

Oklahoma City

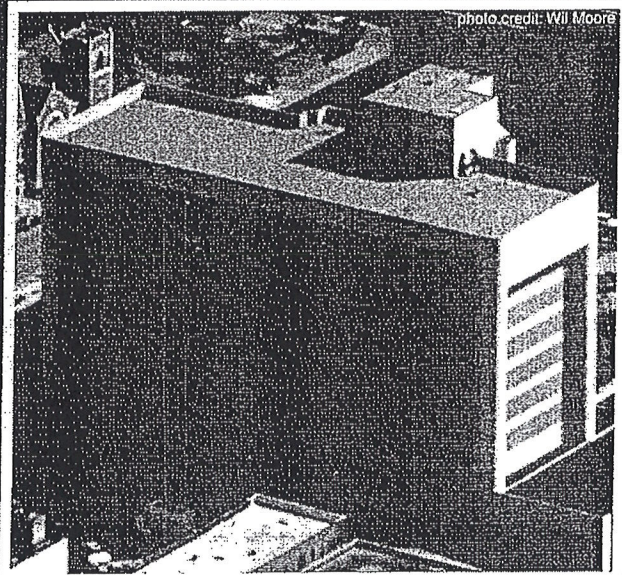


photo credit: Will Moore

POOR SECURITY: A GAO report criticized the lack of concrete barriers, which could have kept the truck bomb from parking within 10 feet of the front glass facade of the Alfred P. Murrah building.

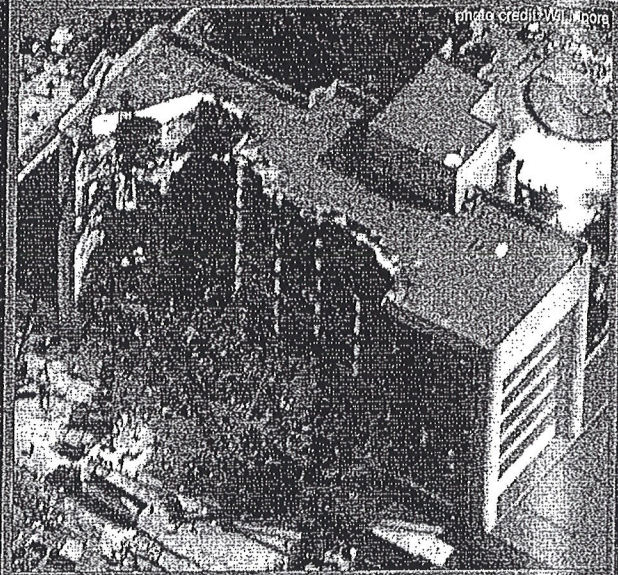


photo credit: Will Moore

THE AFTERMATH: The massive explosion caused almost immediate structural collapse of the building and completely gutted the water utilities building across the street.

