

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Georgia Man Pleads Guilty To Attempting To Smuggle 8.5 Kilograms Of Marijuana To Virgin Islands

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ST. THOMAS -- Bert Donadelle, Jr., 26, of Georgia, pleaded guilty today in District Court on St. Thomas to possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced.

According to the plea agreement filed with the court, on April 3, 2016, at the Cyril E. King Airport, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (C.B.P.) K-9 detected narcotics in a checked bag belonging to Mr. Donadelle, who had arrived on a Delta Airlines flight from Atlanta. C.B.P. officers examined the contents of the bag, resealed it, and placed it on the carousel for retrieval. Mr. Donadelle retrieved the bag, and a second checked bag bearing his name, from the baggage claim area. C.B.P.

officers seized and field-tested a total of approximately 8.5 kilograms or more of marijuana from Mr. Donadelle's bags.

District Court Judge Curtis V. Gomez permitted Mr. Donadelle to remain on release pending his November 3, 2016, sentencing date. He faces a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kim L. Chisholm.

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