

Militiaman Had Floor Plans For Prisoner Center Bonner Springs Man is Accused of Illegally Using Explosives

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A Bonner Springs man charged with criminal use of explosives had detailed floor plans of a building used to hold federal prisoners in Oklahoma City, authorities say.

Larry N. Trickett, a member of the Missouri 51st Militia who was arrested Sunday night after police responded to a domestic disturbance call at his house, had detailed diagrams of the five-story Federal Transfer Center. The National Prison Transportation Center uses the building as a hub in the shipping of criminals to federal prisons throughout the country.

The center is a hot topic among militia members. Many believe it will be used as a concentration camp when the federal government rounds them up.

Federal authorities are concerned in part because a hearing on moving the Oklahoma City bombing case is scheduled Tuesday in Oklahoma City.

Authorities stressed, however, that they had no evidence that the case had any connection to the April 19 blast that killed 169 persons and injured more than 500. The two suspects in the case, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, allegedly had ties to right-wing extremists. Both are being held at a federal prison in El Reno, Okla., about 30 miles west of Oklahoma City.

Trickett, 45, was arrested by Bonner Springs police Sunday night for allegedly beating his wife, Patricia. Later, as Patricia Trickett was packing to move out, she found an SKS assault rifle, an explosive device and some gunpowder in the basement of the house, said Police Sgt. John Haley.

Patricia Trickett called police, Haley said, and they returned to the home.

Haley said the explosive device was made from galvanized piping and was found in a gym bag, along with gunpowder. The assault rifle, he said, was legal and had not been converted to a fully automatic weapon.

He said police also found a 9mm handgun and ``tons and tons of survivalist and militia stuff," including manuals on making explosives and booby traps.

Other items found included the floor plan of the Oklahoma City building, tubes in which to bury food and weapons, information on secret coding systems, military MREs (meals ready to eat) and the address of Mark Koernke, a Michigan militia supporter whose videos preach that the country is being taken over by a one-world government.

Militia members said there was nothing sinister about Trickett having the floor plans.

Dennis Findley, a Grandview man who calls himself the commander of B Company of the Missouri 51st Militia, said he knew ``all kinds of people" who had the plans. ``The fact that he had that is not threatening at all. Larry has a great thirst for knowledge. " Police called the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms after they discovered the explosives, Haley said.

Trickett was charged in Wyandotte County District Court with criminal use of explosives, a felony. He is being held in the Wyandotte County Jail; bond was set at \$50,000 bond.

Jim Jimerson, supervisor of the ATF bomb and arson unit, said a decision on filing federal charges had not yet been made.

Jimerson said his office contacted the FBI, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Marshals Service. Officials with those agencies declined to comment.

The floor plans for the transfer center came with a memo dated May 12, 1994. The ``Intel Update" said that on May 5, 1994, ``one recon team infiltrated area surrounding new Federal Transfer Facility located on the southwest perimeter of Will Rogers Airport in Oklahoma City. " The rest of the memo described the structure in detail.

On May 8, 1994, according to the memo, ``a second recon team infiltrated the facility disguised as construction workers and penetrated the interior. They managed to photograph some of the interior. " The memo concludes: ``It appears that this facility, which is simply marked Federal Transfer Center, is the central civilian prisoner sorting and relocation center we have sought in the OKC area. " This wasn't the first time authorities stumbled upon detailed information on the transfer center.

One federal agent said that shortly after the Oklahoma City bombing a Highway Patrol officer found a plastic bag alongside a road in eastern Oklahoma. Inside were color photos and a blueprint of the transfer center.

Findley said Trickett had worked for the Internal Revenue Service for at least 10 years but was fired recently. He called Trickett the militia's operations and intelligence officer.

``In the five years I've known him, he's always tried to stay within the system," he said.

Some militia members see the arrest as the beginning of a roundup of militia supporters.

``You see? The war is on," said Brad Glover, brigadier general of the 7th Division United States Constitutional Militia. ``Larry Trickett is one more of the small events in the Gestapo's big theatrical scheme. " Glover, of Towanda, Kan., said that he, too, had information on the transfer center.

``I sent some troops down there to get a video of it," he said.

``We even got inside. " Transfer center spokesman Gary Gray said rumors about the structure circulated before it opened in March 1995.

``We've seen several newsletters about this," he said. ``But we're not trying to hide anything. " He said the center holds about 1,800 prisoners. The center is at the Will Rogers World Airport.

``There's nothing ominous about that," he said. ``That's for security reasons. They go directly from the plane into the jet way into our facility. " Jim McKinzey, commander of the Missouri 51st Militia, said he didn't believe Trickett was guilty.

``The device he had in his house was a signaling device he was making," McKinzey said. ``It detonates some gunpowder, and when the gunpowder ignites, it puts off a bright flash. " McKinzey said Trickett was concerned about the transfer center.

``Two weeks ago, we had the FBI at our meeting, and Larry asked the agent about the federal center," McKinzey said.

Dave Tubbs, the FBI agent who attended the meeting, said he recalled someone asking a question about secret prisons.

``They were talking about prisons being built throughout the U.S. in secret locations," he said. ``This man stood up - he wasn't rude - and asked a very straightforward question about it. " Tubbs said he gave the man his business card and told him to call with any further information.

He never did.