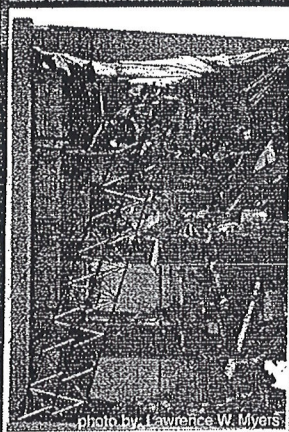


photo by: Lawrence W. Myers

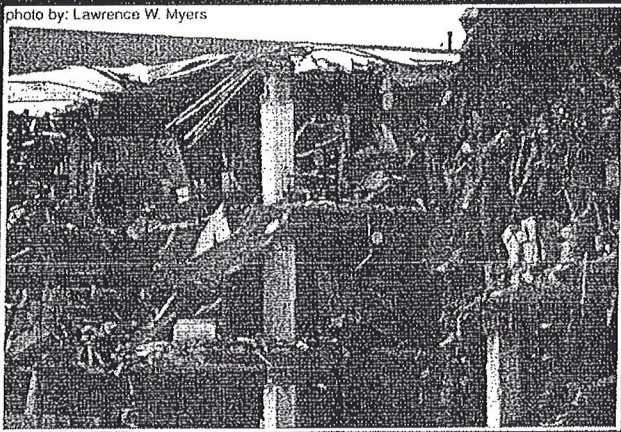


photo by: Lawrence W. Myers

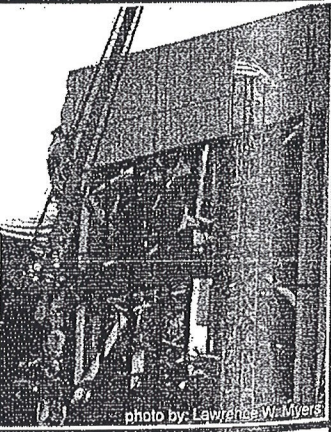
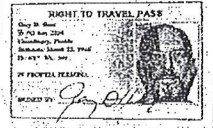
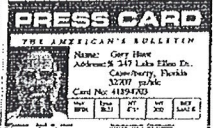
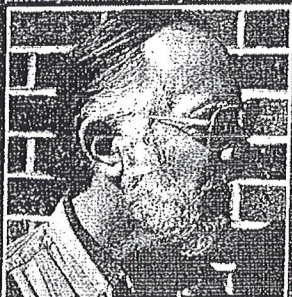


photo by: Lawrence W. Myers

THE ATF OFFICES ON THE 9TH (TOP) FLOOR OF THE BUILDING: Note that the metal filing cabinets are still intact and can be seen in various rooms. Legal counsel for the ATF claims "thousands of documents about Waco were destroyed."



(ABOVE) Gary Hunt's "press credentials" for his publication, "Outpost of Freedom." Hunt's Waco reports are highly regarded. **(LEFT)** Was Gary Hunt at the OKC bombing scene at the time of the blast? He denies it.

(RIGHT) Members of the "assessment team" from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) secured the OKC scene within days of the bomb blast.



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A CLOSER LOOK

The FBI is investigating two of its own for alleged criminal misconduct after learning that a veteran agent and his supervisor apparently attempted to profit from the illegal sale of a surveillance videotape which captured the scene in front of Oklahoma City's Murrah Federal Building minutes before a bomb-laden truck exploded last April, killing 169 people.

Senior FBI officials in Washington confirmed that the bureau's internal Office of Professional Responsibility is trying to determine whether the pair, assigned to the Los Angeles Field Office, were involved in attempting to sell the tape.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the field agent is under investigation for conspiring to illegally obtain and then "auction" approximately 19 minutes of video footage, shot from several angles by private security cameras mounted on buildings along 5th Street, where the rented Ryder truck was parked moments before the blast.

The agent purportedly sought, through attorneys and an intermediary, to peddle the tape for up to \$1 million cash for "exclusive" broadcast rights. At least two networks were reportedly contacted as potential buyers.

The fact that the FBI admits investigating two of its employees for the attempted sale would seem to confirm the existence of usable footage, which reportedly ended only when the blast disabled the cameras.

The tape, which has not been made public, is considered critical prosecution evidence in the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history. Although the footage was not presented to the grand jury that ultimately indicted Timothy McVeigh and Terry Lynn Nichols, the government did present

poster-size "video still" prints of the Ryder Truck in front of the building, according to dismissed grand juror Hoppy Heidelberg.

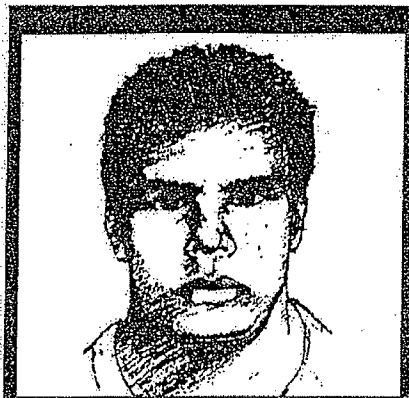
Although the U.S. Attorney has refused to describe the content or quality of the video, and had, as of late October, yet to provide it to the defense, an undetermined number of "dubbed copies" of the footage are now suspected to be in private hands within the FBI and elsewhere. It "seems increasingly likely the video will eventually find its way on the evening news," said an agent familiar with the investigation.

