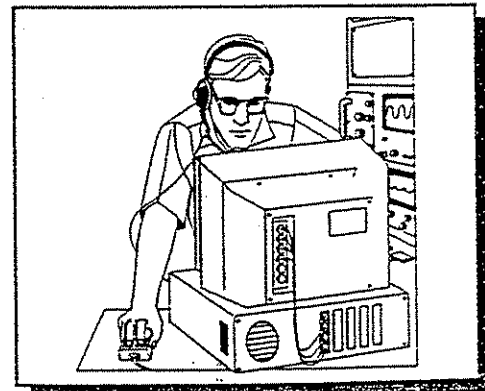


National Audio Video Forensic Laboratory
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September 1, 1999

Mr. Stephen P. Beauchamp,
Special Agent in Charge
Office of the Inspector General
4050 Rio Bravo : #200
El Paso, TX., 79902

REPORT

This is my Report regarding an analysis of two video tapes and a portable video camera presented April 29, 1999, for an opinion as to the authenticity of one of the recordings. An Assignment Letter, dated April 28, 1999 from Special Agent in Charge Beauchamp generally addressed approximately 14 points of questions.

The video tapes were marked at this lab with sequentially numbered tamper proof stickers, Tape #1 (D.O.J. TAG #11) Security Seal #17295 and Tape #2 (D.O.J. TAG #10) Security Seal #17296. Security Seal #17297 was affixed to the camera (Hitachi #3700A - VHS S/N 4104632).

Since the camera was inoperable, permission was obtained from Special Agent in Charge Beauchamp to have the unit repaired and it was satisfactorily completed May 22, 1999.

It would be important to note that there was insufficient time allowed to complete all of the testing preferred since the evidence material was picked up from the lab on June 8, 1999.

However the testing and analysis which were completed: Waveforms, Frequency Analysis, FFT Audio Analysis, Video Frame and Field examination, as well as camera Exemplar video comparisons did, in my opinion, produce enough specific information to arrive at a strong finding.

That finding is that Tape Security Seal #17295 does not conform to the standards of authenticity. There is specific evidence of tampering and the testing confirms that visual and audio material were removed (obliterated). The stated procedures for creating the recording are contradicted by the analysis and visual

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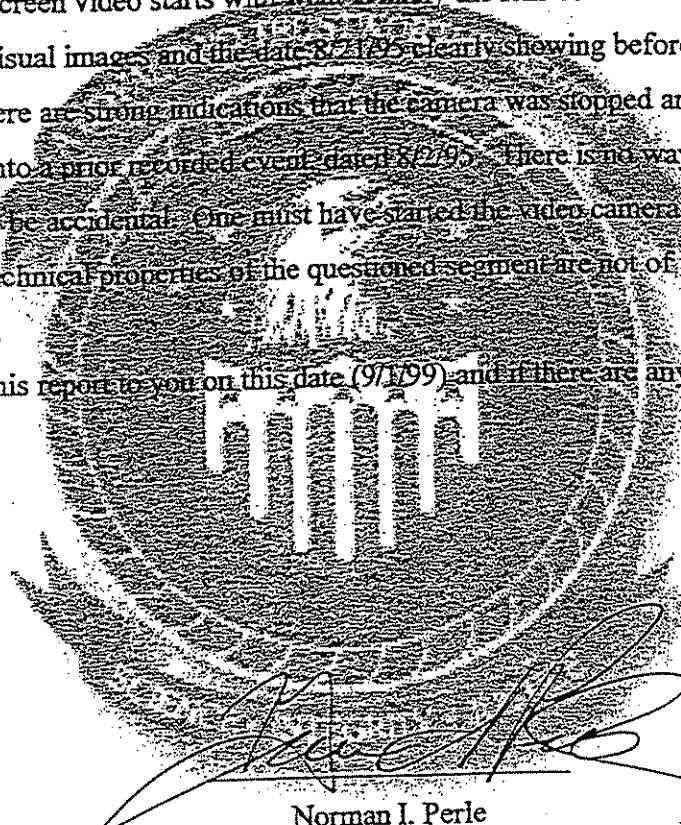
record from the VHS recording represented as the original.

This finding is also based on the information presented regarding the procedures which were offered as an explanation to the absence of the incident which was suppose to be on the video. I made a replica video, duplicating the falsification process and sent this to Special Agent in Charge Beauchamp.

The information I received was that the incident which was to be video taped was approximately 2 to 10 minutes in duration. I was told that it was common for video tapes to be re-used and not generally "bulk erased" but recorded over.

The tape in question has frames at the inception which confirm the camera was working on the date in question, 8/21/95. The screen video starts with what is likely the lens cover over the camera lens, as the screen is black. Then there is visual images and the date 8/21/95 clearly showing before the screen goes black again for almost a minute. There are strong indications that the camera was stopped and restarted during this period. The segment dissolves into a prior recorded event dated 8/2/95. There is no way I know of for this recording with the lens cover on to be accidental. One must have started the video camera, removed the lens cap, and replaced it again. The technical properties of the questioned segment are not of the type commensurate with a mechanical malfunction.

I'm submitting this report to you on this date (9/1/99) and if there are any questions, please don't hesitate to call me.



Norman I. Perle

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