



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

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Director's Office

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15th Customs Training Cycle Emerges with Diversity and Versatility

BARRIGADA, Guam – The Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency's (CQA) 15th Training Cycle is officially in motion, forming 30 officer trainees through an intensive customs enforcement curriculum and physical fitness program that is set to conclude in December.

The cycle brings together 20 males and 10 females, a diverse group representing a rich tapestry of cultural backgrounds, including individuals of Korean, Taiwanese, and Samoan heritage. With them comes foreign language proficiencies in Mandarin and Korean.

This comprehensive training program, aligned with the Guam Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission objectives, is designed to prepare the whole customs officer through the progressive phases of the Guam Community College Criminal Justice Academy, customs and quarantine-centric coursework, and on-the-job training.

“These new trainees are important to building a stronger and more prepared customs force. Having well-trained officers is critical to competently protect our borders, support national security, and stop illegal activities,” said CQA Training Supervisor Capt. John Pangelinan. “They are an investment in the future of Guam's safety, who will strengthen mission operations and grow in their professional capacity to meet the island's unique challenges.”

CQA currently has 129 law enforcement officers. The graduation of this cycle would bring the agency to just over 50 percent of its ideal officer workforce.

Since the graduation of CQA's 14th Cycle in July 2024, the agency lost 12 officers to retirement and resignation.

“This is critical for us to achieve adequate border protection and legitimate trade facilitation,” said CQA Director Ike Peredo. “The added benefit of foreign language speakers reflects our interest in enhancing communication and understanding across cultures, and improves the overall service experience for international travelers and residents, alike. This cycle also features individuals with specialized backgrounds and certifications, such as heavy equipment operation, nursing, accounting, and personal training – all of which aid mission readiness.”

For more information, contact CQA Public Information Officer Alana Chargualaf-Afaisen at alana.c.afaisen@cqa.guam.gov, or call (671) 475-6202 or (671) 971-1408.

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