"LEAK OF THE WEEK"

In the bomb's aftermath, state and federal law enforcement officials immediately asked the public to forward any available video footage from nearby security cameras in the downtown area. Within hours, a number of tapes were in official hands.

A veteran detective with the Oklahoma City Police Department, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he would not be surprised if the tape is of good quality and provides useful images of the crime scene. "Although I have not personally viewed any of these videos, (federal law enforcement) recovered VHS tapes from at least five cameras stationed along 5th Street, which are believed to have been focused in the general area around the federal building," he said.

Several cameras were damaged in the blast, including those stationed atop the nearby YMCA and Regency Towers apartment buildings. However, the tapes they provided reportedly included excellent footage of the Ryder truck and the suspects - McVeigh and "John Doe No. 2" - leaving the vehicle. A third camera reportedly captured the actual initial detonation of the ANFO (ammonia nitrate and fuel oil) truck



JOHN DOE no. 2

Description: Dark-skinned white male. Late twenties, early thirties. Muscular build. 5-feet 9- or -10 inches. Brown hair. Eagle tattoo on his left arm. Possibly a cigarette smoker.

The FBI maintains this suspect is actively being sought and the Justice Department's Anti-Terrorism Fund is offering a 2 million dollar reward for information leading to his arrest. The toll-free FBI hotline number for the bombing (800-905-1514), is also now being used to solicit public information about the Amtrak derailment case ("Operation SPLITRAIL") in southern Arizona.



Computer video still courtesy of KFOR-TV

KFOR-TV in Oklahoma City based this computer animation on detective Robert Jerlow's description of the surveillance video he claims was provided by the L.A. FBI office.

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bomb, according to sources who have viewed an edited and enhanced version of the tape.

Agents in Washington and Oklahoma City declined comment concerning claims that the images of both McVeigh and John Doe No. 2 are clear in the video shot from the YMCA security camera, located across the street and just east of the federal building. Agents also declined to explain why no videotaped footage has ever been released to the public, which could help efforts to locate John Doe No. 2.

The charge that two FBI agents sought to profit from the tragedy could not come at a worse time for the bureau, surfacing as it does amid defense allegations of agents deliberately leaking false information about the case to the media, unrelated charges of misconduct at the FBI lab and congressional criticism over alleged racism and the improper use of deadly force.

The FBI has long maintained a global reputation as the premier law-enforcement agency on earth, and the vast majority of its agents are dedicated professionals. Still, 1995 will likely be remembered less than fondly by the bureau for many years to come.

The FBI's L.A. Field Office features about 700 agents assigned to Southern California and hundreds of support personnel, according to the Justice Department. Furthermore, Los Angeles is an aggressive and competitive media market, and reporters are always looking to develop relationships with field agents.

It is in this environment that a number of critical case details about the bombing were allegedly leaked to the media by agents or "anonymous sources" believed to work out of the L.A. office.

A recently retired agent with several years experience in Los Angeles said, "The news media seems to manage to penetrate

A "CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE"

The public relations staff at the Office of Public and Congressional Affairs (OPCA) at FBI Headquarters in Washington finds itself dealing with yet another crisis of confidence in the agency, according to sources in the Justice Department.

Despite FBI attempts to avoid public disclosure of the agent's name or supervisor, sketchy details of the investigation began surfacing in mid October. Among the unresolved questions, according to sources at FBI Washington, is how the agents in question came to possess the videotape in the first place.

"From what we understand, the (agents under investigation) did not have the authority to possess such a videotape or any other evidence from the OKBOMB case," said one FBI source. "Although a contingent of agents from Los Angeles did respond to the scene, these guys were not part of that detail. Their squad is not assigned to work on any aspect of the bombing investigation,

Several cameras were damaged in the blast, including those stationed atop the nearby YMCA and Regency Towers. However, the tapes they provided reportedly included excellent footage of the Ryder truck and the suspects — McVeigh and John Doe No. 2 — leaving the vehicle.

the L.A. Field Office with impunity. It's like leak of the week around there sometimes."

other than some local leg work in Southern California running down minor leads. They apparently obtained a copy of the video

from a fellow agent in Oklahoma City" (OKBOMB is the official FBI computer case file acronym for the Oklahoma City bombing investigation.)

