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Man Arrested in St. John for Allegedly Using Fake Alien Registration Card During CBP Inspection

Federal agents in Cruz Bay say Nigel Cooper presented a forged U.S. immigration document while traveling to St. Thomas. Court records show officers found pay slips from U.S. companies and no record of valid work authorization or alien registration.

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Ferries docked in Cruz Bay, St. John. By. V.I. CONSORTIUM.

ST. JOHN — A man was arrested last week after allegedly presenting a falsified alien registration card to Customs and Border Protection Officials in Cruz Bay.

According to court records, last Thursday, Nigel Cooper was headed to St. Thomas from Cruz Bay, St. John, and presented himself for inspection to CBP officers, who conducted a baggage

examination.

They discovered an alien registration card bearing Mr. Cooper's name and photo, however the identification number on the card belonged to a different individual. Further checks revealed that there were no records of Cooper applying for an alien registration card, nor any records of him receiving one.

CBP officers also found pay slips from companies located in the United States, suggesting that Cooper, a citizen of Jamaica and the British Virgin Islands, had been working in the U.S. on the dates and times listed on the pay slips. Officers reportedly found no record of any work authorization document issued to Cooper.

As such, he was arrested and charged with possessing a forged, counterfeit, altered, or falsely made alien registration card.

Cooper appeared before U.S. Magistrate Alan Teague on Friday, and was released prior to his next court appearance on Tuesday. Judge Teague will then decide whether Cooper should be detained ahead of trial, as requested by prosecutors.