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June 1, 1997

Mr. Patrick Ryan
Ms. Vicki Behenna
U.S. Attorney General
Byron Rogers Federal Building
1961 Stout St.
Denver, Co. 80294

United States v. Timothy McVeigh et al.

Dear Mr. Ryan and Ms. Behenna,

This report is in response to your request of May 29, 1997, that I provide you with my findings and opinions in the above entitled case. I may testify to these findings and opinions if I am called as a rebuttal witness during the penalty phase of the trial.

The foundation for these opinions is twofold: first, an extensive review of documents provided to me by you over the course of the past six months (see attachment for a table of contents of those documents); and second, my daily reading of the trial testimony during the guilt phase. It is important to note, however, that I have not been able to clinically interview nor psychologically test Mr. McVeigh. This fact necessarily limits the reliability and validity of my opinions, particularly when I infer certain psychological states concerning Mr. McVeigh. The reliability and validity of these opinions would be increased if I had the opportunity to examine him. In some opinions, however, I have been able to reach a level of reasonable psychological certainty because independent corroboration of the opinion has been extensive.

FINDINGS AND OPINIONS

1. Mr. McVeigh's intelligence is in the superior range. This means that his IQ, if tested at present, would be between 120-29. Based upon a normal distribution of intelligence in the general population, Mr. McVeigh is intellectually superior to at least 90 per cent of other adults. This is a temporally reliable and valid finding.

2. The data strongly suggest that Mr. McVeigh prefers to be alone. He is not an extrovert, and generally depends on his internal resources, what would be described as an introversive style of personality functioning. This preference, however, does not mean that he does not have social skills. There is evidence that he has the ability to socialize, be personable, friendly, and talkative. Yet he does not easily trust others, and does not form close affectional relationships quickly and easily. There is also ample evidence that he became more reclusive following his return from Desert Storm and voluntary withdrawal from the Special Forces Assessment Selection Program in April, 1991, despite his continued interest in weapons skill development.
3. An important developmental trauma in Mr. McVeigh's life was his abandonment by his mother, and reduced contact with his sister Jennifer, in mid-adolescence. A substantial amount of research indicates that divorce has a deleterious social and psychological impact upon adolescent children, even though the effect size (magnitude of the impact) may be small. Although the data specific to this case are scant, it appears that the dissolution of his parents' marriage and mother's abandonment affected him in three ways: a) an increased interest in "survivalism"; b) lowering of motivation in academic achievement; and c) a renunciation of women as sexual/affectional objects worthy of active pursuit. There is no evidence whatsoever that I could find that Mr. McVeigh had a "sexual pair bond" for any length of time with any girl between the ages of 15 and 26, a highly unusual finding in the case of a normatively attractive young man.
4. Instead, Mr. McVeigh at times sexualized his interest in, and use of, lethal weapons.
5. The development and crystallization of Mr. McVeigh's personality in late adolescence and early adulthood focused upon seeing himself as the "ultimate warrior" (his words). This repetitive fantasy, although it cannot be directly observed, can be inferred from numerous behaviors and productions, including but not limited to his intense interest in weapons, survivalism, renunciation, distrust, and devaluation of women, enlistment in the Army, acceleration through the Army, high skill development in the use of weapons, intense political interest in the personal control and possession of weapons (2nd Amendment defense), receiving of commendations from the Army, and exceptional performance in combat in Desert Storm. In other words, this fantasy, although pathologically grandiose and narcissistic, was for a time supported in reality, and compensated for any losses and humiliations, until he returned from Desert Storm and attended the Special Forces Assessment Selection Program in April, 1991.
6. Mr. McVeigh's voluntary withdrawal from the SFASP on April 7, 1991 was likely a humiliating experience, most evident in the contrast between the fantasy that he constructed of what happened during this brief assessment period (letter to his sister, Oct. 20, 1993) and what actually happened (defense interview with Mitchell Whitmer): an actual humiliation in reality became a fantasized source of pathologically grandiose pride. Subsequent behavior after his return to Ft. Riley reported by those who observed him suggests this was an important emotional event in his life--beginning his alienation from the U.S. Army and the U.S. Government, yet retaining his fantasy as the "ultimate warrior" in search of another war.

7. Data suggest that Mr. McVeigh found another war through the politics of the so-called Patriot or militia movement: although true to his personality, he never closely associated with them or joined such a group. A small social network--Mr. Fortier and Mr. Nichols--agreed with his beliefs, and voluminous publications which he collected, and then wrote in his own words or sent to others, provided the conscious rationale and target in his focus upon another enemy and another war. It is likely that he also received admiration, a source of narcissistic pride, on the gunshow circuit, as an actual soldier who had been in combat in Desert Storm. I am using the term narcissism in these opinions as defined by Rothstein (1980): "a felt quality of perfection."

8. When Mr. McVeigh returned from Desert Storm there was no testing evidence of major psychiatric or psychological disturbance. The picture that emerges is that of a poised, overcontrolled individual who would present very well to the outside world. He is self-sufficient, and self-reliant, capable of organizing and moving effectively toward his own goals. He is also mildly shy, sensitive, and serious, gravitating toward esoteric political and philosophical beliefs. These abstract ideas help him justify his sense of being different than, and superior to others, and defend against underlying feelings of inadequacy, dependency, and anger toward authority figures, whom he believes are arbitrary and unreasonable.

