

CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

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Director's Office

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2016

Greater Banded Hornet: Non-Actionable Pest

BARRIGADA, GUAM – Today, at 1:00 a.m., the Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) boarded a cargo vessel arriving from Naha, Japan.

At 3:30 a.m., Customs officers deemed the vessel clear for unlading.

While unlading, port employees, noticed and captured a specimen resembling a bee which they forwarded to the CQA's maritime offices. As a safety precaution, the Port Authority of Guam stopped unlading operations.

CQA's biosecurity division believed the specimen to be the Greater Banded Hornet and upon delivering it to entomologist Dr. Aubrey Moore at the University of Guam it was confirmed.



The Greater Banded Hornet, under current USDA guidelines, is considered to be "non-actionable," meaning, guidelines specify no action is necessary.

The Port resumed unlading the vessel by 10:45 a.m., after CQA's second clearance. CQA's biosecurity team remained on the scene for an additional hour thereafter to monitor the operation.

"After a thorough inspection of the vessel was complete with no signs of any additional specimen, we conclude that the one Greater Banded Hornet found was likelier attracted to the lights of the vessel and not brought in by the vessel," said James T. McDonald, Director of Customs.

This incident highlights the active participation of Guam's Biosecurity partners: CQA, the Port Authority of Guam, and the University of Guam. Working together we will continue to actively protect Guam against biosecurity and invasive species threats.

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