



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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Beyond the Border: Guam Customs' Emerging Drone Unit Demonstrates Early Operational Success in Support of GPD Search Efforts

BARRIGADA, Guam - The Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) continues its commitment to modernizing operations by embracing today's technologies and innovative tools to meet the evolving demands of Guam's law enforcement landscape. Our emerging drone program reflects these efforts, demonstrating its potential to enhance operational results and interagency collaboration, as evidenced by our recent support of the Guam Police Department during a search operation that led to the successful apprehension of target suspects.

This is a promising example of how technical capabilities and coordinated efforts can increase public safety despite law enforcement's distinct operational domains.

"Drone technology serves as a critical force multiplier, helping personnel surveil difficult terrain, identify and track persons and areas of interest, and make more informed operational decisions while potentially reducing risks to responding personnel," said Acting CQA Director and Chief of Customs Vincent Perez. "Our ability to provide this capability beyond our border enforcement mission to local and federal law enforcement and emergency response partners reflects our shared goal to serve and protect the people of Guam while acknowledging our unique, integral, and complementary areas of responsibility in how we protect the public."

CQA is currently equipped with eight drones and 15 certified drone pilots out of CQA's Special Enforcement Division. The pilots are certified under 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 107 on small unmanned aircraft systems by the Federal Aviation Administration.

"We recognize that the continued development of our drone program presents opportunities to expand operational readiness, improve coordination with partner organizations, and contribute to a more responsive public safety network," said Col. Franklin Gutierrez, assistant chief of CQA's Special Enforcement Division and Drone Program Commander. "As the program evolves, responsible use and results-driven performance remain paramount."

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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