The so-called "chain of custody" of the videotape evidence is also under scrutiny. Another FBI agent, reportedly based out of Oklahoma City, is under investigation after he allegedly "ran off at least 12 copies of the video tape for friends and coworkers," said an agent in Texas familiar with the investigation. "There may be dozens, if not hundreds of these surveillance videos now in circulation. Everyone is waiting for (the footage) to show up on 'A Current Affair' or 'Hard Copy.'"

The chronology of the attempted sale reportedly begins with an Oklahoma City-based private investigator, 31-year-old Robert Jerlow, who admitted acting as an intermediary and providing legal counsel for the FBI agent during negotiations with at least one broadcast news network to sell the tape.

Jerlow told *Media Bypass* that he and the L.A. FBI agent had entered into preliminary negotiations with a network news producer to obtain payment of \$850,000 for exclusive first-time broadcast rights of portions of the tape, including the portion purportedly containing McVeigh and John Doe No. 2 exiting the truck just before the blast.

Jerlow claims he traveled to Orange County, California in October to view the 19-minute video. He said a "dubbed" copy of the tape was shown to him at the private residence of a sheriff's deputy by two FBI agents from the L.A. Field Office. One of the agents, a former Marine Corps sniper instructor, reportedly served with Jerlow in the corps during the early 1980s.

The private eye's detailed description of the video's contents was used in a computer-animated simulation of the bombing's "time-line" that was broadcast on Oklahoma City's KFOR-TV in late October. Jerlow said he tricked the FBI agent's supervisor into letting him view a copy of the tape by claiming he represented members of the bomb victims' families. He says his former Marine buddy with the FBI helped him gain access, and the agent now has his own copy of the tape. Jerlow said the FBI supervisor was unaware at the time that he and the agent intended to peddle the videotape. Jerlow also claims his attorney, Randy Shadid, is representing the agent in the attempted sale of the tape.

FBI policy forbids a supervisory special agent from allowing a subordinate to disclose or exhibit key evidence to a private citizen under any circumstances unrelated to investigating the case.

"THE MILLION DOLLAR NEWS CLIP"

"The tape is a series of black and white video stills," claims Jerlow. "It shows the front of the building from several different camera angles." Security surveillance cameras often do not run continuous tape; rather, the camera shoots a series of "still" images, usually every two to six seconds.

Jerlow says the footage from the YMCA camera shows a suspect resembling Tim McVeigh stepping down from the driver's side of the truck. He bends over for a moment to pick up something or tie his shoe, then walks north across the street and out of camera range. Jerlow said the FBI agent's supervisor held up a file folder in front of the time code on the bottom corner of the TV screen, thus preventing him from seeing the duration of time before John Doe No. 2 exits the passenger side of the vehicle.

Jerlow claims the suspect waits from two to five minutes before he gets out of the truck. This observation, if true, may be crucial in the OKC bombing case. If there is any substantial duration of time between McVeigh's departure and the second suspect's exit from the truck, the defense may argue that John Doe No. 2 could have actually armed the explosive device and lit the fuse that ignited the bomb. Stephen Jones,

attorney for McVeigh said he has not yet seen the video, and cannot comment on whether it may provide any exculpatory evidence for his client.

Jerlow further claims that video footage from the Regency Towers camera also shows the initial explosion occurring, before the camera is destroyed. The security guard manning monitors in the apartment building is also believed to be a key government witness in the case, he said.

"COPS, SPIES AND VIDEOTAPE"

The private detective claims to have had contact with the FBI's L.A. Field Office for several years, allowing agents to borrow sensitive surveillance equipment and providing "computer hacking services." Jerlow claims he developed covert-surveillance skills while employed as a worker's compensation insurance fraud investigator in Southern California, prior to opening his security-services business in Oklahoma City. His company, Robert Jerlow and Associates, has satellite offices in Denver and Tulsa.

Jerlow's covert investigations into the Oklahoma City bombing and his FBI connections have attracted attention in the past. He admits helping surreptitiously videotape Terry Nichols' ex-wife Lana



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Photo by Lawrence W. Myers

"COTTAGE INDUSTRY"
Books and videos about the OKC bombing in the alternative press generally cast doubt on the "official" version of events.

