

PRESS RELEASE

ARMED DRUG DEALER PLEADS GUILTY

Today, United States Magistrate Judge George C. Cannon, St. Croix Division, United States District Court, recommended the acceptance of Eugene Ivor Williams plea of guilty to a Superseding Indictment charging one Count of possession of a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime and one Count of possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute. Prior to accepting Williams' plea, Magistrate Judge Cannon heard evidence that on January 29, 2004, in Estate Profit in St. Croix, Officers of the Virgin Island Police Department saw Williams, 23, of St. Croix, standing with another group of individuals. As the officers approached the group, Williams ran. Officer Franchet Hodge gave chase while Officers George and Huertas followed in the police vehicle. Approximately 50 feet into the chase, Officer Hodge saw Williams pull something from his belt and throw it over a fence. Williams then ran into a stranger's house and locked himself in the bathroom. Officer Hodge backtracked to where he saw Williams throw the object, while Officer's Huertas and George ran into the house after Williams. Officer Hodge recovered a fully loaded 9mm Taurus semi-automatic pistol in the yard where he saw Williams throw the object. Officer's George and Huertas knocked on the bathroom door while demanding for Williams to open it. After Williams refused to open the door, the officers kicked it in and found Williams hiding in the shower behind drawn curtains with several "dime bags" of marijuana at his feet. A bag of marijuana sold on the street for Ten Dollars is referred to in street slang as a "dime bag." While searching Williams, the officers learned that he was also wearing a bullet proof vest.

After hearing the evidence, Magistrate Judge Cannon ruled that the government had presented sufficient evidence for him to recommend a finding of guilty. If convicted, Williams faces a sentence of 61 Months, a \$ 250,000.00 fine one each of two counts, and a 3 year period of supervised release upon completion of his sentence of incarceration. United States Attorney, Anthony J. Jenkins, praised the Virgin Islands Police Officers, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms, and the Drug Enforcement Administration for their fine work in this case.