



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

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Director's Office

*Acting Director of Customs – George L. Charfauros, Jr.
Chief of Customs – Vincent S.N. Perez*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Customs Officers Undergo Fentanyl Training

BARRIGADA, GUAM – Officers of the Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) will continue to receive training throughout the day on Fentanyl from representatives of Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense (GHS/OCD), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Guam National Guard Civil Support Team (GUNG CST).

According to the DEA, Fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use as an analgesic (pain relief) and anesthetic. It is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin as an analgesic. Fentanyl is a Schedule II controlled substance which has increasingly been trafficked and used illicitly.

Fentanyl can be injected, snorted/sniffed, smoked, taken orally by pill or tablet, or spiked onto blotter paper. Additionally, exposure may be accidental if the person is not aware. Overdose may result in stupor, changes in pupillary size, cold and clammy skin, cyanosis, coma, and respiratory failure leading to death.

George L. Charfauros, Jr., Acting Director of the Customs and Quarantine Agency and Guam Homeland Security Advisor states, “With the illicit use of fentanyl, which is an increased concern of law enforcement organizations and communities stateside, I want to ensure we are proactive and that our officers on the front lines are aware of the drug, its effects, and concealment methods to better prepare against accidental exposure and prevent attempts of trafficking.”

“I also want to thank our partners at GHS/OCD, DEA and the GUNG for providing us the training to keep our officers and communities safe” Charfauros adds.

The training is the first in a series of training being provided by GHS/OCD, DEA and GUNG CST locally to Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders on the island.

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

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