



U.S. Department of Justice

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### St. Croix Man Sentenced to 5 Years for Carrying Gun During Drug Crime

**St. Croix, USVI** - Senior U. S. District Court Judge Raymond L. Finch on January 19 sentenced Dwayne Dennis, 32, to five years in prison for carrying a gun during a drug trafficking crime, announced United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe.

Judge Finch also sentenced Dennis to three years of supervised release, and ordered that he forfeit \$1,110 to the United States. On September 9, 2011, Dennis pleaded guilty in federal court on St. Croix to carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

According to the plea agreement filed with the court, on December 20, 2010, U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigation (HSI), agents executed a search warrant on Dennis's apartment and found the following:

- I) a quarter kilo of cocaine.
- ii) an AK 7.62 caliber assault rifle, with a loaded magazine and approximately 125 rounds of 7.62 caliber ammunition.
- iii) a Glock Model 23 .40 caliber semiautomatic pistol, loaded with a 13 round magazine.
- iv) a Glock Model 32 .357 caliber semiautomatic pistol, loaded with a 13 round magazine.
- v) a bullet proof vest.

vi) \$1,110.00 cash

United States Attorney Sharpe stated that “violence associated with the illicit possession and use of firearms, especially in connection with drug trafficking offenses, in the USVI has for the last few years been at intolerable levels. The United States Attorney’s Office, along with its federal partners, will vigorously prosecute those who choose to illegally possess and use firearms.

The case was investigated by HSI and the Virgin Islands Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Allan John-Baptiste.