

## **2nd note uncovered in bomb inquiry - Officials seek origin of letter containing request for explosives**

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Authorities are investigating a note found just after the arrest of Oklahoma City bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh because it contains a detailed request for obtaining explosives, a law enforcement official said Monday.

The note was found in the back seat of a state trooper's patrol car used to transport Mr. McVeigh to jail after he was arrested near Perry, Okla., just 90 minutes after the bombing, the law enforcement official said.

The official said investigators are still trying to determine the note's origin and whether Mr. McVeigh discarded it while sitting in the patrol car. The official would not detail its contents or identify the type of explosives it referred to.

Mr. McVeigh, 27, has been charged in the case, and a federal official familiar with the investigation said two brothers, Terry Lynn Nichols, 40, of Herington, Kan., and James Nichols, of Decker, Mich., will probably be charged soon.

Both men are being held in custody as material witnesses in Kansas and Michigan. Mr. McVeigh is being held in a medium-security federal prison in El Reno, Okla., facing federal explosives charges. Attorney General Janet Reno has said she will seek the death penalty against anyone responsible for the bombing.

At least 80 people were confirmed dead and an estimated 150 missing late Monday after Wednesday's truck blast in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. More than 400 were injured.

Authorities continued their nationwide manhunt Monday for a man identified as John Doe No. 2 and as many as two others not yet in federal custody. The hunt proceeded Monday in Arizona, Georgia, Wisconsin and Illinois, an official said.

"There are investigative activities occurring literally throughout the United States," said Weldon Kennedy, FBI agent in charge of the investigation. "We . . . believe the case is coming together very rapidly and very well."

In other developments in the far-flung investigation:

\* The Pentagon Monday released records showing Mr. McVeigh was a decorated veteran of Operation Desert Storm.

\* An Arizona woman who rented a private mailbox to bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh said she believes the man identified by authorities as John Doe No. 2

retrieved mail for Mr. McVeigh. The connection is being investigated, according to federal authorities.

\* Authorities are investigating the possibility that Mr. McVeigh may have been planning a second bombing in Omaha, Neb. The official declined to elaborate on the evidence and did not know for sure whether such a plot ever existed.

Scripps Howard News Service reported that Mr. McVeigh has been identified as a man who spent some time in Omaha about a week before the bombing asking questions about a similar federal building.

\* Agents searching the bomb site discovered fragments of high-pressure gas tanks or canisters, one official said. "We don't know what was in them. Sometimes they hold hydrogen or acetylene to add additional power or thrust to an explosion," the official said.

\* A search of Mr. McVeigh's impounded car has recovered traces of a high explosive of the type that could have been used as a booster in the bomb, the official said. The official would not specify what was found.

\* A search of Terry Nichols' home in Herington, Kan., yielded blasting caps and blue plastic drums filled with fertilizer, an official said. Authorities believe that similar blue plastic drums were used to carry the explosives. Shards of similar blue plastic material have been found embedded in bodies of the blast victims, officials said.

\* Two possible suspects who surfaced on Sunday are no longer believed by authorities to be implicated in the plot, according to officials. One of the suspects, David Iniguez, remains in military custody for going AWOL in 1994. The other, Mark Koernke, a maintenance man at a University of Michigan dormitory and a self-styled militia member, is still being sought for questioning regarding a "bomb alert" fax he sent to a congressman.

\* Mr. McVeigh still refuses to answer to interrogators, calling himself a "political prisoner," according to federal officials familiar with the inquiry.

\* In Florida, authorities searched a Pensacola house where Mr. McVeigh's sister had been staying. The search warrant sought pamphlets or letters relating to violence against the government and explosive devices. In Fort Pierce, at the home of Mr. McVeigh's mother, an American flag flew at half-staff. Mildred "Mickey" Hill McVeigh Frazier refused to comment.

Meanwhile, the six-day investigation continues to revolve around Mr. McVeigh, the Army veteran who has provided only his name, rank, and serial number to agents seeking to question him, according to officials.