A CLOSER LOOK



(above)
 Gary Hunt at the Branch Davidian scene in Waco. This broadcast video still was made on April 21, 1993, while Hunt appeared live on the "Montel Williams Show."

(below)
 Two unknown subjects, one strongly resembling Gary Hunt, were videotaped by a news cameraman within minutes of the bombing. Although these two men have not been positively identified, the FBI told a law enforcement source that the man resembling Hunt may be a maintenance man at the *Journal Record* building.



Padilla at a Las Vegas hotel, with her comments about her former husband ultimately being broadcast on NBC affiliate KFOR in Oklahoma City, where he is employed as a consultant.

In her recently published book about the bombing, "By Blood Betrayed," Padilla describes Jerlow as a predatory opportunist who deceived her into revealing personal information about herself and her relationship with Nichols.

Using tiny telescopic "pinhole" video surveillance cameras and infrared night vision equipment, Jerlow said his firm will follow anyone, perform credit and background checks, examine financial purchase habits, etc. on any target, he said. This

investigative service is not limited to simple public-records checks.

For example, for \$175 the detective offers clients "sanitized"—devoid of information identifying the original source—monthly printouts of the long distance toll billing records on any phone number in the country. Although under certain circumstances the collection, possession and sale of this private information violates federal law, Jerlow claims media outlets, various insurance companies, law firms and the FBI as clients. He further asserts that the L.A. FBI has given him referrals on lucrative surveillance contracts from area law enforcement agencies in Southern California.

Jerlow provided *Media Bypass* with copies of some of his recent computer hacking enterprises. He said he obtained and sold the toll billing records for Terry Nichols, James Nichols, Michael Fortier and a number of other parties associated with the bombing investigation to a network news organization last summer. Jerlow faxed *Media Bypass* copies of the suspects' telephone bills for the month of April 1995.

Computer hackers, similar to those employed by Jerlow, were used by the FBI to "crack" the digital "pin" number code on McVeigh's Liberty Lobby long distance telephone debit card within hours of his arrest. It is unclear if the carrier for the debit card, West Coast Technologies, was ever served with a search warrant to provide this information prior to the FBI gaining access to the file.

The date, time and origins of each of the more than 700 calls allegedly made on McVeigh's calling card were recovered and provided the FBI with leads on the 18-month "paper trail" of the suspects. This detailed toll billing information is considered one of the most damaging pieces of physical evidence in the bombing and conspiracy case against McVeigh and co-defendant Nichols. The record reportedly was presented to the grand jury in June.

"A COTTAGE INDUSTRY"

The role of the news media, and their private investigators, in the Oklahoma City case appears to have been influential not only in the formation of public opinion, but also the outcome of the criminal investigation. Allegations of criminal misconduct by the media began within hours of the bombing, when several tabloid television reporters were arrested or detained while attempting to obtain grisly footage from the rescue scene, and at the makeshift morgue set up to handle the mass casualties. Mark Donlon Mercer, an independent videographer from Barrington, Ill., was arrested for "impersonating an officer," according to the Oklahoma City Police Department. Mercer allegedly dressed as a firefighter to get close to the location where bodies were being removed from the rubble.

Jerlow was also arrested at the scene on April 24 when police found him shooting a sophisticated "forward looking infrared image camera" at the bombed-out building. Jerlow told police he was working for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), searching for "hot spots" in the building, where wounded people may be located. Charges were eventually dismissed after Jerlow paid court costs and completed two months probation, according to the Oklahoma City Department of Court Administration.

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Reporters in the alternative press have also become part of the story. Live news footage and video outtakes from local television stations, taken minutes after the blast, purportedly depict newsletter reporter Gary Hunt standing in front of the federal building. Hunt admits the resemblance is almost identical to him, but claims he was in Orlando, Fla. on the day of the bombing. Several private investigators are following this lead. Hunt openly congratulated the Oklahoma City bombers in his fax newsletter "Outpost of Freedom" within hours of the bombing. Hunt was also present at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, where he claims he was harassed by federal agents. While his reporting from the Waco scene is highly regarded in the alternative press, Hunt acknowledges he may have had contact with Timothy James McVeigh at a gun show in Kingman, Ariz. in October 1994. He said authorities have not questioned him about the bombing.