Test data also suggest that Mr. McVeigh is brooding, analytical, and introspective, and would rather intellectualize anger and other feelings than express them directly. He would be viewed by others as a quiet, ruminative person who would shun frivolous pursuits, and would see himself as somewhat superior to others in an aloof, intellectual way. Some clinical researchers have referred to this personality as a "quiet" or "hypervigilant" narcissist, although Mr. McVeigh also shows some indications of mild depression. These may be the result of his return from combat at the time, a not unusual finding in veterans that tends to be shortlived.

9. There is no evidence of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder subsequent to his return from Desert Storm.

10. Social events in the United States, particularly the burning of the Branch Davidian compound in April 1993, provided a conscious rationale for the fueling of his anger toward the government, particularly law enforcement agencies such as the ATF. This was clearly an affective, or emotional experience for Mr. McVeigh, and gave reality support to one aspect of his "ultimate warrior" fantasy: there is always an enemy outside the self.

11. This affective mode of aggression, expressed orally and through his writings, became a predatory mode of aggression 1.5 years later, in Sept.-October, 1994. Animal research has shown, and clinical, pharmacological, and forensic research have inferred, that these two modes of violence are biologically distinctive in mammals. Predatory aggression is planned, purposeful, and emotionless, occurs without autonomic arousal, and in the absence of an imminent threat. It is usually accompanied by private rituals, which may involve a variety of items to fuel, or enhance pathological narcissism: unrealistic beliefs in one's grandiosity, impunity, entitlement, and in some cases, personal destiny.

12. Mr. McVeigh used a variety of methods to maintain his "ultimate warrior" fantasy, and eventually to fuel his pathologically narcissistic belief that his act of bombing of the Alfred E. Murrah Federal Building was his destiny with history:

a) His intense interest in The Turner Diaries, the partial imitation of the federal building bombing in that book, which fictionally occurred in 1991, and his identification with Earl Turner as a hero of the Great Revolution.

b) His personal identification with certain American patriots, such as Samuel Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Patrick Henry, evidenced in his collection of their statements, dissemination to others, and articulation of their beliefs.

c) His choice of April 19, 1995 to cause the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building, not only to avenge the deaths of the men, women, and children who died in Waco, Texas, two years earlier, but more importantly, to commit what he saw as a revolutionary act more than two hundred years after "the shot heard round the world" (R.W. Emerson) began the American Revolution at Lexington/Concord, Massachusetts, on April 19, 1775. Evidentiary support for this opinion comes from materials found on or near Mr. McVeigh at the time of his arrest, symbols of his pathologically grandiose fantasy that he would begin the second American Revolution: the T-shirt that he wore over a long sleeve shirt and under a jacket, therefore unnecessary as a clothing item, inscribed with a patriotic, yet violent statement by Thomas Jefferson; material found in the car, specifically an article entitled, "What Ever Happened to Liberty Day"; and one of two American Revolution commemorative coins found in his pocket, inscribed "shot heard round the world." These are objects which concretize, or make real, his fantasy.

d) His selection of Robert Kling as a fictitious name, likely a reference to the Klingons, a fictional group of great warriors in the "Star Trek" series.

e) His repetitive use of the movie, "Blown Away", to rehearse in fantasy the criminal act that he would carry out at the Murrah Building. This movie was last rented by Mr. McVeigh on March 23, 1995, in Kingman, Arizona, four weeks prior to the bombing. The use of repetitive viewing to stimulate fantasy in the context of predatory violence serves five purposes: a) to sustain and anticipate pleasure; b) to reduce inhibition; c) to stimulate identification with the fictional characters; d) to stimulate beliefs in one's omnipotent control of the future victims; and e) to practice the offense in one's mind. The fictional last bombing in this movie occurs on the Fourth of July, Independence Day.

13. Mr. McVeigh had a predisposition to experience homicidally aggressive impulses through bombing fantasies. There are several examples of this, the earliest one predating his military training and experience when he was 19 years old.

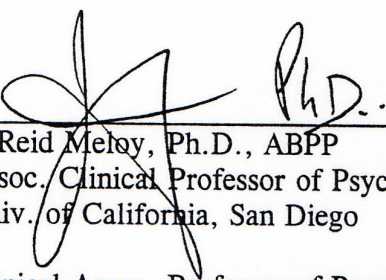
14. Mr. McVeigh may or may not have been clinically paranoid prior to, and during the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building. There are insufficient data to determine this.

15. Mr. McVeigh's military training and combat experience may have desensitized him and normalized his experience of the killing of other human beings. Despite the insufficiency of data to determine this without a clinical interview, it is clear that he did not re-adapt to a nonviolent pattern of behavior, as research indicates most soldiers do, once he returned to civilian life.

16. The offender and offense characteristics of the Alfred E. Murrah Federal Building bombing on April 19, 1995, are remarkably similar to unpublished data on a sample of 18 mass murderers in the United States and Canada.

FOUNDATION FOR FINDINGS AND OPINIONS

My foundation for these findings and opinions can be found in certain documents listed in the table of contents document extraction submitted as an attachment to this report, and in the trial testimony during the guilt phase. This attachment contains all the material I reviewed for this case, with the exception of the trial transcript.



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