

Texas Resident Arrested for Marijuana in Carry-On Bag at Cyril E. King Airport on St. Thomas

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ST. THOMAS — United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. announced that a criminal complaint has been filed against Lequan Jaheem Pemberton, resident of Austin, Texas for possession with intent to distribute marijuana. Pemberton made his initial appearance in federal court Tuesday, December 22 in St. Thomas.

According to the affidavit filed in this case, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers were conducting baggage inspections on American Airlines Flight #943 from Miami, FL. Passenger, Lequan Jaheem Pemberton was selected for a secondary bag examination. During a preliminary exam of Pemberton's carry-on bag, officers discovered several plastic wrapped bundles. After their discovery, Pemberton was referred to the secondary CBP inspection area. Further inspection of the bundles revealed a green leafy substance that tested positive for marijuana. The marijuana

weighed approximately 4.32 kilograms. Lequan Jaheem Pemberton was read his Miranda Rights and waived his rights. During questioning by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Pemberton stated that the marijuana belonged to him and he claimed that he intended to smoke it.

This case is being investigated by HSI and prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Virgin Islands.

A complaint is merely a charging document, and it is not evidence of guilt, said the U.S. Attorney's Office. "Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law," states the release.

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