

## CLOSEOUT FOR M93030013

On January 29, 1993, an anonymous letter containing an allegation of scientific forgery was forwarded from the recipient, [REDACTED]. The letter alleged that the subject, [REDACTED], had, over a decade, committed repetitious scientific forgery in connection with a computer program he developed and the program-derived data he and others had published. The subject allegedly dismissed program errors brought to his attention as simple "bugs" in the program.

The author of the anonymous letter [REDACTED]. Scientists at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] received copies of the letter. Officials [REDACTED] institutions performed inquiries into the allegation. [REDACTED] inquires found that the subject had created a computer program that is [REDACTED] used by [REDACTED] to analyze data collected from other sources. Scientists interviewed in the course of these inquiries stated that the [REDACTED] application of the complex program to analyze data from diverse systems sometimes results in the generation of erroneous solutions. Program users generally cross check the program's results with independently derived results to confirm those generated by the program. When notified of computer errors the subject has made the necessary corrections, notified the scientific community, and distributed a corrected version of the program. The scientists said that the [REDACTED] use of the program showed that the allegation of forgery was without substance. Both inquiries concluded there was no substance to the allegation and that it had not been made in good faith.

OIG received copies of the [REDACTED] inquiry reports from [REDACTED]. OIG accepted [REDACTED] conclusion that there was no substance to the allegation and that no misconduct had occurred.

After reviewing the information supplied by the institution, OIG concluded that it had adequately addressed this allegation and that the finding of no misconduct could be adopted in lieu of an OIG inquiry.

Concurrence:

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