



South Carolina Department of Corrections

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For immediate release

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COLUMBIA, S.C. – A Columbia man pleaded guilty in McCormick County court this week to multiple charges stemming from drone attacks on two SCDC prisons.

Brian Francis Williams Jr., 32, pleaded guilty to:

- Two counts of trafficking in methamphetamine/cocaine 28-100 grams. He was sentenced to 10 years on each count, to run concurrently with each other.
- Attempting to furnish prisoners with contraband. He was sentenced to 10 years suspended to three years probation, to run consecutively.
- Possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. He was sentenced to five years to run concurrently with the other sentences.

Williams flew a drone filled with meth, crack, LSD, marijuana and other contraband into McCormick Correctional Institution in December 2022. [He was arrested and charged with those crimes](#), posted bond and was fitted with an ankle monitor.

While he was out on bond, [he was arrested again in March 2023](#) after flying a drone into Ridgeland Correctional Institution. That drone was carrying Fentanyl, meth, five pounds of marijuana and other contraband.

“SCDC faces nightly attacks by drone, and our officers work very hard to arrest and prosecute these criminals,” SCDC Director Bryan Stirling said. “I want to thank everyone involved in bringing this criminal to justice.”

The case was prosecuted by Margaret Scott, Special Assistant Attorney General with the SCDC Criminal Prosecution Division, and 11th Circuit Senior Solicitor Robby McNair. It was investigated by Special Agent William Pruitt of the SCDC Office of the Inspector General. SCDC thanks the

Jasper and McCormick County sheriffs' offices and the Ridgeland and Walterboro police departments for their assistance in this case.