



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A05020003

Page 1 of 1

We received an allegation that an individual using an official NSF email address<sup>1</sup> had sold an item on Amazon Marketplace using his official email address as his point of contact. The Complainant brought this to NSF's attention because of a concern that this might be more than an isolated incident.

We reviewed the documentation presented by the Complainant,<sup>2</sup> and confirmed that the email address at issue belongs to an NSF contractor.<sup>3</sup> We opened an A-case to investigate how often the contractor uses his government equipment to sell items for personal profit, and whether his actions violated NSF Bulletin No. 04-11, "Personal Use Policy for NSF Technology and Communication Resources," which was in effect at the time that the sale was made and is applicable to "all NSF personnel, contractors, and visitors who have access to NSF equipment, computing services, or communication systems."

We learned that the Subject was not selling these items as part of a business. In addition, we learned that the majority of the Subject's sales activity did not occur using his government computer, and that his work email address was only inadvertently used as his seller's point of contact. Moreover, the Subject has corrected the situation by changing his seller's point of contact on Amazon Marketplace to his home email account. Finally, the Subject was familiar with NSF's personal use policy and demonstrated complete remorse for using his NSF email address as his seller point of contact.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

1

2