate, suppress, or retard the spread of plant pests or noxious weeds and protect Guam's animal and plant resources.

In 2014, CQA and USDA entered into an Agreement to grow the existing Agriculture K-9 program in airport operations. The result proved to be a success. The introduction of four agriculture K-9 teams in airport operations coincided with a significant amount of prohibited agriculture seizures. In 2015, agriculture seizures totaled 1,950.25 lbs. for the year. From January to June of 2016, agriculture seizures totaled 2,091 lbs. This number will continue to grow throughout the year.

The impact agricultural K-9 teams had on airport operations resulted in the awareness of need at cargo and mail facilities.

The 2015 Agreement specifically outlines mission-related goals, objectives, anticipated accomplishments and approach for piloting a CQA Agriculture K-9 team for Air Cargo, the Post Office, and CFS Container inspections areas.

Training for the teams will take approximately ten weeks to complete. When they return to Guam a transition period of one to two months will commence. Only after a full transition is completed will the teams begin operation at their assigned areas of responsibility.

Guam can expect to see these new teams by year-end.

Funding through the Agreement will be used to support this mission to including travel, training two officers, and purchasing two Agriculture K-9s.

For more information please contact our Public Information Officer Ms. Jessi Santos at (671) 475-6202 or email jessi.santos@cqa.guam.gov.

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