



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

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Director's Office

*Director of Customs – Ike. Q. Peredo
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Sept. 10, 2024

Guam Customs Graduates, Recognizes Newest Detector Dog Handlers

BARRIGADA, Guam – The Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's (CQA) Drug Detector Dog Unit (DDDU) officially gained four new drug detector dog handlers today following their graduation ceremony at the A.B Won Pat International Airport.

Officers across the agency applied for the opportunity earlier this year, a position requiring heightened physical fitness, adaptability, problem solving skills, discipline, focus, and team work.

The new handlers completed three months of intensive training by certified narcotics detection instructors within the agency.

“It is absolutely critical that we increase our agency's capability to intercept illegal drugs before they enter our island. We must work together to guide our community in the opposite direction as far as illicit drug exposure and use are concerned. Growing our DDDU will certainly enhance the progress we need to see for a safer and healthier Guam, and we look forward to increased drug interdictions,” said CQA Director Ike Peredo.

First-Ever Female Dog Handlers

We are proud to announce that, within this group, are the DDDU's first female drug detector dog handlers in CQA history. Both proved fit for selection and successfully completed the required training and conditioning.

Over the past decade, the DDDU gained nine handlers. However, today's graduates restore our number of drug detector dog handlers back to nine. Our agency requires 18 dog-handler teams to be considered at ideal capacity.

Having certified instructors and expertise within the agency, the DDDU was readily able to train these new handlers with existing resources.

Three Handlers Expand Agriculture Canine Unit

Our Agriculture Canine Unit (ACU) recently gained three new dog handlers, following their graduation on Aug. 15 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Detector Dog Training Center in Newnan, Ga. These handlers were also recognized during the ceremony.

In the past 10 years, the ACU saw seven new dog handlers. The additional handlers increased their recent total of three teams to six. Six teams are considered the ideal capacity for the ACU.

Unlike previous ACU teams, the newest teams were collectively trained in passenger, air cargo, and ocean freight settings, enabling them to readily conduct detection work within the agency's airport, cargo, and maritime sections. Previous teams were trained in just one of these areas during a given training period.

Their training, costing approximately \$50,600, was funded by a USDA grant under Plant Protection Act Section 7721, formerly known as the USDA Farm Bill.

“We are eager to see the positive effects of our increase in dog teams, and we will continue to strive toward a more strengthened force that continues to deliver the results our future depends on. We would like to thank our local and federal partners for their support,” Peredo concluded.

A livestream of the ceremony can be viewed on the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency Facebook page.

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