



# CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

Guam's First Line of Defense | Protecting Our Island, Our People, and Our Resources

*Director's Office*

*Director of Customs – James T. McDonald  
Acting Chief of Customs – Major Philip S.N. Taijeron, Jr.*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 21, 2016**

### **CQA Pilots New Program: Currency Canine**

BARRIGADA, GUAM – The Customs and Quarantine Agency has begun a new program incorporating the use of currency detector dogs. This is the first of its kind in our region.

On December 8, 2016, CQA brought in three additional K-9s, one (1) specializes in the detection of narcotics while the other two (2) specialize in currency.

Trained to sniff out large quantities of currency, the k-9s will assist the Agency in detecting and preventing large sums of money from entering and exiting our borders unreported.

While it is not illegal to travel with large sums of money, federal and local law requires travelers declare monetary instruments of over \$10,000 USD.



Currency Detector Dog Becky

James T. McDonald, Director of CQA, says, “the discovery of sizable undeclared monetary instruments is cause for concern as it is frequently linked with crime, drugs, and terrorism. The Agency expects to use the k-9 teams to disrupt the illegal flow of currency which will in turn decrease criminal activity and obstruct the number of narcotics and illicit drugs within the community.”

This new program supports the Agency's mission of protecting legitimate trade and commerce while also helping to dismantle criminal enterprising in Guam.

Funding for the narcotic detector dog was received from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program and CQA's Asset Forfeitures Funds supported the acquisition of the two currency detector dogs.

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

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