

# **Bomb Suspect Refuses To Talk**

The Columbian (Vancouver, WA)

April 25, 1995 | Associated Press

(AP) The FBI today was drawing a better, more detailed sketch of the still-missing second bombing suspect, sources said, as new evidence emerged about jailed suspect Timothy McVeigh.

Also today, a possible lead emerged in Omaha, Neb., where composite drawings were made of two suspicious men who had been in a federal building there before the Oklahoma bombing.

A source said the drawings resembled those of the two Oklahoma City suspects and that the men pictured were suspected of being in the building the Friday before the blast. But a second source said the composites didn't match the Oklahoma sketches. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity.

Paul Orduna, acting chief of Omaha's Drug Enforcement Administration office, confirmed the drawings had been made but said he couldn't comment further.

The death toll rose to 87 today, and this stunned city prepared for a new round of funerals. Fire Chief Gary Marrs said rescuers hoped to finish searching the federal building by the end of the week. They had entered part of the day-care area but were still a long way from reaching its center, he said.

McVeigh, the only person charged in the bombing, has refused to answer questions about the worst domestic terrorist attack in U.S. history. The White House has said the death toll could rise above 200.

Law enforcement sources said the FBI was preparing an enhanced sketch of the second suspect, whom agents have labeled "John Doe No. 2," based on new interviews with the witnesses who saw two men rent a Ryder truck in Kansas that was later used in the bombing.

In Michigan, a hearing today for James Douglas Nichols, one of two brothers held as material witnesses, was postponed because of "breaking developments" in the U.S. attorney's office in Detroit, U.S. Marshal James Douglas said.

He declined to elaborate or to say whether the developments were related to the bombing.

Nichols, 41, and his 40-year-old brother, Terry, have been held since last week as witnesses. Both are friends of McVeigh and neither has been charged. Terry Nichols was due in court Wednesday in Kansas.

Blue plastic oil drums were found in the search of Terry Nichols' house in Kansas, federal law enforcement sources said today. Bits of similar blue plastic drums were found in the rubble in Oklahoma City and in some of the victims. The sources said the plastic is similar, and tests were being conducting to determine if they are the same.

Cranes worked on the rubble pile today, slowly picking through the heaviest of the concrete chunks. Workers were sent to high floors of the building to secure debris against wind gusts expected to top 25 mph.

But rescuers were not making much progress toward the collapsed first two floors of the federal building, where a day-care center and Social Security office were located.

"If we're going to find survivors, they will be there," said Assistant Fire Chief Jon Hansen. He said this morning that "we're still a long way off" from reaching the Social Security area.

The work remained slow because workers still needed to remove tons of debris to reach the bottom of the rubble.

"It's like trying to dismantle a mountain with a 5-gallon bucket," Gov. Frank Keating told "CBS This Morning" today. "It's just lots of shifting, and its a very tragic, very grim process."

In an indication of how widespread the damage was, Mayor Ronald Norick said 14 downtown buildings had been condemned. A 15-block area remained closed to the public.

McVeigh remained stone-faced even when shown photographs of children maimed and killed in the blast, several news organizations reported.

But others had much to say about the suspect, suggesting he had links to anti-government paramilitary groups. Among the new details:

. A Florida militia leader, Bob Johansen, told The Associated Press on Monday that McVeigh visited that state 18 months ago with Mark Koernke, who broadcasts a militant radio show and distributes militia videotapes from Michigan.

McVeigh was one of several bodyguards for Koernke at a gathering of right-wing militias from across the country, members of the Florida State Militia said in today's Fort Pierce Tribune. McVeigh "came down here because he heard the Branch Davidians, the people who survived Waco, would be here," said Kenny Kirkland, a militia spokesman.

Federal agents have said McVeigh was enraged by the government's attack on the Branch Davidian compound. More than 80 cult members died in the raid on April 19, 1993 two years to the day before the Oklahoma City bombing.

. Koernke said his organization sent the cryptic fax the morning of the bombing that said in part, "Bomb threat received last week. Perpetrator unknown at this time. Oklahoma." The fax received at the office of Rep. Steve Stockman, R-Texas, carried a time stamp that, if accurate, would indicate it was sent more than an hour before the bombing. But Koernke said it was sent after the bombing and Stockman's office said its fax machine clock had not been reset for daylight-saving time. Also Monday, Koernke told reporters that he doesn't know McVeigh.

. The Dallas Morning News quoted a source as saying that a note found in the back seat of the state police car that McVeigh rode in after he was arrested in Perry, Okla., contains a detailed request for obtaining explosives. The source gave no details.

. The Daily Oklahoman reported that investigators were checking a crumpled business card McVeigh may have hidden in the police car. A handwritten name and phone numbers appeared to be on the back of the card, which advertises a military supplies store.

. The FBI interviewed McVeigh's sister, Jennifer Lynn McVeigh, late Monday after she flew to Buffalo, N.Y., according to Buffalo television station WIVB. Earlier, agents obtained a search warrant for a Pensacola, Fla., house where they believed she had been staying. The warrant said they were seeking evidence such as explosive devices, diagrams on bomb-making, and manuals from paramilitary groups.

. In Congress, Republicans and Democrats agreed with President Clinton that new anti-terrorism legislation was needed and pledged to expedite it.

Associated Press

COPYRIGHT 2007 The Columbian

<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-23330806.html>

---

HighBeam Research is operated by Cengage Learning. © Copyright 2015. All rights reserved.

www.highbeam.com