

## Guarding Terry Nichols

*Detention Officer's story about guarding Terry Nichols. Terry Nichols was the alleged accomplice of OKC convicted bomber Timothy McVeigh. Some information here has never been published before.*

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GUARDING TERRY NICHOLS 2000

Terry Lynn Nichols (born April 1, 1955) was a U.S. Army veteran who was convicted of being an accomplice to Timothy McVeigh, a man convicted of murder in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, U.S, April 19, 1995), which claimed 168 lives.

Nichols was convicted of eight counts of manslaughter in a United States District Court and was sentenced to life imprisonment in Florence, a super max prison in Florence, Colorado. The state of Oklahoma then charged him with capital murder. The Mc Alester, Oklahoma trial started March 1, 2004. The jury selection and the testimony phase began on March 22 and he was convicted on August 9, of 161 counts of first-degree murder. As in the Federal trial, the jury spared him the death penalty and he was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Nichols since then has alleged that a high-ranking FBI official was directing Timothy McVeigh in the plot to blow up a government building and that plans may have changed the original target of the attack, according to a new affidavit filed in U.S. District Court in Utah on February 9, 2007.

Somewhere around 27 October 2000, while working as a Lieutenant Jail Commander for the Oklahoma County Jail facility, I was temporarily re-assigned to guard Terry Nichols. My duties were to insure that he did not escape, would eat three meals a day, receive his one-hour exercise

period three times a week, did not communicate with any unauthorized person, that he received his proper cleaning supplies daily to clean his cell, to monitor anything or anyone having access to his living quarters area. Sight checks were made unannounced to monitor his activity. Normally, Terry spent a majority of his time preparing for his court case or going over paperwork for either his defense or for other reasons. His medications were always given in a timely manner. The main door leading into his living area was behind two steel jail doors that remained locked at all times. His cell door area was monitored 24/7 by an outside camera. Location of his holding area cannot be disclosed for security reasons.

Terry and his daily actions were supervised twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week by a deputy sheriff or by myself. During his time in the County jail, Terry was never mistreated by anyone working the jail or who came into contact with him to my knowledge. Terry was a quiet person who only spoke during his exercise time, when needing something or asking a question, he appeared highly intelligent and acted respectfully toward officers at all times. He would not say anything else nor was he ever asked by anyone to elaborate about his alleged involvement in the Murrell building bombing.

He had a sense of humor now and then. On one occasion while guarding him during his exercise period, a lady bug had landed on my arm, I made the comment " huh, a ladybug", Terry overheard my comment and asked me how many spots the bug had on it, he then added, if the bug had so many spots on it, it was a Spanish beetle, a bug known to be poisonous, I immediately flicked the

bug off of my arm with my finger. When I think back about the bug, I laugh. When I was finally transferred back to jail operations again ... Terry managed to leave a written letter for me. I am not a judge or the executioner ... I was a detention officer doing my job regardless of who the prisoner was, being a detention officer is never easy. You are always required to treat prisoners fairly, respectfully, and honestly regardless of their crimes. I am writing this short story as to what occurred during the time I was watching over him. He was a prisoner under my care as any other prisoner I was required to supervise, no special treatment was given to him. The bombing was a major tragedy and that I had participated in the recovery of some remains, property items and in security operations for the United States Marshals Office. I have no opinions or statements concerning Terry Nichols other than what I have already written.

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