Other legal actions have ensued as a result of news media coverage of the OKC case. KFOR, for example, is currently facing litigation from an Iraqi citizen in Oklahoma City who claims the NBC news affiliate falsely identified him as John Doe No. 2. Jerlow claims the surveillance video he saw shows someone other than the Iraqi exiting the vehicle.

From independent station KPOC in Ponca City, Okla., a story that the ATF was involved in a bungled sting operation targeting the bombing suspect has become a popular selling videotape. KPOC's David Hall retained several former federal agents with the ATF who conducted inquiries into the bombing, interviewed witnesses and presented conclusions that essentially imply the government is guilty of errors of omission in the official version of events. Several other independent film producers, featuring various degrees of "evidence," also conclude the FBI or ATF had some connection or knowledge regarding the bomb plot prior to its fruition.

Indeed, the Oklahoma City bombing has become somewhat of a "cottage industry" in the alternative press, with books, reports, and about a half-dozen videotapes produced and marketed within six months of the blast, all generally charging the government with complicity in the crime.

Regardless of the accuracy of news accounts in the case, the government has now come under fire for participating in the media frenzy through leaks and the alleged sale of key evidence. Whether the public ever gets to view the entire scope of the evidence remains to be seen.

THE WITNESSES

The following citizens gave FBI agents detailed accounts of their contact with the OKC bombing suspects, according to published reports. Their observations are generally consistent with the footage reportedly contained in the surveillance video.

Mike Moroz

Johnny's Tire Service 10th and Hudson

(Located about seven blocks from the Murrah building)

Moroz gave directions to the driver of a Ryder truck at around 8:40 a.m. on April 19. The man wanted to know how to get to 5th Street and Harvey, site of the federal building. Moroz helped investigators draw the composite of two suspects he says he saw in the truck. Three days after the bombing, Moroz picked McVeigh out of a lineup among similar-appearing Fort Sill, Okla., soldiers. Other employees at Johnny's Tire Service corroborated Moroz' account of the Ryder truck and its occupants. Moroz expressed surprise to reporters when he was not called to testify before the grand jury.

Gary Lewis

Press Supervisor

Journal Record Building

(Located across the street from the Murrah building)

Saw McVeigh and another subject drive out of the parking lot in front of the federal building in a yellow Mercury Marquis minutes before the blast. Lewis helped with the composite drawing, but did not testify to the grand jury.

Dana Bradley

(Inside the Murrah building and severely injured in the blast)

At around 8:59 a.m. Bradley was standing inside the Social Security office on the first floor, talking to her sister and looking north out of the windows in the front of the building. She watched the Ryder truck pull up and she saw suspect John Doe No. 2 exit the vehicle. Bradley described the distinctive hat and "puffy blue jacket" Doe was wearing. She stood less than 12 feet away. Bradley's leg had to be surgically amputated amid the rubble of the bombed-out federal building before she could be extracted. She helped draw Doe's hat design from her hospital bed. She was not called to testify before the grand jury.

Kyle Hunt

Mortgage Banker

(At a stoplight on the corner of Main and Broadway)

At approximately 8:30 a.m., Hunt was stopped at the light a block from the federal building. He was behind a yellow Mercury Marquis and attempted to pass the vehicle. A suspect resembling McVeigh was driving, and two other white males were also in the car. One of the males was in the middle of the back seat, with another in the front passenger seat. As Hunt passed the vehicles, the male in the back attempted to hide his face, but McVeigh gave him a "cold stare," he said. Directly in front of the Marquis, Hunt told agents he saw a yellow Ryder truck. He helped draw the composite of McVeigh, but was not called to testify before the grand jury.

Jeff Davis

Food Delivery Driver

Davis delivered an order of Chinese food to the Dreamland Motel, Room #109, in Junction City, Kan. Although McVeigh was registered to the room, Davis told investigators and the grand jury that another individual paid for the food when he delivered it. Davis reportedly helped with the composite of John Doe No. 2.