

Special Projects [UNT Federal Investigation](#)

Schafer won't be charged in UNT case

02:43 PM CST on Tuesday, January 30, 2007

By Matthew Zabel / Staff Writer

Federal prosecutors will not press charges against a former Pentagon official whom the University of North Texas paid \$310,000 even though he never actually worked for the university, bringing to an apparent end a two-year-long investigation.



Instead, federal investigators said the U.S. Defense Department should handle internally problems with that three-way agreement among itself, UNT and Dr. Klaus Schafer, who served as a top Pentagon adviser on chemical and biological defense.

That decision was outlined in a Jan. 5 investigation report, which the Defense Department made public Monday in response to an open-records request from the *DentonRecord-Chronicle*.

Klaus Schafer The federal investigation and UNT's internal investigation found evidence that Schafer backdated parts of the agreement in order to make it appear he had worked for the university when, in fact, he had not.

The federal report says investigators did not interview Schafer.

He could not be reached for comment.

Glen J. Logan, of the Defense Department's Inspector General's Dallas regional office in Arlington, said investigators presented facts of the UNT case to a federal prosecutor and left the decision whether to prosecute with the Justice Department.

"This case was one of those where we didn't have a particular preference either way," Logan said of the Justice Department's decision. "A lot of times what it comes down to is how they can best use their resources. To prosecute a case is a huge demand on resources for the Department of Justice, and they have to determine if it's worth it."

Logan said the Defense Department officials could decide whether or not to take any action, such as firing an employee, changing its procedures, ceasing to do business with an outside institution.

Pentagon officials did not immediately respond to questions about what administrative action the Defense Department would take.

UNT officials said they are happy to see the investigation come to an end.

“The outcome of the federal government’s investigation – that UNT engaged in no criminal wrongdoing – is consistent with the findings of our own comprehensive investigation,” said Deborah Leliaert, a spokeswoman for the university.

Schafer served as deputy assistant to the Secretary of Defense for nuclear, chemical and biological defense programs between July 2004 and June 2005.

On paper, Schafer was a UNT employee, working under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970, a law that allows universities and certain other institutions to assign employees to a short-term federal position if authorities at both agencies determine it is in the public’s best interest to do so.

UNT signed such an agreement with Schafer and the Defense Department in November 2004, even though Schafer had not been a UNT employee before that.

But federal investigators found evidence that Schafer backdated the agreement and his employment application to make it effective July 1, 2004 in an apparent effort to show he was a UNT employee all along and thus validating his assignment agreement. The federal investigators also found evidence that Schafer coached UNT employees to backdate other documents.

Under the agreement, UNT was to front Schafer’s \$310,000 salary plus benefits, but the university was eligible to reclaim more than \$275,000 from the Defense Department.

UNT has not sought reimbursement for that money.

UNT hired an outside law firm two years ago to begin investigating that agreement and possible fraud associated with it and reported their findings to the Defense Department five months later.

That law firm has billed UNT more than \$1.3 million.

MATTHEW ZABEL can be reached at 940-566-6884. His e-mail is mzabel@dentonrc.com