

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

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OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

Date: 24 March 2000

To: File 199100041

From: [REDACTED] Special Agent [REDACTED]

RE: Closeout— [REDACTED]

Background

On 27 October 1999 OIG received information from NSF that equipment purchased on award number [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] had been stolen. The amount of the missing equipment totaled approximately \$17,000, inclusive of equipment purchased with NSF funds and related equipment purchased with university funds.

The [REDACTED] Department filed a stolen property report with the university police department. On 28 October 1999 Lt. [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] Police Department requested OIG assistance in the investigation, since the prime suspect [REDACTED] the Principal Investigator on the award, had left the state and was currently working for the State University [REDACTED]

Investigation

The joint investigation with the [REDACTED] Police Department revealed that the stolen equipment disappeared on the night of [REDACTED] unannounced departure from [REDACTED]. Multiple interviews conducted during the week of 01 November 1999 with faculty and students of the [REDACTED] Department confirmed that the missing equipment was used by, and procured by [REDACTED]. On 03 and 04 November 1999 SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] denied removing any equipment purchased under the NSF award and any equipment or materials belonging to [REDACTED]. In addition, on 03 and 04 November 1999 SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] conducted a consent search of [REDACTED] laboratory area at [REDACTED]. Items matching the description of the missing equipment were discovered. On 18 November 1999 a [REDACTED], whose serial number was recorded during the consent search of [REDACTED] laboratory on 04

November 1999, was identified as missing from [REDACTED] it was not listed as stolen on the original police report.

On 19 November 1999 the U.S. Attorney's Office in [REDACTED] NY was contacted regarding the case and information was forwarded by fax. The duty AUSA stated that the information was stale for a search warrant. On 21 November 1999 Acting Inspector General [REDACTED] advised that he wanted to involve the counsels of universities in an attempt to persuade [REDACTED] to return the missing equipment to [REDACTED] even though she denied being in possession of the missing equipment during the interview with SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED]. We had previously been in contact with both university Police Departments and they were aware of the situation.

On 21 March 2000 Lt. [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] Police Department advised that [REDACTED] Police Department is no longer actively pursuing the case.

Conclusions

Based on a lack of OIG resources and since the [REDACTED] Police Department closed their case, this case is closed.

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