



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

NEW JERSEY PILOT ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY SMUGGLING 5 HAITIANS INTO SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

EVERGLADES CITY, Fla. – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested Daniel Johnson, 51, of Trenton, N.J. Monday for allegedly attempting to smuggle five Haitians into the United States using a rented twin-engine airplane that he landed at the Everglades City Airpark here.

Johnson's airplane was spotted on radar by ICE's Air and Marine Operation Center (AMOC), which is based in Riverside, Calif. An ICE P-3 Advance Early Warning long-range patrol aircraft in the area was assigned to track the suspect aircraft's movements.

The ICE P-3 aircrew established that the suspect aircraft was heading toward Everglades City and the Collier County Sheriff's Office was notified. AMOC requested that deputies detain the aircraft and all on board as soon as it landed. At approximately 10:30 a.m. the suspect aircraft landed and was met by deputies.

Shortly after the aircraft landed, ICE Air and Marine officers, special agents and U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers arrived on scene to interview the pilot and the passengers. It was determined that the passengers were all Haitians attempting to illegally enter the country.

Johnson was arrested by ICE special agents from the Resident Agent in Charge office in Ft. Myers, Fla.

Investigation of the alleged human smuggling attempt continues.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.