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# Ivan James, Kai James and Three Others Charged with Possession of Firearms and Narcotics

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**Ivan James** By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ivan James, Kai James, Joh Williams, Malachi Benjamin and Tillisa Caesar appeared on February 12 before U.S. Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller for arraignment on a twenty-count superseding indictment charging drug conspiracy, possession with intent to distribute cocaine and marijuana, and possession of firearms during and in relation to a drug trafficking conspiracy, United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Magistrate Miller remanded Ivan James, Williams and Benjamin pending their detention hearings on Thursday. Ceaser was previously detained on separate drug trafficking conspiracy charges, and Kai James was placed on home confinement.

According to court records, Ivan James and Kai James were alleged leaders of a large-scale drug trafficking organization that operated on St. Croix. Federal law enforcement first discovered the organization's existence during a 2013 investigation, which revealed that Ivan James was smuggling narcotics into the Golden Grove Correctional Facility on St. Croix with the aid of a now-deceased corrections officer.

According to reports, Joh Williams, who was incarcerated at Golden Grove, distributed the narcotics on behalf of James. Thereafter, in July 2015, Ivan James directed his associates to rob a rival drug dealer of several kilograms of cocaine at gunpoint. The investigation continued with the execution of a search warrant at the James family compound located at 239 Estates LaGrange on St. Croix, where federal agents recovered over 1,000 marijuana plants and one half kilograms of cocaine. During the search, federal agents also recovered four pistols and one AR-15 rifle together with a large cache of ammunition. The investigation culminated with the seizure of an additional four pistols, one AK 47 rifle and approximately 24 kilograms of marijuana that were concealed and shipped in a commercial freezer from Miami, FL to St. Croix via Paradise Freight Shipping on February 28, 2019.

The superseding indictment charges all defendants with drug conspiracy and possession with intent to distribute narcotics. In addition, Ivan James, Kai James and Benjamin are charged with possession of firearms during and in relation to a drug trafficking conspiracy. Benjamin is also charged in a separate indictment with possession with intent to distribute cocaine after a vehicle for which he was a passenger was stopped and searched by Virgin Islands police officers on St. Croix. Benjamin allegedly fled the scene after officers asked him about his involvement in the [2018 double homicides at the Cockpit Coliseum on St. Croix](#).

This case is being investigated by the Homeland Security Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration and Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Delia L. Smith.

United States Attorney Shappert reminds the public that an indictment is merely a formal charging document and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless found guilty