

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Man Sentenced To 34 Months In Prison For Conspiring To Ship Firearms To Territory Through Post Office

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ST. THOMAS -- District Court Judge Curtis V. Gomez sentenced today Tequan Joseph, 23, to 34 months' imprisonment and three years of supervised release for conspiracy to ship firearms with obliterated serial numbers, unlawful transportation of firearms, and a Middle District of Florida charge of false statements in connection with the purchase of firearms, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced.

Judge Gomez ordered Mr. Joseph to pay a \$300 special assessment and to perform 400 hours of community service.

On October 26, 2015, Mr. Joseph pleaded guilty to conspiracy to ship firearms with obliterated serial numbers, unlawful transportation of those firearms, and to a Middle District of Florida charge of false statements.

According to the plea agreement filed with the court, between August 6, 2013, and October 7, 2013, Mr. Joseph conspired with other individuals to unlawfully mail two firearms with obliterated serial numbers from Jacksonville, Florida, to St. Thomas. A total of six firearms were shipped and recovered during that period. The investigation revealed that Mr. Joseph had bought all six guns from a licensed firearms dealer in Jacksonville, Florida. Mr. Joseph is not a federally licensed firearms dealer and is not authorized to possess the firearms in the Virgin Islands.

“Trafficking in firearms is the first step in the cycle of violence that’s plaguing our communities. We stand with our law enforcement partners to combat violent gun crime and those who want to destroy our communities,” said Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Special Agent in-Charge Carlos A. Canino.

This case was investigated by ATF and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sigrid M. Tejo-Sprotte.