

LETTERS TO SISTER SAY MCVEIGH USED SPEED

Rocky Mountain News

Rocky Mountain News (Denver, CO)

March 22, 1997 | Kilzer, Lou; Flynn, Kevin

Byline: Lou Kilzer and Kevin Flynn Rocky Mountain News Staff Writers

Oklahoma City bombing defendant Timothy McVeigh told his sister he used methamphetamine to help his memory, according to letters recovered by the FBI.

Methamphetamine, also known as "speed," is a powerful stimulant that can cause weight loss, feelings of joy and paranoia and even homicidal behavior.

Stephen Jones, McVeigh's lead attorney, said the alleged drug use has played almost no role in the case. It is not known whether allegations concerning drug use will or can be used as evidence in McVeigh's trial, which begins March 31 in Denver.

It also is not known if his drug use, if any, was chronic or merely experimental.

In a 1993 letter to his sister Jennifer, McVeigh said he used speed because it helped him remember things from his past.

Law enforcement authorities say that when McVeigh lived in Kingman, Ariz., in 1993 and off and on the next year, some people with whom he associated were involved with illegal drugs.

Police investigated whether McVeigh was involved in the bombing of a Kingman house belonging to a man who had refused to act as a courier for an alleged drug dealer.

McVeigh wasn't charged in that bombing, but the alleged dealer and another man were sent to prison.

The house bombing wasn't mentioned in the indictment in the Oklahoma case, although the victim, Ralph "Rocky" McPeak, had testified before the grand jury.

McPeak hired McVeigh as a security guard for a shelter in Kingman.

McPeak said the alleged dealer had done him a favor by posting bail for McPeak's girlfriend, then in return asked him to carry some drugs. McPeak refused. On Feb. 21, 1995, an ammonium nitrate bomb exploded in McPeak's yard, shattering his windows.

McPeak went to the alleged dealer's house to confront him, and claims he saw McVeigh with another man he didn't recognize.

McVeigh allegedly told his sister in November 1994 that he was upset because a "contract to kill" had not been fulfilled, his sister told authorities.

McVeigh allegedly planned but did not participate in the Nov. 5, 1994, robbery of Arkansas gun dealer Roger Moore. Moore said one or two people attacked him and stole \$50,000 worth of weapons and other goods.

Some of his belongings later were found in the home of co-defendant Terry Nichols. Prosecutors contend the robbery was used by McVeigh, Nichols and perhaps others to finance the bombing. Nichols, who also has pleaded not guilty in the bombing, will be tried after McVeigh.