



Embassy of the United States of America

November 12, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

On June 27, 2003 INL at Embassy San José contracted with CSI International Inc. for the purchase of 5 drug detection dogs, and a year long training and certification program. We contracted with CSI based on their success and proven track record in Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.

Since then I have been thoroughly impressed with Tony Piegaro's knowledge of canines and his ability foster a sense of mission within the Cost Rican Ministry of Public Security's K9 unit. He has been successful in changing the mindset of the unit from that of passive indifference to a more forward leaning and aggressive posture. He has fostered a sense of pride and purpose within the unit that was sorely lacking.

After five months of training, Tony recently certified a group of handlers and took them out on a two day operation to the Ports of Limon and Moin to search cargo vessels, a first for the K9 unit. Tony has gone above and beyond the terms of his agreement with us. On his own accord, he has replaced two dogs that he felt were not performing up to standard and purchased paint and fans for the kennels at the K9 facility. There is no question in my mind that Tony takes pride in his program and is committed to its success. His record in the region speaks for itself.

Sincerely

Mark Cullinane
Narcotics Affairs Officer