

# Quarantine E-news

## Celebrating Christmas Quarantine style

Christmas season is all about giving. SQS' way of giving back to the public is through its service. Quarantine is one of the essential services provided throughout the year including public and commission holidays like this festive season.

While most people are doing last minute shopping for Christmas, quarantine officials remain stationed at their designated sites including Faleolo & Fagalii airports, Satitioa & Matautu wharves and depots as it is one of the busiest times in SQS work calendar.

It is a long Christmas Eve's night for the inspectors. The depots have extended their normal working hours to late night to cater for the clearance of personal effects, fresh produce, and Christmas gifts from families overseas.

The export booth at Faleolo is busy with a long queue of travelers awaiting inspection and export certification for their commodities. Moreover, at the arrival lounge both lanes (green & red) are crowded with incoming passengers thus additional staffs are on call to accommodate the situation. There are always challenges in quarantine's line of work. This time in particular officers tend to deal with a slight increase in the number of non compliant importers. Despite this, there is much to sing Christmas carols about as the level of non conformance was lower in comparison to the same period in 2009.

No one at the border feels the exhaustion of the long night as everyone is jolly with the Xmas spirit and more importantly, there is peace that the borders remain protected even as everyone is enjoying the celebrations of Christmas.

### OUR CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR YOU

- ◇ Thanking you for your support throughout 2010.
- ◇ We hope to continue this partnership with you in this holiday season.
- ◇ For the holiday makers into Samoa, please ensure that you comply with our import requirements prior to importing.
- ◇ For those traveling overseas the SQS office at Faleolo airport is open 24 hours for inspection and issuance of export certificates.

*"Samoa Quarantine wishes you well this festive season. May you have blessings in your home, and joy in your heart. "*