

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Florida Contractor Pleads Guilty to Providing Kickbacks in \$1.7 Million Federal Subcontract for Roof Retrofit Of Ron De Lugo Courthouse

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ST. THOMAS -- United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert for the USVI District announced Tuesday that David Wikel, president of Florida-based Therma-Seal Roof Systems, LLC, pleaded guilty to providing kickbacks in connection with the \$1.7 million dollar federal government subcontract to retrofit the roof of the Ron de Lugo Federal Building in St. Thomas.

According to the Information filed in the case, in May through October 2014 Wikel paid over \$200,000 in kickbacks to a senior project manager for the prime contractor on the

Ron de Lugo Project, and that person ultimately funneled \$85,000 back to Wikel. The Information also alleges that Wikel falsely inflated the costs billed under the subcontract in order to cover the aforementioned kickbacks.

This case is being investigated by the General Services Administration – Office of the Inspector General, the Department of Veterans Affairs - Office of the Inspector General, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the Department of Agriculture – Office of the Inspector General, the Coast Guard Investigative Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Nathan Brooks and Jennifer Blecher.

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