

Nichols, 96-CR-68, 12/10/97; In Bad Company, Hamm, pp. 116-117)

Strassmeier is expected to be a topic of discussion during new Congressional hearings on the Oklahoma bombing scheduled for this fall.

Prior to his arrival at Elohim City, Strassmeier was a member of the Texas Reserve Militia, also known as the Texas Light Infantry.

The group's membership included "at least one foreign national from Germany," according to a memo sent to the director of the FBI in 1991.

FBI LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM, 12/26/91, TEXAS RESERVE MILITIA

Another document describes a white male member of the TRM, born in a foreign country. The names of both the member and the country have been redacted, but the details reported in the document match published details of Strassmeier's history.

The unnamed member "traveled to the U.S. on four occasions since 1988," the memo states. He "is believed to have falsified some of the information on [redacted] application as far as the locations at which he would be staying in the U.S. [redacted] was a veteran of [redacted] Army" and claimed to be connected to a similar extremist group in his home country.

FBI LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM, 12/21/90, TEXAS RESERVE MILITIA

Members of the TRM suspected Strassmeier was a government informant, according to published reports. (McCurtain Gazette, FBI document links former Green Beret to McVeigh, bombing, Cash and Charles, Aug 31, 2005)

While the documents obtained by INTELWIRE are redacted of virtually all proper names, it is clear that the TRM had ample reason to be concerned about informants.

At one point, the group was penetrated by at least four FBI informants simultaneously, as well as at least three undercover FBI agents. Estimates of the group's total membership ranged from 15 to 50 during the same period.

FBI LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM, 6/24/91, TEXAS RESERVE MILITIA

By 1993, Strassmeier had moved out of Austin and taken up residence at the Elohim City white separatist compound near Muldrow, Okla. That year -- according to his own account -- Strassmeier met Timothy McVeigh at a gun show in Tulsa, Okla.

FD-302 INTERROGATION OF ANDREAS STRASSMEIER (COURTESY JESSE TRENTADUE)

Shortly before the Oklahoma City bombing, an informant told the ATF Strassmeier was plotting to blow up U.S. federal buildings. The informant also said Strassmeier had traveled to Oklahoma City prior to the bombing.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, SEALED HEARING, US V. VIEFHAUS AND HOWE, 4/214/97 (COURTESY JESSE TRENTADUE)

Right after renting the Ryder truck used in the Oklahoma City bombing, Timothy McVeigh called the Elohim City compound and asked to speak with Strassmeier. (US v Nichols, Op. Cit.) After the bombing, he fled the country and returned to Germany.

The FBI interrogated Strassmeier by phone in May 1996, but agents did not ask him about his association with the TRM.

THE GREEN BERET

From 1990 to 1992, the TRM conducted monthly paramilitary training camps in the vicinity of Austin, Texas. The sessions included firearms and explosives training, as well as more exotic skill sessions such as parachute jumping and rappelling.

FBI LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM, 6/24/91, TEXAS RESERVE MILITIA

Further investigation revealed that the soldier was supplying the group with arms and ammunition stolen from the base -- including at least 10,000 rounds of .223 caliber ammunition, a type of bullet that fragments on impact with a human body causing massive internal injuries that are extremely difficult to treat.

The group planned to steal 40 mm high-explosive grenades from Fort Hood as well, which would be fired from a modified 37-mm flare gun.

THE STINGER MISSILES

Interestingly, several documents provided to INTELWIRE are captioned as related to the "Possible Theft of Stinger Missiles From The U.S. Government."

Details of the case are not clear in the documents, which have been heavily redacted. Stinger missiles became well-known to Americans after it was revealed that the CIA supplied Islamic fighters with the shoulder-mounted guided missile systems during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Some of those Stingers, which were used to down Soviet aircraft during the occupation, found their way to al Qaeda armories after the war.

It's not clear from the released documents whether TRM had taken possession of Stingers from some source, whether they were seeking to steal them from Fort Hood, or some other sort of interaction entirely.

What the documents do clearly outline, however, is an incident that threatened to derail the Stinger investigation -- when an informant with the FBI field office in Birmingham, Ala., turned against the agents he or she had previously been assisting.

FBI TELETYPE 4/27/92, POSSIBLE THEFT OF STINGER MISSILES

A rogue informant involved in the Stinger investigation demanded that the FBI pay \$60,000 for his or her information, as well as an ongoing monthly stipend of \$2,000. If his or her demands were not met, the informant threatened to expose the FBI's other sources within the militia movement, including at least one specific informant in Phoenix.

The author of the FBI teletype drily noted that the rogue informant "has displayed an instability and uncontrollability which diminishes the likelihood that the source will be of use in the future."

FBI TELETYPE 4/02/92, POSSIBLE THEFT OF STINGER MISSILES

The investigation of the Stinger theft specifically -- and the Texas Reserve Militia broadly -- was tied to a related case in Phoenix and Alabama regarding a group known variously as Civilian Military Assistance, Civilian Material Assistance or Civil Military Assistance, which had a substantial presence in both Phoenix and Alabama.

