

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Man Sentenced to 30 Months in Federal Prison For Possessing and Transporting a Firearm With Obliterated Serial Number and Fleeing Customs Without Authorization

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ST. THOMAS — United States Attorney, Gretchen C.F. Shappert for the District of the Virgin Islands announced on Thursday that Javier Enrique Lima of St. Thomas was sentenced Wednesday after pleading guilty to possessing and transporting a firearm with an obliterated serial number and fleeing a designated customs facility without authorization.

According to the documents filed in this case, on February 3, 2020, Lima presented himself to the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in the Red Hook ferry terminal after returning from Tortola, British Virgin Islands. A CBP Officer working the x-ray machine noticed a firearm in the backpack Lima brought with him, and called for another officer. Lima immediately fled the facility on foot, leaving his backpack. The backpack contained a firearm with an obliterated serial number. Law enforcement agents made multiple efforts to locate Lima, but were unable to do so. He later turned himself in and pleaded guilty.

United States District Court Judge Robert A. Molloy sentenced Lima to 30 months imprisonment followed by two years of supervised release on one count, and 12 months imprisonment followed by one year of supervised release on one count; to be run concurrently.

The case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security.