

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

Closeout- [REDACTED] Computers  
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OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: August 27, 1998

To: File No. I97110059

From: [REDACTED] Special Agent, Investigations Section  
[REDACTED] Investigation Student Trainee [REDACTED]

Through: [REDACTED] Special Agent-in-Charge, Investigations Section

Re: Case Closeout- [REDACTED] Directorate computers

On November 24, 1997 our office received information that government computer equipment and software had been stolen from the [REDACTED] Directorate [REDACTED] at NSF. The complainant had been told by a [REDACTED] employee that NSF staff had been approached by [REDACTED] (former NSF employee) and [REDACTED], a computer assistant, and asked if they wanted to purchase stolen NSF equipment. The complainant suspected [REDACTED] of stealing this equipment.

Over the past 2 years, over \$15,000 worth of computer equipment and software has been stolen from [REDACTED]. We initiated a review to find if [REDACTED] or possibly other NSF employees had been stealing the government equipment.

We interviewed an NSF employee who suggested that [REDACTED], who is a VISA cardholder for his division, might be taking some of this equipment and supplies that he is supposed to purchase for his office. This employee said that [REDACTED]'s supervisor does not administer proper oversight for [REDACTED]'s Visa purchases, and virtually gives him carte blanche with the Visa card.

During our investigation, we learned that almost everyone in the division had access to the keys to the storage room where some computer equipment was stolen. Although we were told that [REDACTED] routinely is in the NSF building after normal working hours, a review of access card files showed no evidence of

[REDACTED]'s card being used over the weekend or at night during the time period when certain equipment was stolen.

We found no way to identify exactly what was purchased and therefore could not verify the location of specific equipment. A review of Visa cardholder procurement files did not reveal any evidence of inappropriate conduct. We found that almost half of the reviewed files were unorganized and incomplete. We also found that there is no set standard on how Visa files are maintained. Of the 8 files we reviewed, we found [REDACTED]'s to be the most unorganized and most difficult to track expenditures. We recommended to [REDACTED], Head of Procurement Section (DAS), that she consider defining more clear procedures for recording, receiving approval for, and tracking the purchase of computers and similar equipment.

Other than the suspicion and rumors of various NSF employees, we found no direct evidence of wrongdoing by [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. Therefore, this case is closed, pending additional information.

[REDACTED]