

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550



Office of  
Inspector General

THEFT AND MISUSE OF NSF LETTERHEAD

(Investigative Report - Case No. I90010012)

In December 1988, [REDACTED], the defendant, knowingly and willfully converted to his own purposes a piece of letterhead stationery from the [REDACTED] in Washington, D.C. At the time, Mr. [REDACTED] was employed as a sales representative with [REDACTED], a computer manufacturing and marketing company in [REDACTED]. As a sales representative, Mr. [REDACTED] sold computers in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, mostly to federal agencies. Mr. [REDACTED] obtained the [REDACTED] with the help of a co-worker from [REDACTED]. The defendant subsequently altered and photocopied the [REDACTED] and then wrote a letter on the photocopied stationery. Mr. [REDACTED] signed the letter with the name of a fictitious NSF employee and had the letter delivered to an employee of a contractor located at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The letter fraudulently approved the National Space Science Data Center at NASA/Goddard as a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) which qualified for discounts. These discounts entitle federal agencies to purchase computers from companies such as [REDACTED] at lower prices, through the General Services Administration (GSA) supply schedule. The letter was used in the NASA purchase of computer hardware and software equipment from [REDACTED]. The discounted FFRDC price was \$12,000, which reflected an additional discount of 17 percent (\$5,700).

The NASA Office of Inspector General (OIG) became aware of the above incident and initiated an investigation. The NSF's OIG assisted NASA in this investigation. The prosecution of this case was coordinated by the U.S. Attorney's Office and assisted by both OIG offices.

On May 17, 1991, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Mr. [REDACTED] pled guilty to a misdemeanor violation of title 18, United States Code, section

641, conversion of property of the United States of a value of less than \$90. On August 2, 1991, Mr. Meyer was sentenced to 2 years of supervised probation and was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and to complete 200 hours of community service.

All matters pertaining to this case have been resolved and this file is accordingly closed.

September 12, 1991