



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

February 6, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR:

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C) Complaint Inquiry and Analysis (b) (7)(C)

FROM:

(b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT:

Inspector General Referral No. PPC-CI-12-0456-H

Re: Possession of Pornography by NOAA Employee

This memorandum responds to your request for administrative resolution of the subject referral. The referral involves the discovery of numerous pornographic images on a computer used by several employees by the NOAA Computer Incident Response Team.

On behalf of NOAA, Mr. (b) (7)(C) NOAA (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) conducted an inquiry to ascertain the facts pertaining the complaint. In the interest of ensuring objectivity, transparency, and accountability for complaints referred to our office, we assert that Mr. (b) (7)(C) is independent of individuals and matters that are the subject of this complaint.

The inquiry confirmed that the NOAA computer where the pornographic images were found uses common accounts that were implicated in the exposure to the malicious code. The use and availability of common accounts on the computer provided no clear traceability back to a specific employee(s). However, the inquiry did identify that the computer was in the National Weather Service (NWS) Headquarters Network. The inquiry revealed that documentation for the affected network had no risk acceptance or active Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) concerning the use of common local privileged accounts. Therefore, a recommendation was made to the system owners to develop a POA&M within 60 days to (1) refresh users' awareness of safe browsing practices, and (2) modify business process by discontinuing the use of "common" or "shared" accounts.

The NWS has implemented the remediation recommendations. All shared and common accounts for the identified workstation have been disabled. Refresher security awareness training has been provided to individuals who had access to the identified workstation from January 2012 through September 2012.

We consider this matter closed. If you have questions, please contact (b) (7)(C) on 301-713-(b) (7)(C)





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20230

April 13, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR:

(b) (7)(C)

Audits, Internal Control and Information Management Office
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FROM:

(b) (7)(C)

Complaint Inquiry and Analysis

SUBJECT:

Inspector General Action Referral No. PPC-CI-12-0456-H
Re: Possession of Pornography by NOAA Employee

On February 10, 2012, the Office of Inspector General received information from (b) (7)(C) (b) (7)(C) Computer Incident Response Team, NOAA, indicating that numerous pornographic images were found on a NOAA computer used by several employees. OIG recovered and reviewed the files found on this computer, locating numerous adult pornographic images. No child pornography was found. As a result, OIG is referring this matter to NOAA for action. See the attached Action Memorandum, digital data analysis report and original intake documents for more details.

Please conduct an inquiry and submit a formal response to us detailing your results, including any administrative action your office has proposed. We will review your response and follow up as appropriate. To ensure objectivity, transparency, and accountability for this matter, it is imperative that the inquiry be conducted by impartial parties only; in other words, by personnel who are independent of, and removed from, those individuals and the office where the pornographic images were located. Please instruct inquiry officials to sign an independence declaration before commencing activities. We further expect that your inquiry will be methodologically sound and thorough. OIG has provided Department of Commerce agencies with the *Guide to Conducting Administrative Inquiries*, to help inquiry officials plan, execute, and summarize administrative inquiries referred by OIG. Please ensure that inquiry officials have reviewed the Guide prior to commencing activities.

Please provide us your formal response, together with any investigative report and/or supporting documents, within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter. If your office's inquiry cannot be completed in the allotted time period, you may request a 60 day extension in writing prior to the date on which your response is due. Additional waiver requests must be submitted to the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

U.S. Department of Commerce – Office of Inspector General

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(Public availability to be determined under 5 U.S.C. 552)

We thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 482-(b) (7)(C)

Attachments

cc: (b) (7)(C) Human Resources Management
(b) (7)(C) Computer Incident Response Team, NOAA



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20230

MEMORANDUM FOR: File
FROM: (b) (7)(C) SA
DATE: March 29, 2012
REF: ACTION MEMORANDUM - **CLOSURE**

RE: Possession of Child Pornography by NOAA Employee
OI Case FOP-WF-12-0456-P

On February 10, 2012, the Office of Investigations (OI) received OIG hotline received, via Department of Commerce website complaint portal, a complaint from (b) (7)(C) NOAA CIRT, Silver Spring MD. The complaint detailed that numerous adult pornographic images were found on a NOAA computer used for program development and open to a community of users employed at NOAA, with no one user assigned to the particular computer. The complainant also indicated that there were pictures he indicated could be associated with child pornography (Serials 1-2).

OI recovered the files containing the suspected images and conducted full digital data analysis, locating numerous adult pornographic images. Our analysis discovered no child pornographic images on the files provided (Serial 3).

Based on this information, and that the computer the images were found on pointed to no clear employee responsible for the misuse of the computer, this matter is being referred back to NOAA for their administrative action.

Approved

(b) (7)(C)