



Embassy of the United States of America
Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América
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November 14, 2003

Mr. Tony Piegaro
CSI International
1128 Royal Palm Beach Blvd. #230
Royal Palm Beach, Florida 33470

Dear Mr. Piegaro,

First and foremost, I would like to thank-you for giving law enforcement in Belize an opportunity to experience professional canine training. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work with you over the last few months. It's been a pleasure to be able to witness the changes in the Government of Belize's canine program in both the Police Department and at the International Airport.

As you know, you walked into a program that was complacent. The dogs were being used in capacities that they were not intended for, such as crowd control and street patrol. The handlers had received limited training from the National Police Training Academy in Guatemala, which did not result in any successes.

Your arrival in Belize has completely turned things around. The Handlers have been impressed with the training that they have received. The operational support provided has given the handlers the hands on experience that they needed to boost moral and build confidence in their dogs. The written tests have been taken seriously. The Government of Belize has pledged their full support. You were able to build strong handlers out of officers with limited to no canine experience. The six new dogs that were purchased last June are now out on operations regularly.

Just yesterday, I received a call from a handler about a seizure of 67.3 grams of Marijuana. He told me that he finally has confidence in his dog and that he trusts his dog's instincts in all situations. A search of the local seaport yesterday resulted in hits on three containers and one car. We are still awaiting the results. The confidence has spread not just to the Canine Unit, but also to the Anti-Drug Unit mobile team. I spoke to Commander Myvette today and he confirmed the seizure of two (2) kilograms of cocaine on Thursday. The first kilogram was found on a regular vehicle checkpoint and the second in a house raid. The overall work ethic and attitude of the Anti-Drug Unit Canine Department has improved with just two weeks of training. I am anxious to see the results over the next few months.

Three months ago, the Anti-Drug Unit was conducting canine operations that resulted empty handed regularly. I am confident that this is finally changing due to the strong training program and operational advice provided by CSI International. I found it extremely difficult to find a program that not only offered training for the canines and handlers, but also for canine program management staff and the Director of Public Prosecution's Office. I have found the CSI Program to be extremely well rounded and I'm confident that it will produce the results that INL is looking for.

Sincerely,



Kerry Osterhout
NAS Program Director
U.S. Embassy Belize