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JAMAICAN NATIONAL PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGE

CHARLESTON, W. Va. – Byfield Adolph Blake, also known as Devon Blake, 41, of Jamaica, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge John T. Copenhaver, Jr. to possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

On July 31, 2006, members of the U.S. Marshals Service's Fugitive Task Force arrested Blake at a St. Albans apartment on a fugitive escape warrant from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Upon Blake's arrest, officers executed a search warrant at the residence and recovered in excess of 12 pounds of marijuana, \$11,119 in cash, two assault rifles, a pistol, and digital scales.

Blake was extradited to Pennsylvania to serve approximately five and half years remaining on his 1995 convictions in the Common Pleas Court of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania of robbery, burglary, conspiracy, and possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance. He was subsequently indicted on December 11, 2007 in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia on charges stemming from the July 2006 search warrant.

Blake faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced on February 24, 2011. The Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Team (MDENT) and the U.S. Marshals Service conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Joshua C. Hanks is handling the prosecution.

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