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## <u>PRESS RELEASE</u>

## **Police Officer Missing from Joint Patrol**

Belmopan. September 4, 2020. 2:15 p.m.

The Ministry of National Security is currently engaged in an all-out search in the area between Machaquila and San Jose, Hawaii for a missing member of a joint BDF/Police Border Patrol.

On September 3, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. the patrol commander reported that PC Bernard Ical did not arrive at the rendezvous point in San Jose, Hawaii along with the remainder of the patrol.

For their safety, the patrol was recalled from Machaquila due to the pending threat of Hurricane Nana. According to the patrol commander, PC Ical had gone ahead of the rest of the patrol around 10:00 a.m. on September 2nd. The remainder left shortly after; however, they did not catch up with him and upon arriving at San Jose, Hawaii around midnight, they realised that he did not arrive at that location. The patrol waited until 8:00 a.m. expecting that PC Ical would show up. Thereafter, they reported that he was missing.

Search parties comprising of BDF, including the BDF Air Wing, and police have been deployed, and Guatemalan counterparts have been notified in case he may have mistakenly wandered into Guatemala.

## **Ends**