



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

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Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency Recognizes New Drug and Agriculture K-9 Handlers, Instructors, Recertified GPD, DOC K-9 Teams

BARRIGADA, Guam - Guam's law enforcement agencies reasserted their collective commitment to disrupting the illegal movement of drugs, contraband, and prohibited agricultural products as the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) recognized both new and recertified handlers and instructors from CQA, the Guam Police Department (GPD) and Department of Corrections (DOC) Oct. 8 at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport.

CQA's Drug Detector Dog Unit (DDDU) is currently staffed with eight handlers with the addition of three K-9 teams: Customs and Quarantine Officer (CQ) I Jason Frias with Detector Dog (DD) Fanni, CQI Matthew Tayama with DD Xavi, and CQI Brennon Tedtaotao with DD Ella. The teams have proved themselves capable of detecting drugs at Guam's ports.

"As of last week, our drug K-9 teams intercepted 436.26 pounds of drugs during Calendar Year 2026. That's 80% of the 545.14 pounds our agency is tracking in drug seizures at the border this year, and a significant increase from the 390.74 pounds seized during Calendar Year 2025," said CQA Director Ike Peredo. "The three newly-certified drug detector dog handlers we recognized today have already seized a combined total of 66.48 pounds of illicit drugs."

CQIII Jeremy Artero, CQII Danielle Cacayan, and CQI Gino Crisostomo were recognized as the DDDU's newest instructors, who recently received their certifications from Southern Coast K9 in New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

CQA's Agriculture Canine Unit also welcomed handler, CQII Jonathan Lim, with DD Hiltie, maintaining a team of four handlers. Lim received his certification at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Detector Dog Training Center in Newnan, Ga. earlier this year.

The ceremony underscored the critical role of coordinated K-9 capabilities in strengthening Guam's front-line defenses at its ports of entry, prisons, and the broader island community.

Recognized for recertification by CQA's Canine Training Academy instructors were GPD's Police Officer (PO) II Joshua Togawa with DD Lobo, POI Hurao Iriarte with DD Drako, DOC's Corrections Officer (CO) II Bruce Flores with DD India, COI Jesse Cruz with DD Inga, and COI Ron Hocog with DD Filip.



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“Interoperability between GPD and CQA is foundational to the island’s localized border protection and public safety ecosystem. By aligning tactical and regional operations, our agencies can bridge gaps between border enforcement and local community policing,” said Acting Chief of Police Maj. Paul Sayama.

From May 2025 to present, GPD’s K-9s, along with their K-9 handlers, were credited with 79 drug arrests; and the seizure of around 498 grams of methamphetamine, around 163 milliliters of liquefied methamphetamine, around 35 grams of cocaine, 52 dextroamphetamine pills, 25 pills for fentanyl, eight firearms, and \$13,000, according to Sayama, who highlighted their local training.

“Conducting training locally eliminates the heavy fiscal and logistical burdens of sending personnel off-island, ensures tactical familiarity with Guam’s unique geographic and cultural landscape, and allows real-time operational integration between local departments from day one,” he added.

“Our K-9 unit actively maintains security through the consistent seizure of contraband, including methamphetamine, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia,” said Acting DOC Director Maj. Andrew Quitugua. “Through rigorous and regular proficiency maintenance training, our teams effectively deter illegal drug activity and contraband presence within both the Adult Correctional Facility and the Hagåtña Detention Facility. Our handlers and K-9s remain committed to operational readiness and ensuring the safety of our correctional facilities.”

About CQA

CQA officers are responsible for screening passengers, cargo, and conveyances at Guam’s borders and ports of entry to interdict drugs, various contraband, prohibited goods, invasive species and other biosecurity threats, criminals, and terrorists in the facilitation of legitimate trade, commerce, and travel.

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