

WORLD

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Defense lawyers talk of John Doe 2

BY TIM DORAN
Free Press Staff Writer

DENVER — Using their first defense witnesses, attorneys for Terry Nichols took jurors Tuesday to Junction City, Kan., on a search for John Doe 2 — and tried to put some distance between Nichols and convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.

But government prosecutors kept using phone records to connect McVeigh and Nichols, the 42-year-old Lapeer native on trial for conspiracy and murder in the 1995 bombing that killed 168 people.

The prosecution rested its case Tuesday on an emotional note. Marine Capt. Matthew Cooper, the 98th and final government witness, recalled the "earth-shattering noise" of the bomb as he worked that morning in the nine-story federal office building that collapsed around him.

He described rescuing several people who had serious head and arm wounds, but said he could not find Capt. Randy Guzman, a Marine Corps executive officer who died in



the bombing. Rudy Guzman, a spectator at the McVeigh and Nichols trials, covered his eyes and cried as his brother's picture was displayed.

U.S. Attorney Patrick Ryan completed the

federal case by displaying a plan of the bombed building, with the names of the dead listed next to the floor where they were at the time.

Then the defense shifted to Junction City, where many witnesses said they saw McVeigh, but none saw Nichols.

Lea McGown, owner of the Dreamland Motel, said she heard McVeigh and another man talking in McVeigh's room on the Sunday night before the bombing. McGown, who never saw Nichols at the motel, said McVeigh listed the Decker, Mich., address of Terry's brother, James, when he checked into the motel on

April 14.

At one time, McGown said she saw McVeigh in a Ryder truck on April 16, a day before the government says McVeigh picked up the truck used in the bombing. But Tuesday, McGown testified that she did not recall seeing the truck that Sunday.

Some witnesses also said they saw an olive-skinned or Hispanic man who resembled the description of John Doe 2 around the motel parking lot and near McVeigh's room.

On cross-examination, the government tried to show that many of the witnesses could have been mistaken. McGown admitted she could have seen the truck Monday.

And prosecutors produced phone records suggesting McVeigh phoned Nichols from the motel on three successive days in the week before the bombing.

Free Press special writer Michael Connors contributed to this report. Staff writer Tim Doran can be reached at 1-313-223-4543.