Though authorities have refused to publicly state a motive for the bombing, a federal affidavit filed against Mr. McVeigh indicates he was "extremely agitated" about the federal

government's fiery siege of the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, which resulted in the deaths of more than 80 members of the apocalyptic sect.

An official has told The Dallas Morning News that correspondence was found in Mr. McVeigh's car vowing retribution for actions of the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in the bloody confrontation. The fire occurred exactly two years to the day before the Oklahoma City explosion, when the bomb ripped through a building that housed state offices for the ATF.

Linda Willoughby, manager of The Mail Room in Kingman, Ariz., said she told federal agents that the suspect pictured in a widely distributed composite visited her small office once earlier this year.

"How sure am I? I've seen someone that looks similar to him," Ms. Willoughby said. "I can't pinpoint it, but he looks very familiar."

An official confirmed that investigators have been looking into the man's link to Mr. McVeigh's Kingman mail drop.

Officials are also investigating a February explosion in the Kingman area that took place near a trailer park where Mr. McVeigh was staying at the time.

Ms. Willoughby said she was unsure whether agents took fingerprints, but they wore rubber gloves as they examined the 3-inch-by-5-inch box after business hours Sunday. Investigators also took a handful of mail that had accumulated in the few weeks since Mr. McVeigh last checked his box earlier this month.

Mr. McVeigh rented the box in May 1993, listing his address as the home of fellow hardware store employee Michael Fortier, Ms. Willoughby said. He listed a backup address in Decker, Mich., that has been traced by agents to James Nichols.

Though investigators believe that the bombing was a conspiracy involving at least half a dozen people, one official familiar with the investigation cautioned Monday that agents "are still looking at everything. We're not ruling anything out."

Federal investigators are planning to transfer Terry and James Nichols out of Kansas and Michigan jails, actions that would require them to disclose possible charges against the two men, officials said. Hearings are scheduled for both in the next two days.

Mr. McVeigh was arrested shortly after the blast when a trooper stopped him for driving without a car license tag and noticed he was carrying a Glock 9mm pistol loaded with illegal "cop killer" bullets.

Witnesses have identified Mr. McVeigh as one of two men renting the Ryder truck used in the bombing, and have placed Mr. McVeigh in the vicinity of the federal building before the blast.

Mr. Kennedy told reporters Monday morning that FBI technicians believe that footage from a surveillance camera near the federal courthouse shows a Ryder truck near the federal building the day of the bombing, Mr. Kennedy said.

Investigators still combing the wreckage of the federal building have recovered samples that will help determine the exact composition of the bomb, a 4,800-pound mixture of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and fuel oil, one official said.

The ammonium nitrate and fuel oil explosive used in Oklahoma City requires a booster such as nitroglycerin or TNT for detonation, bomb experts said.

Though records released by the Pentagon reveal no special training in explosives for Mr. McVeigh, Army colleagues have said both he and Terry Nichols probably had demolition training.

The records show that Mr. McVeigh and Mr. Nichols entered the Army on May 24, 1988, and went on to serve in the same unit at Fort Riley, Kan. They said Mr. McVeigh attained the rank of sergeant and won a Bronze Star in Desert Storm. One man who served in the gulf with Mr. McVeigh said most of the gunners on Bradley Fighting Vehicles in his unit were awarded Bronze Stars.

Mr. Nichols received a family hardship discharge in 1989.

The Ryder truck was apparently rented under the name Robert Kling - the same last name as a soldier he trained at Fort Riley, where he was stationed after his return from the Persian Gulf.

"He was my squad leader and a damn good soldier," said Kerry Kling, 23, who served six months in the same platoon with Mr. McVeigh. He remembers Mr. McVeigh as an excellent marksman and a gun enthusiast.

"He was a fanatic," said Mr. Kling, who now lives in Tuscaloosa, Ala. "He liked guns."

Staff writers Pete Slover and Craig Flournoy in Dallas, George Rodrigue in Washington, Robert Ingrassia in Arizona and The Associated Press contributed to this report.