

Agents Hunt For Pair in Bombing - Both Are Linked to McVeigh; One Might Be John Doe No. 2

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Federal officials flung a net over several states Monday, searching urgently for two men believed to have knowledge of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Meanwhile, mounting evidence suggested that the nation's deadliest terrorist attack may have been planned at least six months in advance.

Authorities said the two men being sought in a multistate all-points bulletin lived in the same Arizona town as bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh. And, on the day of the Oklahoma City explosion, they checked into a motel in Perry, Okla., the city where Mr. McVeigh was jailed on traffic and weapons violations soon after the blast.

Gary Allen Land - believed to be an associate of Mr. McVeigh's - and Robert Jacks are presumed armed and dangerous, and one may be the long-sought John Doe No. 2, investigators said. The FBI on Monday released a new profile sketch of the mystery man some witnesses have identified as accompanying Mr. McVeigh on the morning of the bombing.

"They seem to be zeroing in on these two fellows," said one official familiar with the investigation.

The death toll in the bombing rose to 138 on Monday as Oklahoma officials grappled with questions about how long they should continue search efforts at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

As for the investigation, officials revealed Monday that a receipt for ammonium nitrate fertilizer, possibly the same fertilizer used in the bomb, is dated September 1994 - six months before the attack in Oklahoma City.

Federal officials said that Mr. McVeigh's fingerprints are on the receipt, which was found in the Herington, Kan., home of his friend Terry Nichols, who is being held as a material witness in the bombing.

The receipt, which records the purchase of 2,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate, came from the Mid-Kansas Co-op at McPherson, Kan. A company official declined to comment on Monday. McPherson is about 40 miles southwest of Herington.

Federal officials who declined to be named said Monday that the document suggests that whoever built the device may have spent months planning the attack.

"It appears this had been stockpiled for a while," said one official.

At the Geary State Fishing Lake about 15 miles from Herington, FBI agents continued their search Monday for evidence that the bomb may have been constructed at a camping area there.

Officials already have found evidence of spilled fuel that might have been used in making the bomb. A witness also has told authorities that a Ryder truck was parked there after Mr. McVeigh and John Doe No. 2 allegedly rented a truck in nearby Junction City, Kan. on April 17.

Monday, a Ryder truck similar to the one believed used in the bombing was parked at the site, along with an ambulance and several other vehicles. About a dozen FBI agents were taking measurements and digging and sifting the earth surrounding small wooden shed. An FBI diver could be seen scouring the shallow water.

More suspects

Investigators have said almost from the start that they suspect that as many as half a dozen people were involved in the bomb plot.

Investigators also have received a report that Mr. McVeigh's car appeared to be traveling in tandem with another vehicle, possibly a pickup truck, when he was pulled over in Perry.

Agents seeking to trace the movements of Mr. Land and Mr. Jacks have determined that the pair checked into the Dan-D motel in Perry on the day of the bombing, a federal official said Monday.

The two men were last seen driving a white 1981 Ford

Thunderbird with Arizona license plate JWK923. The car is registered to Mr. Land, listing a Kingman, Ariz., motel as a home address. Mr. Land is 36; Mr. Jacks is roughly the same age, officials said.

A motel clerk at the Dan-D Motel said Monday that FBI agents have repeatedly visited to question staff members. The clerk declined to identify herself or answer any more questions.

The evening of the bombing, Mr. Land and Mr. Jacks checked into a different motel, 140 miles to the northeast in Vinita, Okla., officials said. The pair originally paid for only one day but ended up staying for five days, owner Tom Crafton said.

There is no bail-bond agency in Perry. But in nearby Stillwater, bondsman Brent Goad said that Mr. McVeigh had called him on the morning after the bombing and asked for help getting out of jail.

They discussed the probable amount of the bond, and Mr. McVeigh "said he had enough money" to cover Mr. Goad's fee, the bondsman recalled.

"I told him, `Whoa, it's not as simple as that. I'd want someone to co-sign, to be sure you came back for trial.'

Mr. McVeigh replied, "No problem, I could get my father, or some friends could do that," Mr. Goad recalled.

But, Mr. Goad added, he also told Mr. McVeigh that there was no way he could secure his release until a judge had set bail.

"He said, `Can't you call the judge?" Mr. Goad recalled. "On Friday morning, I finally understood why he was in such a hurry."

Friday, April 21, tracing fragments of the bombed-out truck to Mr. McVeigh, authorities identified Mr. McVeigh as a suspect in the bombing. He now is being held in a federal jail in El Reno, Okla. Seeking link

Authorities said they began seeking Mr. Land and Mr. Jacks on Saturday. They said information developed in Kingman established a link between Mr. Land and Mr. McVeigh, but they declined to elaborate on how Mr. Land and Mr. Jacks were traced to Vinita and Perry.

In Vinita, Mr. Crafton said the two men now sought by the FBI arrived the evening of April 19 and asked for a room for one night, paying \$23.85 in advance.

"They went someplace the next day," he said. "They were gone for a while. When they came back, they said they had to stay over till Monday, so they paid for the room in advance," Mr. Crafton said.

Mr. Crafton said the two men seldom left the motel after their return on April 20. "They just stayed in their room most of the time," he said.

"I even told one of them he looked like that John Doe," Mr. Crafton said.

"It was Sunday, middle of the morning, when he came to get some ice. I told him: `I just saw your picture on TV. You look like one of those guys they're looking for.'

"He just kind of grinned and said, `Really.' That was the last time I saw him. We left out to go to Kansas City, and the next morning, they were gone."

The pair also left a trail in Kingman, where they lived in a motel just 200 yards from a motel where Mr. McVeigh stayed. Federal officials said all three men lived in Kingman in the months before the bombing.

Records at the El Torvatore Motel, one of the cheaper, older lodgings in Kingman, show that Mr. Land and Mr. Jacks stayed there from Nov. 3 through April 5.

A registration card from the motel shows that the pair reported an address in Holbrook, Ariz., and drove Mr. Land's 1981 Ford Thunderbird.

The pair paid their rent in cash, \$500 a month, those records show. Motel owner June Terranova said the FBI questioned her about the two Friday and several times since.

She said she never saw Mr. McVeigh or anybody else visit the pair in the series of three small rooms they rented.

There was no telephone in the room, but Ms. Terranova and her husband said they saw both men use a pay phone at a nearby gas station. Otherwise, they said, the two men kept to themselves.

"Every day they used to go buy beer at Walgreens and sit in their room and drink," Bill Terranova said. "They never caused any trouble, kept it neat as a pin."

The older man said the younger was his nephew, the Terranovas recalled. When the pair checked out, they said they were going to visit Mr. Jack's two sons in Oklahoma, the motel owners said. It could not be determined Monday whether Mr. Jacks actually had sons in Oklahoma.

State records show that Mr. Land in 1992

listed his address as Richmond, Ind., a town of 40,000 east of Indianapolis.

Staff writers Todd Bensman in Junction City, Kan., Selwyn Crawford in Oklahoma City, David Jackson in Washington, Pete Slover in Kingman, Ariz., and Victoria Loe in Dallas contributed to this report.

Caption:

PHOTO(S): 1. (Associated Press) A diver walks out of the Geary State Fishing Lake in Kansas, where federal agents were seeking evidence that materials for a bomb were mixed nearby. 2. -3. John Doe No. 2. 3. Gary Land. MAP(S): Oklahoma. CHART(S): Oklahoma City Bombing Update. ; PHOTO LOCATION: Disk 66b / Kansas 050295.