

U.S. Army reservist accused of theft

by UPI

NEW YORK -- A U.S. Army reservist stationed in New York allegedly stole \$100,000 in electronics and supplies through a government purchasing program, officials say.

Prosecutors said Sgt. Joseph Copeland of Fort Totten purchased \$207,766 worth of merchandise through the program, but about half of the purchases may have been legitimate, the New York Post said Thursday.

The 30-year-old reservist would allegedly sell the excess goods in eBay online auctions, officials said.

Copeland was arrested after an eBay user informed authorities of the reservist's suspicious auction items.

The Post said the bills for Copeland's purchases, which dated back to October 2006, were all sent to the U.S. Army, which offered no comment.

Copeland's girlfriend Christina Abreu told the newspaper that Copeland, who is now facing up to 10 years in prison on theft of government property charges, had served in Iraq during 2005.

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