FBI pressuring McVeigh's sister to explain activities, take polygraph test

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The sister of Oklahoma City bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh has been under increasing pressure from federal investigators to explain her activities and what she knows about her brother's movements and alliances with anti-government groups in the months before the Oklahoma City bombing

FBI agents in recent weeks have interviewed Jennifer Lynn McVeigh, 21, at least twice and now want her to submit to a polygraph test. A letter the suspect wrote to Jennifer McVeigh, whom he called "Jenny," was retrieved from the car he was driving when he was arrested. In another letter seized by authorities, Timothy McVeigh warned his sister that federal agents might be tapping her phone.

The sister, a community college student and waitress in the small New York town where the family lives, has interested investigators since the first days after the bombing. The FBI moved quickly to search the family's Pendleton, N.Y., house and a Pensacola, Fla., location where Jennifer McVeigh stayed briefly during Easter vacation. From her Chevrolet pickup and the Florida address, agents seized letters and various books and pamphlets, including some espousing virulent right-wing political views and armed resistance to federal law enforcement.

The agents also are investigating whether she may have illegally shipped ammunition to her brother in 1992. Investigators are interested in a shipment of about 700 rounds of 7.62mm bullets, typically used in military rifles, sources said. The Buffalo News reported Sunday that Jennifer McVeigh allegedly picked up the ammunition at a Lockport, N.Y., sporting goods shop and allegedly shipped it to Timothy McVeigh.

Authorities have found no specific evidence linking Jennifer McVeigh to the Oklahoma City case. But with Timothy McVeigh maintaining a stoic silence about the April 19 bombing, she could become a crucial source in unlocking the mysteries surrounding the man believed to have executed the worst terrorist act in U.S. history.

The strategy appears to be part of an overall investigative plan to dissect the lives of any of Timothy McVeigh's close acquaintances, particularly those with similar political views.

Responding to the intense federal scrutiny, Jennifer McVeigh recently hired attorneys to assess the government's focus.

Asked if the government is considering charging his client, attorney Joel Daniels said, "I don't think they have ruled it out (charging her) entirely."

Investigators have theorized that Timothy McVeigh was livid about the bloody federal standoff with the Branch Davidians near Waco and believed federal officials were engaged in a systematic effort to wrest away the rights of the citizenry.

The search warrant executed in Pensacola heightened the investigative interest in McVeigh's younger sister, sources said. Investigators confiscated right-wing literature and audiotapes.

Investigators also found charred papers on a grill at the Florida residence she was visiting, sources familiar with the probe said