



# CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

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*Director's Office*

*Director of Customs – Ike. Q. Peredo  
Chief of Customs – Vincent S.N. Perez*

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## **Two Customs Officers Promoted to Rank of Captain**

BARRIGADA, Guam – Our agency promoted two of its officers to the rank of Captain today during a ceremony at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex.

Formerly Customs and Quarantine Officer IIIs, newly-minted Capt. Paul Bernardo and Capt. Michael Camacho have dedicated just over two decades to their duties at the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA). Of noteworthy mention is that both officers were initially employed with the Guam Department of Agriculture as Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) officers in 1996 before the PPQ section was absorbed by CQA in 2003.

During the ceremony, their families came forward to affix their new ranks to their uniforms. CQA leadership presented their official certificates of promotion from the agency, followed by Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio's presentation of certificates of recognition from the Office of the Governor of Guam.

“A captain's role is more than just giving orders, making decisions, controlling officers, and the hand of discipline. In fact, an effective captain envisions his or her subordinates as major assets to help the agency thrive. The promotion today is an acknowledgement that the Customs and Quarantine Agency believes in their abilities to perform at the next-highest level,” said CQA Director Ike Peredo.

Bernardo expressed he is truly honored and deeply humbled by his selection.

“I'm extremely blessed and appreciative. I never imagined this happening to me in the pinnacle of my career. I will continue to take ownership with the agency's core values, and understand the strengths and weaknesses of my coworkers to meet agency goals. I will continue to entrust and instill professionalism in junior officers, as well as seasoned officers, to be the best version of themselves, make sound decisions, and always stay engaged and motivated. Rise above your roadblocks and conquer obstacles,” he said.

Bernardo said he wouldn't have made it this far without the support of his beautiful family.

“My wife, Joleen, has been my biggest supporter. My daughter, Jolee, always made me realize the importance of being honest and grateful. My son, Josiah, reminds me that hard work beats talent. My son, Jayven, doesn't say much, but he teaches me to stay true to yourself. My son-in-law, Nate, makes me understand commitment, and, finally, my granddaughter, Jaeda, well, she's the boss, and, if there's anything I can learn from her, its family is first no matter what,” he concluded.

Camacho will forge ahead uplifting his fellow officers.

“As a new captain and supervisor for the agency, I know it’s my responsibility to do more than what is expected of me and of those that I will one day lead from the front. To add to my understanding of a leader is that, the welfare of those I lead, is of the utmost importance. A happy staff is a productive staff. I will do all I can to ensure the officers of this agency are enthusiastically engaged with our duties and responsibilities as Guam’s First Line of Defense,” he said.

“I would like to give praise and glory to God. In Him, all things are possible,” he continued. “Secondly, I would like to thank my wife Bertha Duenas Camacho for always standing beside me, encouraging me, and being my toughest critic.”

CQA’s last set of captain promotions was granted to 15 officers in October 2022. Bernardo and Camacho now join 19 other captains serving in key supervisory roles across the agency.

For more information, contact CQA Public Information Officer Alana Chargualaf-Afaisen at [alana.c.afaisen@cqa.guam.gov](mailto:alana.c.afaisen@cqa.guam.gov) or 671-971-1408.

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