

SUNDAY

December 18, 1988
San Antonio, Texas

Sports Final

75¢

Express-News



San Antonio's quality newspaper--largest circulation in South Texas

Air Force agents paid snitch to steal

By **JEROME P. CURRY**
Express News Staff Writer

Air Force investigators violated their own regulations by paying an informant to steal documents from a San Antonio company that was under investigation for bid-rigging on government contracts.

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations also warned the informant not to get caught going through the files of Alamo Aircraft Supply Co.

Those stolen documents, obtained in 1982 and 1983, were later used as

OSI violated regulations in S.A. bid-rigging probe

the basis for an affidavit to place wiretaps on telephones at the company. The company, which once did a \$25 million-a-year business with the government, was indicted in July 1988 on charges including fraud, bribery and bid-rigging.

A senior federal district judge already has held that the way evidence

in the affair was gathered violated Air Force regulations.

According to interviews, court documents, internal memoranda and receipts for payments signed by an Air Force informer and other sources, agents of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations:

• Paid a worker at an aircraft

parts company \$5,875 in "incentive" cash to steal documents from his employer.

• Provided that inside man a civil service job at Kelly AFR when his usefulness as a paid informant ended.

• Financed a wild night in Nuevo Laredo in a futile attempt to compromise another employee of the firm, a weekend that included booze, music and two women — priced at \$20 each.

• Did not report to their counterparts in the FBI and Internal Revenue Service the way in which initial documents and information were obtained. It was that Office of Special

See **JUDGE, Page 11-A**