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Was [redacted] his supervisor's friend?

20 December 2010

DISPOSITION MEMORANDUM

YES
15 DEC 10

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SUBJECT: (U) Unaccredited Degree: Security Protective Officer

CASE: 2008-9001-B-IG

ISSUES UNDER INVESTIGATION:

1. (U//~~FOUO~~) In late 2007 and early 2008, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) participated in a US Secret Service (USSS)-led task force that reviewed the practices of [redacted] a known diploma mill.¹ As part of the USSS effort, OIG investigated an Agency contractor who had been identified by the USSS as having received a degree from [redacted]. The Agency contractor resigned during the investigation, and the US Attorney's Office declined prosecution in favor of using the contractor as a witness against [redacted]. The contractor's clearances were terminated [redacted] by the Office of Security (OS).

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2. (U//~~FOUO~~) Based on the outcome of the [redacted] investigation, OIG opened a proactive investigation on 5 August 2008, into Agency Staff claiming degrees from non-accredited institutions. OIG matched a list of known, unaccredited institutions against Agency BIO information to identify any individuals who had provided degree evidence to Human

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¹ (U) Diploma mill n 1: an institution of higher education operating without supervision of a state or professional agency and granting diplomas without the usual required coursework and attendance: an institution of higher education whose academic demands are minimal - Webster's New World Dictionary.

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Resources.² One of the individuals identified, [redacted], claimed a bachelors degree from [redacted] a known, unaccredited institution, on his Agency BIO.

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3. (U//~~FOUO~~) OIG reviewed the claims made by [redacted] regarding his degree and the associated education to determine if there were false statements or improper use of an unaccredited degree.

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INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

4. (U//~~FOUO~~) OIG reviewed [redacted] security file for any degree claims.

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5. (U//~~FOUO~~) OIG reviewed [redacted] personnel file and online Agency BIO.

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6. (U//~~FOUO~~) OIG interviewed [redacted] on 19 September 2008, regarding his unaccredited degree.

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7. (U//~~FOUO~~) OIG reviewed Agency regulations and relevant laws related to the allegations.

RESULTS:

[Large redacted area]

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² (U//~~FOUO~~) The Agency biographical profile (Agency BIO) is the mechanism for tracking information on individuals who officially declare their education to the Agency. Only staff employees and former employees were covered by this review because there is no central database on contractor educational records.

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[Redacted]

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11. (U) [Redacted] holds no accreditation [Redacted] was never accredited by the US Department of Education.

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12. (U//~~FOUO~~) OIG determined that [Redacted] employee who is currently assigned as a Security Protective Officer at the [Redacted] has been an Agency employee since [Redacted] holds a bachelor's degree from [Redacted] in [Redacted] [Redacted] received his degree in [Redacted]

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13. (U//~~FOUO~~) On his Questionnaire for National Security Positions (SF-86 EG), dated [Redacted] listed a BS [Redacted] awarded in [Redacted] an OS background investigator verified [Redacted] attendance at [Redacted] degree is listed on his Agency BIO.

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14. (U//~~FOUO~~) During his interview with OIG, [Redacted] stated that, unequivocally, he knew [Redacted] was unaccredited, but he wanted to attend a [Redacted] and his siblings had attended [Redacted] with positive experiences.

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[Redacted] many accrediting bodies require terminal degrees by a majority of faculty.

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15. (U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted] earned his degree prior to entering on duty with the CIA. [redacted] claimed during his interview with OIG, that he assumed his degree got him his job at the Agency. However, the position for which he was accepted does not require a degree.

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16. (U//~~FOUO~~) A review of the recruitment note for [redacted] application for employment indicates his experience [redacted] as a key factor in being hired. There is no indication in the recruitment materials that [redacted] degree was considered as meeting any requirements of the position, and his current position does not require a degree.

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17. (U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted] indicated in his interview with OIG that he was clearly aware of [redacted] lack of accreditation. In the context of [redacted] educational experience, there was no evidence of fraud in his presentation of his credentials to the Agency.

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DISPOSITION:

18. (U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted] and requires four years of effort, though the academic rigor cannot be evaluated as it was never accredited and had deficiencies in staff that would preclude accreditation. [redacted] was up front regarding his [redacted] attendance and the non-accredited status, and neither his entry job nor his present job required a degree. There is no evidence that [redacted] directly benefited from his degree.

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19. (U//~~FOUO~~) On 26 August 2010, [redacted] provided documentation to OIG that [redacted] an accredited institution, had granted him equivalent status for his undergraduate degree from [redacted]

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There is no evidence of criminal or regulatory violation on the part of
Based on the currently available information, no disciplinary action or
further investigation is recommended.

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Special Agent

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Supervisory Special Agent

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