



# Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## BAHAMIAN NATIONAL SENTENCED

Tampa, FL - U.S. Senior District Judge William Castagna, today sentenced Bahamian national Brendon Ginton to concurrent sentences of 169 months in prison on two separate indictments involving cocaine trafficking. Brendon Ginton was formerly with the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, the Bahamian police department. He was found guilty after two jury trials on separate cocaine trafficking charges involving conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine. The guilty verdicts were handed down on May 21 and June 11, 2008.

At the first trial, it was shown that Ginton and other Bahamian nationals were involved in smuggling more than 100 kilograms of cocaine from the Bahamas to the United States aboard public aircraft and transporting it to the Tarpon Springs area for distribution. The smuggling occurred as far back as 2000. In the second trial, Ginton was convicted, along with another Bahamian co-defendant, for the possession with intent to distribute of one kilogram of cocaine at the time of their May 7, 2007 arrest by the Drug Enforcement Administration and Tarpon Springs Police Department.

The case was jointly investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Tarpon Springs Police Department, and the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kelley C. Howard-Allen.