

## **Nichols' judge blocks testimony**

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**McALESTER** - A bombing survivor was blocked Friday from telling Terry Nichols' jurors he saw only one man exit the bomb truck outside the Oklahoma City federal building minutes before the explosion.

Michael "Randy" Norfleet was called by the prosecution as a rebuttal witness to testify for the first time about what he saw.

He was supposed to counter defense witnesses who reported seeing bomber Timothy McVeigh and another man in the yellow Ryder truck that morning.

Nichols, 49, points to those sightings as proof McVeigh had help from others, not him.

Norfleet told reporters Friday he saw a man get out of the Ryder truck alone, jog across NW 5, then go into an alley. He described the man as wearing a T-shirt and having short hair.

Judge Steven Taylor ruled Norfleet could not tell jurors about that because he had already testified April 29. The judge ruled prosecutors should have asked Norfleet then. The judge also said prosecutors should have given defense attorneys more notice of Norfleet's claim.

The focus of Norfleet's earlier testimony was on his suffering in the explosion itself. Norfleet, a former U.S. Marine captain, had to give up his dream of becoming a commercial pilot after he was blinded in his right eye by flying glass.

He lost so much blood April 19, 1995, he almost died.

Norfleet had parked in front of the Ryder truck and was in the U.S. Marine recruiting office on the sixth floor when the bomb inside that truck exploded.

He testified at both federal bombing trials but did not reveal then he saw a lone man leave the Ryder truck. Norfleet said Friday federal prosecutors wanted to avoid the subject because he had been too far away to make any identification.

Jurors at the state trial have heard defense testimony about seven alleged sightings of McVeigh and another man together in Oklahoma City in the days before and on the morning of the explosion.

Witnesses irritated

In one of the touchiest issues of the trial, prosecutors sought to debunk the sightings as mistakes. Some defense witnesses became irritated at being doubted.

Jurors will hear closing arguments Monday and Tuesday. Prosecutors plan to argue that Nichols should be convicted even if jurors decide McVeigh had other accomplices.

The defense witnesses included Rodney Johnson, who testified that McVeigh and another man walked in front of his catering truck as he drove past the federal building two to three minutes before the explosion.

Johnson said he slowed down as the men crossed NW 5 toward a brown pickup.

Prosecutors attacked his account, pointing out an FBI agent reported Johnson at first described McVeigh as wearing jogging pants with a white stripe.

They also said Johnson later told an Oklahoma County grand jury McVeigh may have been wearing camouflage pants.

McVeigh had on blue jeans when he was arrested 78 minutes after the explosion.

Johnson said he was "fuzzy" about the pants. But he insisted he actually told the FBI agent McVeigh had blue jeans and the second man was wearing the jogging pants. He said the agent wrote it down wrong.

Prosecutors responded by calling the former FBI agent, John Hippard. The ex-agent testified Johnson in 1995 said the first man only resembled McVeigh.

Hippard said he made no mistakes in recording the details of Johnson's account. "It didn't happen in this case."

Here is a look at other alleged sightings and the prosecution response.

\* Survivor Germaine Johnston testified she came face to face with McVeigh in a downtown alley 20 to 30 minutes after the 9:02 a.m. explosion. She said McVeigh and another man were standing next to a Mercury Marquis. She said McVeigh asked her if a lot of people were killed.

Prosecutors say she can't be right because McVeigh was arrested during a traffic stop 78 minutes after the explosion 75 miles north of his target - a distance impossible to make if he had lingered in Oklahoma City.

\* An Oklahoma City police service technician, Dena Hunt, said she saw McVeigh in a Ryder truck while writing parking tickets downtown 30 minutes before the explosion. She said she saw movement from one or two others inside the truck.

Prosecutors suggested she had seen only a shadow or the driver's arm, not passengers. "It would have to be a pretty big arm," Hunt replied.

\* In a sworn statement read to jurors, the late Danny Wilkerson said he sold a pack of Marlboro Lights cigarettes and two cans of Coke to McVeigh about 22 minutes before the explosion. He said McVeigh was driving a small Ryder truck and someone else was in the cab.

He said he saw the truck again 10 minutes later, parked across the street. He said McVeigh was pacing outside.

Wilkerson owned a convenience store in the Regency Tower apartments, a block west of the Murrah Building.

Prosecutors say his recollection is "impossible" because the apartments security camera shows the Ryder truck only once outside - for about 20 seconds five minutes before the explosion.