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Orlando Man Charged with Smuggling Marijuana Onboard Spirit Airlines Flight to St. Thomas

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ST. THOMAS — Marvin Forbes, 50, of Orlando, FL, appeared Monday before Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller for an advice of rights hearing after being taken into custody by Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) at the Cyril E. King Airport last Friday.

Forbes was charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana, United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced. At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Miller released Forbes on an unsecured \$10,000 bond pending formal charges in this case.

According to court records, on Friday, June 19, Forbes arrived at the Cyril E. King Airport in St. Thomas on Spirit Airlines flight #1609 which departed from Fort Lauderdale, FL. Upon arrival of the flight, United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers conducted screening of all

passengers' checked luggage as they were being removed from the aircraft. During the inspection, CBP K-9 "Sherpa" alerted to a dark colored, hard-sided suitcase bearing a Spirit Airlines baggage tag that was assigned to Forbes.

Upon inspection of the Forbes' suitcase, CBP officers discovered several vacuum sealed packages inside a light green bag. The suitcase was repackaged and later placed on the baggage carousel at the airport. At baggage claim, CBP officers observed Forbes as he removed the suitcase from the baggage carousel. A thorough inspection of Forbes' suitcase revealed eight (8) vacuum sealed packages, each containing several smaller, individually vacuum sealed packages. A total of twenty seven (27) vacuum sealed packages weighing approximately 12.61 kilograms were discovered in Forbes' luggage.

This case is being investigated by HSI and CBP, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Delia L. Smith.

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

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