



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*

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Customs Collaboration in the Marianas

BARRIGADA, GUAM – The Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) and Customs Service of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) met today to discuss plans to collaborate and develop a collective customs approach for increased security of the Marianas.

With the increase of smuggled methamphetamine arriving from Asia and the United States an ongoing concern for both customs administrations, they have decided to combine their efforts and form this partnership.



Director of CQA, James T. McDonald (left) and Director of Customs Service (CNMI) Jose C. Mafnas (right)

The CQA Director and Director of Customs Service of the CNMI, Mr. Jose Mafnas, recognize the benefits of collaborative efforts and have committed to 1) allow officers from the CNMI to receive training here in Guam from CQA officers and others as training becomes available, 2) share intelligence and data of methamphetamine smuggling, and 3) provide information on the CNMI's current IT system and guidance toward CQA's development of its own IT system.

“We are in the planning stage of developing an MOA between each of our governments toward regional collaboration. I want smugglers to know that it is not just us, CQA, but also the CNMI Customs Service that they have to watch out for,” James T. McDonald. Jose Mafnas agrees and adds, “we need to get smarter and use all the resources we have, including each other, to be more effective in our fight against methamphetamine.”

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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