



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Homeland Security

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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LAUNCHES STRATEGIC CANINE TRAINING COURSE TO STRENGTHEN FIREARMS DETECTION AND BORDER SECURITY

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago – The Ministry of Homeland Security officially launched a high-level, two-week Canine Training Course on Firearms, Components, and Ammunition Detection on Monday, July 7th, 2025, at CSI Canine Consulting Group Ltd., St. James. This course represents a critical national investment in frontline security capability and a strategic response to the growing threat of illicit firearms trafficking.

The training initiative is being delivered through a strategic partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and CSI Canine Consulting Group Ltd., with support from the Federal Republic of Germany. It aims to equip canine units and their handlers with internationally certified skills in scent detection, tactical deployment, and interdiction of illegal arms at high-risk points such as airports, ports, and border crossings.

In delivering the keynote address, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Homeland Security, Mr. Videsh Maharaj, underscored the urgency and national importance of this initiative. He stated:

“This is not simply training. This is transformation. This programme marks a turning point in Trinidad and Tobago’s efforts to dismantle the machinery of illicit arms trafficking. It is a strategic intervention—an investment in human capital, operational resilience, and public safety.”

Mr. Maharaj further noted that the initiative forms part of a multi-pronged national strategy involving legislative reform, international cooperation, and enhanced frontline capacity. He reaffirmed the Government’s full commitment to the long-term



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sustainability and integration of canine detection into the broader national security framework.

This initiative also aligns with Target 16.4 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which calls for a significant reduction in the illicit flow of arms and the dismantling of organized criminal networks. By enhancing its detection capacity, Trinidad and Tobago is translating global priorities into concrete national action.

The programme features the use of advanced detection tools, scientifically developed training aids, and world-class instruction that meet international standards. Participants will gain hands-on experience with odour-safe simulants, scent boxes, reward systems, and control gear, ensuring that canine teams are operationally prepared for real-world deployment.

Canines are increasingly recognized as force multipliers in law enforcement, offering unmatched precision and deterrence in identifying concealed threats. This training builds on their proven success in narcotics detection and expands their role in firearms interdiction—ultimately helping to save lives and protect communities.

PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS:



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Photo 1: (From Left to Right) – Mr. Ivan Garcia, UNODC Consultant; Mr. Roberto Rodriguez Codesal, UNODC Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer; Mr. Videsh Maharaj, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Homeland Security; Mr. Nicholas Elliott, Managing Director, CSI Canine Consulting Group Ltd.; and course participant from the Customs and Excise Division.



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Photo 2: (From Left to Right) – Course Participant; Mr. Ivan Garcia, UNODC Consultant; Mr. Roberto Rodriguez Codesal, UNODC Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer; Mr. Videsh Maharaj, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Homeland Security; Mr. Nicholas Elliott, Managing Director, CSI Canine Consulting Group Ltd.; and course participant.

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