

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Florida Man Deemed Career Offender and Drug Trafficker Gets 37 Months in Federal Prison After Interception at Cyril E. King Airport

Education / **Published On November 09, 2021 06:29 AM /**

Staff Consortium **November 09, 2021**



ST. THOMAS — United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced Monday that Marvin Forbes, age 49, from Orlando, FL, was sentenced to 37 months of incarceration by Judge Robert A. Molloy on his conviction of possession with intent to distribute marijuana after qualifying as a career offender in federal court.

According to court documents, on June 19, 2020, Forbes arrived at the Cyril E. King Airport in St. Thomas on Spirit Airlines flight #1610 which departed from Fort Lauderdale, FL. Upon arrival in St. Thomas, United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

officers conducted an inspection of Spirit Airline's checked bags. CBP K-9 "Sherpa" later alerted to the presence of narcotics in Forbes' checked bag. After Forbes removed his bag from the baggage claim belt, CBP officers escorted him to secondary for inspection.

In secondary, CBP officers cut a lock that was placed on Forbes' suitcase after he failed to produce the key to open the lock. Inside Forbes' suitcase, CBP officers discovered eight (8) vacuum sealed packages, each containing multiple smaller, individually vacuum sealed packages, of marijuana with a total weight of 12.61 kilograms. Forbes entered a guilty plea in U.S. District Court on May 17, 2021.

At sentencing, Forbes qualified as a career offender pursuant to the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines based on the facts that: (1) he was at least 18 years old at the time he committed the offense of conviction; (2) his conviction is a felony that is either a crime of violence or a controlled substance offense; and (3) Forbes had at least two prior felony convictions of either a crime of violence or a controlled substance offense. As a career offender, Forbes' guideline sentence was increased from 24 to 37 months of incarceration.

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations and CBP. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Delia Smith and is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) investigation.