

# The Virgin Islands Consortium

## St. Croix Man Facing 22 Years In Jail, \$250K Fine For Firearm And Ammunition Possession

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ST. CROIX -- Dwayne Wesselhoft, 29, of this island, was arrested today on an indictment charging him with possession of a firearm and ammunition by an unlawful user of a controlled substance, unauthorized possession of a firearm, and unauthorized possession of ammunition, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced today. Wesselhoft made his initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge George W. Cannon in District Court and was released to a third-party custodian.

According to the indictment, Wesselhoft possessed a Taurus, model PT 24-77 Pro DS, 9mm Luger pistol, 50 Blazer, 9 mm bullets, and 40 Remington, 9 mm bullets. If convicted of possession of a firearm and/or ammunition by an unlawful user of a controlled

substance, Wesselhoft faces a maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine for each count. If convicted of unauthorized possession of a firearm, Wesselhoft faces a mandatory minimum sentence of one year imprisonment and a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment. If convicted of unauthorized possession of ammunition, Wesselhoft faces a maximum sentence of seven years' imprisonment.

United States Attorney Sharpe reminds the public that a complaint is merely a formal charging document and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless found guilty.

The indictment is the result of investigative work by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Virgin Islands Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rami. S. Badawy.

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