

CHEMICAL TESTS POINT TO McVEIGH - FBI Theorizes "John Doe 2" May Be Dead

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Defendant Timothy James McVeigh has been linked to the deadly Oklahoma City bombing by a fertilizer chemical found on his clothes and in his car, and at least one witness picked him out of a lineup, The Oklahoman was told.

FBI agents Tuesday continued the national manhunt for a second suspect - "John Doe 2" - releasing an enhanced sketch. However, agents also were pursuing a theory that the man perished in the blast.

Two of McVeigh's friends, meanwhile, were accused Tuesday in a federal complaint of involvement in a right-wing plot to make bombs with McVeigh in Michigan. Brothers Terry Nichols, 40, and James Douglas Nichols, 41, had been in custody as material witnesses.

"We're getting better at it," one brother told a neighbor about the bomb making, according to the FBI. Both brothers are known for right-wing extremist views and have been described as former members of the Michigan Militia.

The Oklahoma City bomb was a lethal concoction of fertilizer and diesel fuel, placed in a rental truck parked in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19. The bomb - reported to be as much as 4,800 pounds - exploded just after 9 a.m.

Investigators found traces of ammonium nitrate - a fertilizer chemical - on McVeigh's clothes and on the floorboard of his car. McVeigh was stopped 75 minutes after the blast after an Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper saw he had no license tag.

He was jailed in Perry on state misdemeanor counts. The FBI found him there Friday .

One of four witnesses picked him out of a lineup over the weekend, one source said. Another said that was "a little bit understated."

The brothers, Terry Nichols and James Nichols, were charged in a Michigan federal court with conspiring "with others persons, including Timothy McVeigh, to make and possess ... destructive devices" between 1992 and 1995.

The federal complaint does not accuse them in the Oklahoma City bombing.

James Nichols had been held as a material witness since Friday night as investigators searched his farmhouse in Decker, Mich.

Terry Nichols had been held as a material witness since he turned himself in to police in Herington, Kan., on Friday.

The FBI reported James Nichols admitted he helped his brother and McVeigh make "bottle bombs" in 1992 at his farmhouse, using brake fluid, gasoline and diesel fuel.

James Nichols also admitted he had made small explosives last year - using prescription vials, pyrodex, blasting caps and safety fuse. He told the FBI his brother had "survival books" which included information about making "ammonium nitrate bombs."

FBI agents reported finding 28, 50-pound bags of ammonium nitrate-based fertilizer, and other chemicals in his barn that could be used for "improvised explosives." In the farmhouse, agents found blasting caps, black powder and a safety fuse.

Neighbor Daniel Stomber told the FBI he saw the brothers detonate homemade bombs and recalled them "frequently making derogatory comments about the incident at Waco, Texas, and the federal government."

He said he saw a man named "Tim" move onto the farm last year and described him as "a guy that wore camouflage clothing frequently and carried a pistol."

McVeigh, 27, is accused of bombing the federal office building on the second anniversary of the FBI raid on the Branch Davidians compound in Waco, Texas. The raid ended a 51-day standoff and the compound caught fire, killing 80 cult members.

A former co-worker told the FBI that McVeigh was angry at the government's handling of the conflict with the Branch Davidians.

Another neighbor in Michigan, Paul Isydorek, said he saw Terry Nichols and McVeigh at the farm experimenting with explosives.

The new sketch of "John Doe 2" depicts the same square-jawed face - but the man now wears a baseball cap with two lines on each side. The FBI first sent sketches worldwide Thursday based on descriptions at a shop in Junction City, Kan., where the bomb truck was rented.

In Junction City, the manager of the Great Western Inn was watching television with two reporters when the new sketch flashed on the screen. He said he recognized it as the man who stayed in Room 107 on April 17 - two days before the bombing.

"He spoke broken English. He was not 100 percent American," said the manager, who is East Indian and speaks with an accent.

The manager, who requested anonymity for fear of retaliation, said the man gave a foreign name and was driving a Ryder rental truck.

"He was scared. He didn't want to talk to me too much," the manager said Tuesday. He couldn't give the name the man registered under because FBI agents took away his log book.

The motel is one exit down Interstate 70 from the Dreamland Motel, where McVeigh stayed April 14-18.

The sketch was based on new interviews with witnesses who saw two men in Junction City rent the bomb truck on April 17.

The FBI has said it could not rule out "John Doe 2" was killed in the blast.

"We would not be able to determine that until we have completely examined all the forensics evidence that we will obtain from the site itself," FBI agent Weldon Kennedy said Monday.

The Oklahoman was told the possibility of his death was an "active theory."

"If anybody is even close to that thing, even in a vehicle, they could have been vaporized," one law enforcement source said. "That's the problem. ... They are finding body parts down there we are never going to identify because there is nothing to connect them with. ... You've got to look at that as a very good possibility.

"With this kind of publicity, you'd think something would have turned up by now," he said. "Either the guy has left the country, he doesn't know anybody or something else happened."

In Oklahoma, FBI agents checked receipts and surveillance tapes at fuel stations and motels. Motel managers said agents showed them pictures and checked their motel registrations.

FBI agents also have interviewed three inmates, who were held with McVeigh in the Noble County Jail. Sheriff Jerry Cook said the interviews were very brief - apparently because McVeigh said little in the jail.

"He was quiet, he never said anything," Cook said.

The FBI also reported McVeigh has used the alias "Tim Tuttle" or "Terry Tuttle." Mail addressed to those names was found in the Michigan farmhouse.

A confidential FBI informant said two men - one using the name "Terry Tuttle" - had tried to buy 100 percent liquid nitro model airplane fuel at a hobby shop, Thumb Hobbies, about 20 miles from Decker, Mich., in December 1993. The informant said two weeks later the men returned and said they had "found another source."

An FBI agent said that type model airplane fuel can be used to make "improvised explosives."

In Oklahoma City, a federal grand jury convened at Tinker Air Force Base. It was likely that the secret proceedings involved McVeigh, and possibly others allegedly connected to the bombing. The blast interrupted last week's grand jury proceedings, which began before the attack.

Federal investigators Sunday night served a search warrant on a Pensacola, Fla., residence where McVeigh's sister, Jennifer Lynn McVeigh, 21, was visiting for spring break.

The warrant said investigators were looking for explosive devices, information on making bombs or other destructive devices, and material relating to any paramilitary group espousing violence against the government.

Officials also were looking for documents that would show association with those involved in the Oklahoma City bombing.

The warrant also authorized a search of a pickup with a New York license tag, registered to Jennifer McVeigh.

She reportedly returned to Buffalo, N.Y., late Monday.

Jennifer McVeigh, wrote a letter to the Lockport (N.Y.) Union-Sun Journal, in March, condemning gun control and saying that constitutional rights were trampled at Waco .

The Associated Press and staff writers John Parker and Michael McNutt contributed to this report.

Correction: The Associated Press and staff writers John Parker and Michael McNutt contributed to this report.