

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Thomas Man Found Guilty After 5 Kilograms Of Cocaine Was Found In His Bag While Attempting To Head Florida From St. Croix Airport

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ST. THOMAS -- Alvin Henry, 40, of St. Thomas, was found guilty on one count of conspiracy to possess a controlled substance with intent to distribute, and one count of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced Tuesday. A jury found Mr. Henry guilty in the St. Croix District Court. The jury trial lasted a total of seven days starting February 25, and concluded today, according to the release.

These federal offenses carry a minimum term of imprisonment of not less than 10 years or more than life, a fine of up to \$10 million, and a term of supervised release of at least five years. Sentencing will be set for a future date.

According to trial testimony, on November 2, 2016, a Customs and Border Protection K-9 officer entered the pre-departure area at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport on St. Croix to randomly inspect departing passengers. When the K-9 officer approached, Mr. Henry nervously stood up and lifted his bag off the floor. When the CBP officers noticed this suspicious behavior, they asked if they could look into his bags. Mr. Henry consented and 10 duct-taped bricks of cocaine powder were confiscated from the bag.

Further investigation revealed that Mr. Henry was part of a scheme to transport cocaine from St. Croix to Florida, and had met with an airport employee in the bathroom of the departure area, who delivered the cocaine bricks to Mr. Henry in the bathroom.

Mr. Henry was scheduled to board the American Airlines flight to Miami with the cocaine in his carry-on luggage. Laboratory analysis confirmed the substance was cocaine hydrochloride (cocaine powder) with a net weight of 5,132.4 grams, or over 5 kilograms.

The case was investigated by Customs and Boarder Protection and Homeland Security Investigations. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Southeast Laboratory in Miami analyzed the cocaine. Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel H. Huston prosecuted the case.