



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

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

Director's Office

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Dec. 12, 2024

Guam Customs Officers Respond to Illegal Entries in Northern Guam

BARRIGADA, Guam – Guam Customs officers responded to alerts of illegal, unauthorized, and unannounced entries in northern Guam Dec. 10-11.

Around 4:45 p.m. on Dec. 10, an officer with our Maritime Contraband Enforcement Team (MARCET) was informed a female, of the People's Republic of China (PRC), was found to have illegally entered the vicinity of a military installation.

Upon investigation, officers learned the female was dropped to Guam by a vessel originating from Saipan in violation of Guam customs entry requirements, and that a warrant was out for the woman's arrest. She was apprehended by federal authorities for detention.

During the investigation, officers learned of another female and male in distress on the reef outside the Haputo Beach area, who reportedly arrived by the same vessel. Each of them received aid from medical responders and were taken into the custody of federal authorities.

Guam Customs officers conducted formalities of inspecting each of the passengers and their baggage for contraband. No contraband was present.

Additional PRC Nationals Discovered the Next Day

Within the 9 a.m. hour on Dec. 11, a MARCET officer was informed of a male from the PRC located at the Tanguisson Beach area. The male was taken into the custody of our Maritime Interdiction Task Force officers after completing customs formalities before custody was transferred to federal authorities.

Further investigation yielded the discovery of three other males from the PRC found in the vicinity of a military installation.

Each of these illegal entries were found to have been transported by the same vessel originating from Saipan, are in custody of federal authorities following customs formalities.

This is an ongoing investigation.

Illegal Entries to Date, Task Force Partners

Since 2022, our agency has responded to a total of 152 individuals from the PRC who were determined to be in violation of Guam entry laws.

Our agency remains dedicated to executing vital customs operations crucial to local and national security, notwithstanding ongoing challenges in securing sufficient personnel, cross-terrain vehicles, modern surveillance systems, and other essential resources for adequate protection of our borders.

We maintain a collaborative relationship and conduct joint operations with members of a multi-agency task force charged with detecting and responding to illegal entries. The Guam Police Department, Guam Fire Department, the Office of the Attorney General of Guam, the Port Authority of Guam, Guam Department of Labor, Guam Homeland Security, the Guam Department of Agriculture Conservation Division, the Marianas Fusion Center, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Customs, CNMI Department of Public Safety, the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations are key partners in our border protection efforts.

Report Findings

We ask that the community be vigilant and keep watch for individuals suspected to have made illegal entry to the island or who may be involved in smuggling activities. Please report any findings to us at (671) 642-8071/2 or email inquire@cqa.guam.gov.

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

###