

Hunt Widens For 2nd 'John Doe'

FBI Probing Thousands Of Tips In Search; New Sketch Of Suspect Is Issued

The Buffalo News (Buffalo, NY)

April 25, 1995 | From News Wire Services

As jailed suspect Timothy J. McVeigh reportedly ignored interrogators who waved photographs of dead children before his expressionless eyes, thousands of federal agents pressed their coast-to-coast search for his alleged accomplice and expanded their investigation of the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City.

Armed with nearly 7,000 citizen tips, federal agents expanded their manhunt Monday for "John Doe No. 2" and others who might know about the Oklahoma City bombing or bombers.

The FBI today issued a more detailed sketch of the second bombing suspect, showing the bushy-haired man wearing a baseball cap with two stripes across it that come together in the middle. Aside from the cap, it resembled the original sketch of the man, with heavy eyebrows, thick lips, short neck, slightly flared nostrils and squared jaw.

The sketch was based on new interviews with the witnesses who saw two men rent the Ryder truck that was used in the bombing, sources who spoke on condition of anonymity said in Washington.

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.

One 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 as Oklahoma 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.

Meanwhile, in a federal reformatory 30 miles from the scene of America's worst terrorist attack, McVeigh, a native of Pendleton, N.Y., has refused to respond to any questions from interrogators since he was charged with the bombing,

authorities said. Authorities say he calls himself a "political prisoner" and refuses to cooperate.

"The FBI has been showing McVeigh pictures of dead people, particularly dead children, with the fireman and all that, to check his reaction," a reliable counterterrorism source told Newsday. "Nothing. Zero reaction from that son of a . . . This guy is a stone."

Jennifer McVeigh, sister of the bombing suspect, flew from Florida to Buffalo, where she was being interviewed by local FBI agents Monday evening, WIVB-TV reported.

And court records showed Monday the FBI has obtained a search warrant for a Pensacola, Fla., house where they believed Ms. McVeigh was staying.

The warrant says agents were looking for explosive devices, diagrams on bomb-making, documents with McVeigh's name on them, manuals from paramilitary groups and written, electronic or pictorial documents associating individuals to the Oklahoma City bombing.

The search was to take place in a bedroom agents suspected was used by Ms. McVeigh, common areas of the house and a pickup truck with a New York tag registered to her.

Federal authorities in Buffalo and Washington refused to comment on the case regarding Ms. McVeigh.

The senior FBI agent spearheading the probe said Monday that the government had obtained a videotape, shot near the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, that investigators believe shows the truck used in the bombing.

The 1993 Ford van obtained from a Ryder rental franchise in Junction City, Kan., is believed to have carried the volatile mixture of fuel oil and ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer, to the front entrance of the nine-story office building shortly before the blast at 10:04 a.m. EDT Wednesday.

Federal agents pored over truckloads of material seized in searches in Michigan, Kansas, Arizona and Florida. Bomb experts continued to sift the blast site rubble. And a small fleet of computers helped investigators keep track of the tide of data.

Probably all 56 FBI field offices in the country had been assigned leads they were responsible for tracking down, said one federal law enforcement official as citizen calls to a toll-free hot line reached 9,000.

Calls were coming in so fast to the number, 1-800-905-1514, that only 6,700 had been logged in for assignment to field agents.

"There are investigative activities occurring literally throughout the United States," said Weldon Kennedy, the FBI special agent in command in Oklahoma City.

Two men who investigators once thought might be "John Doe No. 2" -- Terry Nichols, 40, of Herington, Kan., and Army Spc. David Iniguez -- turned out not to be.

Said to resemble the FBI sketch of "John Doe No. 2," Iniguez was seized in San Bernardino, Calif., Sunday, but he did not have the upper arm tattoo spotted on the suspect, a federal official said Monday. Absent without leave, Iniguez was turned over to military authorities.

Terry Nichols remained in custody as a material witness, like his brother James Nichols, 41, in Michigan.

In Michigan, a hearing scheduled today for James Nichols 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.

In Herington, Kan., investigators filled a 2 1/2-ton truck with boxes of material taken from Terry Nichols' home and a rented storage locker.

CBS News reported Monday that agents at Terry Nichols' home found numerous firearms as well as blue plastic barrels that officials said may be the same type used to assemble the Oklahoma City bomb. Fragments of blue plastic "have been found imbedded in some of the Oklahoma City victims," CBS reported.

In Kingman, Ariz., a desert town along Route 66 in the western part of the state where McVeigh shared a furnished trailer with a pregnant girlfriend, FBI agents conducted a series of searches and took the mail left in McVeigh's box at a private mailbox business.

In other developments:

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., 90 minutes after the bombing on unrelated charges contains a detailed request for obtaining explosives.

A Florida militia leader, Bob Johansen, told the Associated Press that McVeigh visited that state 18 months ago with Mark Koernke, who broadcasts a militant shortwave radio show from Michigan. McVeigh was a body guard for Koernke at a gathering of right-wing militias, members of the Florida State Militia said in today's Fort Pierce Tribune.