

# Rape suspect met McVeigh, couple say

## McCrea denies claim he met bomber at north Spokane motel

By Bill Morlin  
Staff writer

A man accused of raping nine children and amassing an arsenal of bombs and machine guns met Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh at a north Spokane motel, a couple claim.

The meeting occurred at the Shadows Motel & RV Park in 1995, during the same time accused murderer Chevie Kehoe and his associates were staying there, the couple said.

Their son was taken to the motel by Gregory L. McCrea, who was a close family friend and a grandfather-figure to

their children, they said.

McCrea is now in jail, accused of raping the couple's son and daughter, and seven other children.

Because their children are sex crime victims, the Spokane couple asked that their names not be used in this story. They are talking with investigators about McCrea.

Briefly interviewed in the Spokane County Jail on Wednesday, McCrea denied meeting McVeigh.

"That's nuts," he said. "No such thing, ever," the bearded prisoner said, holding his Bible.

The couple say that's not what McCrea told them before being arrested in May by police and agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

"Greg told me in 1995 that he knew him

(McVeigh) and had met him here in Spokane," the husband said.

That conversation occurred after the couple's son saw McVeigh's picture on television and recalled meeting him earlier at the motel with McCrea, who took the boy shooting and on other outings.

"We said, 'Yeah, yeah, right,' to our son," the father recalled. "He said, 'No, I was with Greg and we met him (McVeigh) up at a motel.'"

"I asked Greg about it afterwards, and he said, 'Yeah, I know him, McVeigh.' That's all he ever said. It was never any more than that."

The man said he struck up a friendship with McCrea in the early 1990s. They shared interests in paint ball games and firearms, including assault weapons, and frequently went shooting together.

McCrea had a half-dozen close friends who would shoot automatic weapons, about militia activities and prepare for civil turmoil or government upheaval, the man said.

McCrea's preparations included buying 50 55-gallon barrels, each stocked with a rifle, a handgun, ammunition and a week's supply of food, the former friend said.

The "readiness barrels" are hidden throughout Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho and western Montana, the man said.

The couple came forward this spring when they said they learned their son, who is now 11, and younger daughter were sexually assaulted by McCrea.

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## Meeting McVeigh: FBI will follow up information

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The couple and their son's statements about McVeigh's whereabouts tend to corroborate an earlier statement from a former motel manager. The couple said they were unaware of the manager's comments.

The former Shadows manager, who was a friend of Kehoe's, said he was introduced in early 1995 to a man at the motel who he now believes was McVeigh.

The Washington Post has reported that McVeigh visited Randy Weaver's cabin in North Idaho — paying homage at Ruby Ridge just like he did at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas.

But the FBI says it still has no solid information confirming that McVeigh was ever in Spokane or had any meetings with Kehoe or his associates.

With McVeigh and Terry Nichols convicted of the April 19, 1995, bomb-

ing of the Murrah Federal Building, there may be little interest on the part of federal investigators to determine whether McVeigh visited Spokane or knew the Kehoes.

Chevie Kehoe and his father, Kirby K. Kehoe, are accused in connection with the robbery of an Arkansas gun dealer just a few months after another Arkansas gun dealer was robbed by McVeigh and Nichols.

The Kehoes, who now face racketeering charges in Arkansas, also have ties to Elohim City, a white supremacy and survivalist enclave in eastern Oklahoma. McVeigh is believed to have called or visited that compound.

"We'll follow this new information up," said FBI supervisor Burdena Pasenelli in Seattle.

McCrea was arrested May 8 after the couple sought medical treatment for their 6-year-old daughter, who said she had been sexually assaulted.

McCrea is now charged in Spokane

County Superior Court with 11 counts of child rape and one count of sexual exploitation of a minor.

Police detectives seized videotapes of some of the suspect's sexual encounters with children. They also reportedly seized child pornography on the suspect's computer.

After viewing the videos, police also arrested his friends, Daniel Alan Gard, 32, and James Michael Combs, 25, on child sexual assault charges.

Investigators found an arsenal of guns and bombs at McCrea's home at 1401 E. Bridgeport, a Spokane Valley storage locker and two railroad box cars converted to munitions bunkers.

Agents recovered 70 pipe bombs, 28 pounds of home-made C-4 explosive, a case or more of hand grenades, 200 to 300 firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

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