

# Defense presents John Doe 2 sketch

## Prosecution rests case against Nichols

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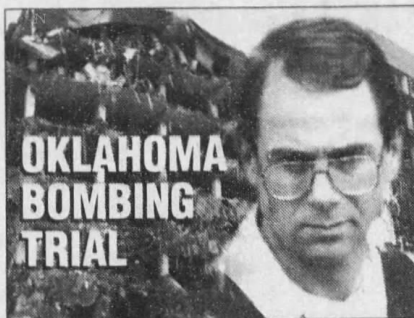
DENVER — Minutes after the prosecution completed its testimony against Terry Nichols on Tuesday, defense lawyers raised the specter of John Doe 2, a shadowy figure some people reported seeing with Timothy McVeigh before the Oklahoma City bombing.

Going immediately to a key part of their case, defense lawyers presented a sketch of John Doe 2 to a witness, trying to place an accomplice — someone other than Nichols — with the already convicted McVeigh.

Lea McGown, the owner of the Dreamland Motel in Junction City, Kan., rented McVeigh a room the weekend before the bombing and said she heard McVeigh speaking with one or possibly two other people in his room one night.

But she said she couldn't identify them. She also said she had never seen Nichols and couldn't identify the sketch of John Doe 2. She did remember seeing McVeigh with a large Ryder rental truck.

The sketch of John Doe 2 was created shortly after the bombing and purported to show somebody seen with McVeigh when he rented the Ryder truck believed to be used in the bombing.



**TERRY NICHOLS**

In McVeigh's trial, prosecutors said the man in the sketch was not involved in the bombing, but the defense contends that people other than McVeigh were involved.

Defense lawyers also called FBI chemist Steven Burmeister to ask a question they were prevented from asking on Monday when he testified for the prosecution: What was the bomb made of?

Burmeister said it was beyond his expertise to answer that question. He said ammonium nitrate was one ingredient, but there was no proof of blasting caps or nitromethane, which prosecutors cite as other bomb ingredients.

Prosecutors said Nichols worked with McVeigh for months on the bombing preparations, a plan hatched in retaliation for a government raid on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, in

which about 80 people died.

Nichols is accused of stealing explosives from a Kansas quarry in the fall of 1994, robbing Arkansas gun collector Roger Moore of weapons to be sold to finance the bombing and purchasing two tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer — the key bomb ingredient.

During a day of transition in the Nichols trial, prosecutors rested their case with a Marine recruiter's calm recollections of a hectic search for victims as the Oklahoma City federal building crumbled around him. The April 19, 1995, explosion killed 168 people, including 19 children.

Wearing a dress uniform with medals on his chest, Marine Capt. Matthew Cooper said he was in a sixth-floor office when the explosion happened, leaving him buried in ceiling tiles and other debris.

"Everything lasted about 45 seconds, with the walls falling down, the ceiling tiles, the light fixtures," Cooper said. "When the noise finally stopped, I was able to dig myself out from the rubble."

Amid the screams of the wounded, Cooper went in and out of the smoke-filled building to pull victims from the debris and guide them to safety until he was ordered to remain outside. Two of the nine Marine office employees died.

Jurors watched with interest, but none cried as Cooper testified.