

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Man With Marijuana-Growing Operation Sentenced to Over 5 Years For Carrying Firearm During Drug Trafficking Offense, Illegal Use of WAPA Utility

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ST. CROIX — United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced today that Troy Lance Patterson age 52, of St. Croix was sentenced on Tuesday in federal court by Judge Wilma Lewis to a term of sixty months of incarceration for carrying of a firearm during a drug trafficking offense followed by four months of incarceration on the illegal use of utility charge, to be served consecutively. Patterson had pleaded guilty to the charges on October 20, 2020.

According to court documents, aerial surveillance of Patterson's Anna's Hope, Christiansted residence revealed that the residence was a potential marijuana cultivation site. On September 18, 2019, federal agents executed a federal search warrant at the residence and located Patterson in possession of an unlicensed, loaded, and operable .38 special revolver, which the agents confiscated. During the subsequent search of Patterson's residence, agents located over 80 rounds of ammunition, multiple scales, plastic baggies, approximately 168 gross grams of cocaine hydrochloride, approximately 117 grams of marijuana, and \$12,473.00 in U.S. currency.

Federal agents also located a multi-room indoor marijuana grow operation containing marijuana plants for which electricity was supplied by way of an unauthorized Water and Power Authority (WAPA) utility connection, violations of federal and Virgin Islands law.

Patterson was also sentenced to a term of four years supervised release, was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$3969 to the V.I. Water and Power Authority, was fined \$1000, and was ordered to pay a special assessment fee of \$100. The confiscated \$12,473.00 in U.S. currency, firearm and ammunition were forfeited.

The case was being investigated by the Virgin Islands Police Department and the Drug