

# **FBI Document Raises Questions About Prior Knowledge in OKC bombing**

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An FBI document released under the Freedom of Information Act to the McCurtain Daily Gazette raises renewed questions about the FBI's alleged prior knowledge of the plot to bomb the Murrah building in Oklahoma City in 1995. The document in question is a hotel receipt for FBI agent Danny Coulsen who was one of the Bureau's counter-terrorism experts in the mid-90s. It shows he checked into the Embassy Suites hotel on south Meridian in Oklahoma City 20 minutes after midnight on the morning of April 19th, 1995. It was 8 hours and 42 minutes before the bomb exploded and killed 168 people.

Coulsen stayed at the hotel during the bombing investigation and checked out on April 27th. The same records show he cited as his reason to come to Oklahoma City on the date in question, as 'major case Number 111'. An investigation by the Idabel based newspaper shows MC-111 turned out to be part of then attorney general Janet Reno's secret project to investigate and infiltrate religious right wing groups. Later in Coulsen's files, he refers to the Oklahoma City bombing as MC-117. Coulsen's not commenting about the document.

Yet in a book he wrote a few years ago about his FBI exploits, Coulsen claimed he was in Fort Worth, Texas the morning of the bombing and immediately drove to Oklahoma City. Gazette reporter J-D Cash spent a year appealing FBI denials for the records before they were recently revealed. However none of Coulsen's records prior to April 19th, 1995 were available. They were listed as 'missing'. Cash calls the hotel registration and receipt a 'smoking gun' when it comes to FBI prior knowledge to the plot to bomb the Murrah building. The man who was in charge of the Oklahoma City FBI office at the time of the bombing, Bob Ricks angrily denies the claim. He also refuted the record during an interview today on Newsradio 1000 KTOK's Morning Report. Ricks said there must have been a computer glitch. He claimed the local FBI office reserved a block of rooms for incoming agents who were needed after the bombing.

Ricks is now head of the Oklahoma Public Safety Department. He said he was unaware of the document and referred to reporter Cash as looking for 'poltergeists' in the bombing. Ricks later angrily chided Newsradio 1000 KTOK for airing the story and called it irresponsible journalism. When pressed to explain the check-in time of 12:20am April 19th, he said it was midnight the night of the bombing. A spokeswoman for Embassy Suites later confirmed the computer printout time reflected 12:20 a-m before the bombing and not the night of the bombing. The spokeswoman also indicated other times reflected on Coulsen's hotel bills appeared to be accurate.

In his book 'No Heroes' Coulsen said he checked out of the hotel and departed Oklahoma City on board an FBI jet bound for Kingman, Arizona on the afternoon of April 27th, 1995. The hotel records reflect he checked out at 11:16 am the same day.

Tim McVeigh's defense attorney Stephen Jones says he wished he had the document at the time of McVeigh's trial. He told Newsradio 1000 KTOK's Morning Report if the document is indeed accurate, it again raises questions of prior knowledge on the part of the FBI. Jones also said criticism should not be heaped on reporter J-D Cash. Jones added the document must have some validity, otherwise the FBI would not have reimbursed Coulsen.

### Embassy Suites Sides With FBI In Document Dispute

Operators of the Embassy Suites hotel on south Meridian in Oklahoma City say an FBI document does not support the belief some agents arrived in the city hours before the 1995 bombing of the Murrah building.

A spokeswoman tells Newsradio 1000 KTOK the rooms were reserved on the day of the 19th 'after' the bombing. But the four agents, including terrorism expert Danny Coulsen did not check in until shortly after midnight, some 15 hours after the bombing of the building. However the computer printout says April 19th and 12:20 a-m. The spokeswoman says it means the room was reserved by the FBI on the 19th and even though the 12:20am mark is next to April 19th, it really means the morning 'after' the bombing. When asked if it meant the rest of the days and times stamped on the checkout receipt were in question, she said no. Danny Coulsen's book 'No Heroes' states he checked out and took an April 27th flight on an FBI jet at 1pm to Kingman, Arizona. The checkout time reflected on his receipt says 11:16am, April 27th.