

FBI seeks cohort of Oklahoma bombing suspects, reports say

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The FBI is looking for a man it believes sought a remote hideout in the Ozark Mountains of Missouri with Oklahoma City bombing suspects Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, CNN and Time magazine reported Sunday.

The FBI wants to question Robert Jacques to help agents reconstruct the activities of McVeigh and Nichols leading up to the April 19, 1995, bombing. The network released a sketch of a man believed to be Jacques.

William Maloney, a Cassville, Mo., real estate broker, told CNN that in the fall of 1994, Jacques came to his office with Nichols and a man who identified himself as Tim.

Jacques did most of the talking and did not say why they were interested in buying land Maloney advertised as "in the middle of nowhere, at the end of a rough road, at the bottom of a hollow . . . there may be a cave."

"I asked the question, 'Were they looking for a place to hide?' and he didn't respond to that," Maloney said. The three men left the same day and never returned, Maloney said.

Several months earlier, Maloney said he got a phone inquiry about the land and asked the caller's name.

"He says 'McVeigh,' and I said, 'M-C-V-E-Y' and he said, 'That's close enough,'" Maloney said.

McVeigh's trial on federal murder and conspiracy charges is set for March 31 in Denver. Nichols later will be tried separately. Their indictment alleges they acted with "others unknown" to bomb the Oklahoma City federal building, killing 168 people and injuring more than 500.

McVeigh attorney Stephen Jones told CNN Sunday night that McVeigh was not in Missouri at the time Maloney said he met the three men.

With Maloney's help, the FBI produced a sketch of Jacques and has been trying to find him for



CNN released a sketch of a man believed to be Robert Jacques, reportedly sought by the FBI.

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more than a year, CNN reported on its "Impact" news program, which is co-produced with Time. An article also appears in Time's March 17 issue, which hits the stands today.

The drawing of Jacques, who appears to be a dark-skinned, muscular man with short hair, is the only remaining unidentified sketch in the FBI's files on the case, a Justice Department source told CNN.

On May 2, 1995, about two weeks after the bombing, a drifter named Robert Jacks was arrested as a witness in Carthage, Mo., along with Gary Allen Land. The two were released 18 hours later.

Maloney told CNN that the Jacques he met was not the Jacks he saw on television that day. "He's out there," Maloney said. "This other guy they're looking for, he's there somewhere."

The FBI has not shown the Jacques sketch to witnesses at the Ryder facility in Junction City, Kan., where the truck used in the bombing was rented, or to people around Nichols' home in nearby Herington, Kan., CNN said.

Barbara Whittenberg, who runs a diner in Herington, recalls three men pulling up in a Ryder truck a day or so before the bombing. Two were Nichols and McVeigh, she said. The third was muscular and dark-skinned.

"The one question I asked was where were they going. And the third person said 'Oklahoma,'" Whittenberg said.

Shown CNN's reproduction of the FBI sketch of Jacques, Whittenberg said: "It looks closer to him than any of them. This is the closest picture I've seen yet."