

# CO-WORKER TAPED TALKS WITH MCVEIGH, FBI SAYS DOCUMENTS DETAIL EX-GUARD'S SUSPICIONS



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Carl E. Lebron Jr. had suspicions about his co-worker, Timothy J. McVeigh, long before the Oklahoma City bombing in April 1995.

Lebron told FBI agents that, a year before the bombing, he took a tape recorder to work and hid it in his coat to secretly record McVeigh's anti-government remarks.

"I thought something was not right and wanted (McVeigh) to say what he was up to," Lebron, a security guard with McVeigh, told FBI agents. "It was bothering me what he was talking about." A day after the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people, Lebron was watching a television news report when he recalled the weird, sometimes scary talks with McVeigh, 28, a Pendleton native. The next morning, Lebron went to the Buffalo FBI office and reported his suspicions. Lebron's tape recording of McVeigh apparently was turned over to the FBI, but court documents were unclear on what it contained. But Lebron's experience with McVeigh, detailed to the FBI hours before McVeigh was identified publicly as a suspect in the bombing -- was considered important evidence in the early stages of the probe. Although Lebron is unlikely to testify in McVeigh's upcoming trial, law enforcement officials said Tuesday he was the first to come forward with information about McVeigh's political views as a possible motivation in the bombing. "Lebron . . . often felt that McVeigh was trying to recruit him into an undescribed group or to be part of undescribed actions," FBI Special Agent Eric Kruss said in an investigative report. Fifteen pages of Buffalo FBI reports on Lebron, plus a three-page statement filed by the McVeigh defense team, were unsealed in Denver last week in pretrial litigation in the bombing case. McVeigh's trial is scheduled to start March 31. The Buffalo News obtained copies of the documents Tuesday. During the long hours they spent together in 1993-94 as guards employed by Burns International Security Systems at the Calspan research

facility in Cheektowaga, Lebron, 30, and McVeigh discussed politics, religion and other issues. According to FBI statements, Lebron said McVeigh: Gave him numerous anti-government and white-supremacist literature, including a newsletter from the Ku Klux Klan. Claimed a federal investigation called Operation North Star, which rented office space in a Calspan building, was a front for government drug trafficking. McVeigh purportedly said a document he found in the North Star office described how the government used miniature submarines to smuggle drugs into the country. McVeigh said he could not make a copy of the document because it was printed on special paper that could not be copied. Since July 1990, Operation North Star, has coordinated trade and anti-drug efforts along the U.S.-Canadian border. A federal investigator familiar with the program said Tuesday that McVeigh's allegations were untrue. Said he was moving to Michigan to avoid people, possibly from Operation North Star, who "were coming after him." Said he was extremely angry with the federal government over its handling of the Randy Weaver case in Idaho. Weaver's wife, his son and a federal marshal were killed during an 11-day siege in 1992. McVeigh was also upset over the conduct of federal agents during the 1993 attack on a cultists' militia complex in Waco, Texas. Believed in flying saucers "from another dimension." He was also a "Trekkie" -- a devotee of the television show "Star Trek." Wrote to and sometimes visited Lebron after leaving his job. In November 1994, he arrived at the Calspan plant wearing a dirty baseball cap with a hole in it. McVeigh said it was a bullet hole and explained that he had been standing on a ridge when someone took a "pot shot" at him. On one occasion, claimed two men easily could steal guns from a military base. This, Lebron said, prompted him to bring the secret tape recorder, but McVeigh never mentioned it again. A report by David Fechheimer, a defense team investigator, says Lebron told him last month he is convinced that at least one other former Buffalo employee of Burns Security was involved in the bombing plot. "He is certain (the former employee) is John Doe Number 2," Fechheimer said in his report. Fechheimer says Lebron claims he told a Buffalo FBI agent of these suspicions last summer. But Leesa Brown of the U.S. Justice Department, spokeswoman for the McVeigh prosecution team, said in an interview that the Buffalo agent denies Lebron ever mentioned the "John Doe Number 2" allegations. Fechheimer, based in San Francisco, could not be reached Tuesday to comment. Lebron's family said he has been instructed by the FBI not to discuss the case. Lebron quit his job at Burns Security last summer, according to Fechheimer's report, and company officials referred all questions about McVeigh to the FBI. Brian Profic of Cheektowaga, a former Burns Security supervisor, recalled Tuesday that both McVeigh and Lebron had worked at Calspan. Profic said he had little contact with the two guards, but he did recall receiving some literature from McVeigh. "He sent me a book on how to avoid paying your taxes and a white-

supremacist publication called 'The White Patriot,' " Profic said. "After the bombing, when the FBI came through Calspan questioning the guards, I turned the books over to them." Unlike Lebron, Profic said he never had any suspicions that McVeigh could be dangerous. "I knew he had anti-government views, but I'd never expect him to do something drastic," Profic said. "I was very surprised."