

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 25, 1997

To: 196070043

From: [REDACTED] Special Agent [REDACTED]

Via: [REDACTED] Special Agent-in-Charge [REDACTED]

Re: Resolution of Case [REDACTED]

On May 28, 1996, our office received an allegation from U.S. Air Force (USAF) Office of Special Investigations (OSI) Special Agent [REDACTED] that [REDACTED], an employee of the University of Arizona, was obtaining federal excess property from the Defense Reutilization Marketing Office (DRMO) at [REDACTED] Air Force Base for supposed use on USAF and NSF grants, and then diverting the excess property for his own use. Specifically, it was alleged that [REDACTED] obtained, among other things, a crane from the DRMO but that the University of Arizona can not account for this piece of property.

A review of NSF records showed that approximately 17 NSF grants were used by the University of Arizona to obtain federal excess property. However, of all of the requests for federal property made under these grants [REDACTED] name and signature only appear once (the form it appears on does not request a crane). In addition, investigation by S/A [REDACTED] determined that USAF resources were not misappropriated by [REDACTED] and that, in any event, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) was the cognizant Department of Defense component managing investigations involving DRMOs. Thus, on September 9, 1996, S/A [REDACTED] closed his investigation of this matter and transferred the allegation to DCIS.

Our office contacted DCIS S/A [REDACTED] and was informed that DCIS has yet to formally open an investigation of this matter. S/A [REDACTED] reported that during his preliminary investigation of this matter he could find no record of any crane being sold through any of the area DRMOs and no record of the University of Arizona ever acquiring a crane through the federal excess property program. Because of S/A [REDACTED] preliminary results, problems associated with successfully prosecuting one of these cases (as shown in prior cases, see attached memo), and the fact that DCIS has yet to open an investigation of this matter, further use of NSF OIG investigation resources are not warranted at this time. This case is closed.