Members of the TRM attended a CMA convention in 1991, where speakers proposed "interlocking" otherwise unrelated right-wing extremist groups across the United States. The goal of the plan was to enable cooperation among groups with different beliefs or agendas in the eventuality that the U.S. federal government collapsed.

(Members of the groups believed on a nearly continual basis over the course of a decade that such a collapse was imminent. According to the documents, several militia groups contributed to an online database of suspected homosexuals whom they would "deal with" after taking over the United States.)

The FBI Phoenix had developed a strong source within the CMA. Although the blackmailer's threat raised concerns, agents were fairly certain their source's position was secure, in part because members of the CMA and other militia groups habitually used unfounded accusations of FBI involvement as a bludgeon to attack their internal rivals.

The source within CMA, who was paid an undisclosed amount, was "in a good position to identify and ascertain the intentions of the groups involved in" interlocking, the author of the teletype reported. It was also believed the source could "ascertain further information relating to Stinger missiles [redacted]."

FBI TELETYPE 4/17/92, POSSIBLE THEFT OF STINGER MISSILES

CMA and the TRM were also believed to be importing weapons from El Salvador -- apparently through CMA's lingering connections to the Iran-Contra Affair.

THE IRAN-CONTRA CONNECTION

CMA originated as a private organization funneling volunteers, training, funds and weapons through El Salvador to the Contra anti-Communist resistance in Nicaragua during the 1980s, a program supported by the CIA.

According to January 17, 1991 teletype from the FBI's San Antonio office, "the Texas Reserve Militia has received weapons shipped from El Salvador [redacted] and TRM members are interested in shipping guns back to El Salvador from the U.S. [redacted] is [redacted] contact for these gun shipments and [redacted] has allegedly spent six months [redacted] working with [redacted] to arrange these shipments."

Substantial redactions also follow this paragraph.

FBI TELETYPE 1/17/91, TEXAS RESERVE MILITIA

"Investigation has confirmed that the TRM is allied with a group from Decatur, Alabama, called Civilian Material Assistance," wrote the author of a December 20, 1991, FBI memorandum. Members of CMA trained with TRM in the Austin area, the document reveals.

FBI LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM, 12/21/90, TEXAS RESERVE MILITIA

CMA members were also active in Miami and Broward County, Fla., and investigators probed possible links in Florida. In 1991, agents in San Antonio and Birmingham sought, but failed to find, an individual in Broward County whose name has been redacted.

FBI AIRTEL, 8/29/91, TEXAS LIGHT INFANTRY

Another communication, redacted almost in its entirety, indicates the TRM investigation had taken a turn toward Miami. The FBI in Miami was asked to identify the associates an individual whose name was redacted.

The lead yielded a substantial amount of information concerning an extensive, secret FBI investigation that was not identified in the document.

"A review of Miami indices reflects [redacted]. Five of these will be summarized in the pages of this communication to follow," the document states. "The [redacted] consists of multiple volumes and therefore will be summarized in a separate communication."

Virtually all of the remainder of the document was redacted by the FBI before release.

FBI AIRTEL, 7/1/91, TEXAS LIGHT INFANTRY

In early 1993, Timothy McVeigh spent time in Broward County, where he met up with traveling gun dealer Roger Moore, an independently wealthy businessman with various interests in Fort Lauderdale and other locations, including an ammunition supply operation and a boat-building business.

During their association, Moore taught McVeigh how to modify a civilian flare gun to fire explosive rounds, the same technical breakthrough that TRM had discovered. McVeigh later sold the modification at gun shows, precipitating a falling out with Moore -- who claimed he had personally invented the idea. (US v. Nichols, 11/17/97 and 11/18/97; Mark Hamm, The

Critical Criminologist, Tragic Irony: State Malfeasance and the Oklahoma City Bombing Conspiracy)

Even by standards of the often opaque Oklahoma City story, Moore rates as a mysterious figure, who had made some of his fortune importing gold and precious stones from Costa Rica, Ceylon and Saudi Arabia. Terry Nichols would later claim Moore was an FBI informant. (US v. Nichols, 11/18/97; [INTELWIRE story](#))

One Miami figure connected to CMA was Jack Terrell, a former soldier who claimed to have worked for the CIA in Nicaragua as part of the Iran-Contra Affair.

Terrell was embroiled in a diplomatic incident while working as a mercenary in the Philippines during the early 1990s. His stay in the Philippines overlapped with some of Terry Nichols' visits to the country. (Washington Post, American Mercenary's Charge Stirs Political Storm in Manila, Oct. 17, 1991)

Terrell and other defendants were indicted in Fort Lauderdale under the Neutrality Act for his assistance to the Contras in 1988, in a case that was eventually dismissed. Some flights for the operation departed from Fort Lauderdale. (New York Times, 6 Ask Dismissal of Case on Fighting in Nicaragua, December 3, 1988; See also Washington Post, July 14, 1989).

RELATED: [PATCON: The FBI's Secret War On The Militias](#)

Posted by [J.M. Berger](#) | [Permalink](#)

INTELWIRE is now part of the Multifaceted Media Group. [Read more.](#)