



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of the Virgin Islands*

*Ron De Lugo Federal Building & United States Courthouse
5500 Veterans Drive, Suite 260
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802-6424
Voice: (340)774-5757
Fax: (340)776-3474*

September 18, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

KENDALL PETERSEN INDICTED; PLEADS NOT GUILTY

United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins announced today that a grand jury on St. Croix has indicted Kendall Petersen, 46, on one count of possession with intent to distribute marijuana. Petersen appeared in District Court before Magistrate Judge George Cannon today and pleaded not guilty. He was released on an unsecured bond of \$10,000.

The indictment charges Petersen with possessing, with the intent to distribute, 84 marijuana plants and 950 grams of marijuana. The indictment also notifies Petersen that if he is convicted, the United States intends to forfeit the \$2,000 that was seized with the marijuana. If convicted, Petersen faces a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The indictment was the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area task force, which led to the execution of a search warrant at Petersen's home on August 27, 2008. During the search, law enforcement authorities seized approximately 950 grams of marijuana and 84 marijuana plants.

United States Attorney Jenkins reminds the public that an indictment is merely a formal charging document and is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent until found guilty by a trial jury or otherwise in a court of law.