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Closure Recommendation Memorandum

Case Number: 19-0216-C	Date of Entry: 9/29/2020
Primary Investigator:	(b)(3)

Allegation Information

Narrative:

OIG received an anonymous hotlink alleging that [redacted] released source selection sensitive information to an NRO contractor. (b)(3) (b)(7)(c)

Last Investigative Step:

[redacted] Case Agent accomplished a follow-up review with Survivability Assurance Office (SAO) to ensure the planned meeting with the NRO Front Office had been taken place. (b)(3)

Resolution:

Unsubstantiated

Case Closure Recommendation Justification

Additional Information:

On 27 February 2020 SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] interviewed [redacted] concerning an anonymous hotlink allegation that [redacted] (Director, [redacted] of the Geospatial Intelligence Systems Acquisition Directorate [GEOINT]) had committed a Procurement Integrity Act (PIA) violation by releasing source selection sensitive information to an NRO contractor, (b)(3) (b)(7)(c)

Based upon the evidence that was obtained during the investigation, including an interview of the SAO [redacted] it appears that the Source Selection did not take place. During the [redacted] it was recommended that the acquisition be Sole Sourced to Northrop Grumman. Without a Source Selection there is no PIA violation. [redacted] stated that someone in GEOINT talked to Northrop Grumman and mentioned that the cost estimate seemed more expensive than anticipated. The "someone" may have been [redacted] however, because the sole source effort, this discussion would not result in a PIA. Given the process, eventually the contractor would have been advised of this information by SAO. If anything, this would be a minor violation of procedure. [redacted] agreed that a PIA violation was not committed, however he stated the following, "it is never good practice for one directorate to ask a contractor about a source selection in another directorate . . . nor is it ever a good thing for one government component to tell a contractor information about another government component". (b)(3) (b)(7)(c)

[redacted] Case Agent verified that SAO later met with the NRO Front Office (which included [redacted] to examine the acquisition strategy and also to confirm all parties understood what information could be shared with the contractor (Northrop Grumman). The SAO Director also worked with the SAO Senior Contracting Officer and acquisition project team on further proposal assessment/negotiation plan issues. (b)(3) (b)(7)(c)

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As a result of the aforementioned, Case Agent recommends closing the complaint as Unsubstantiated given that a PIA violation did not take place.

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