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Spokane Bomb Bail Hearing Waived

Suspect in MLK Day Bomb Case Waives Bail Hearing

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Investigators have arrested a man they say planted a sophisticated bomb along a Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade route in Spokane — a failed attack but one that raised concern, because he has ties to a white supremacist organization.

A federal complaint provided no details of the investigation or what led to the arrest of Kevin William Harpham nearly two months after city workers found the bomb, which had been left in a backpack Jan. 17 on a bench. The city workers alerted authorities, and the device was defused without incident.

Harpham, 36, of northeastern Washington, waived his right to a bail hear-

ing as he made an initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Spokane Wednesday.

He has been charged with one count of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and one count of possessing an unregistered explosive device in a case the FBI has called an act of domestic terrorism.

A national organization that tracks hate groups says he is an avid poster on a white supremacist Internet forum.

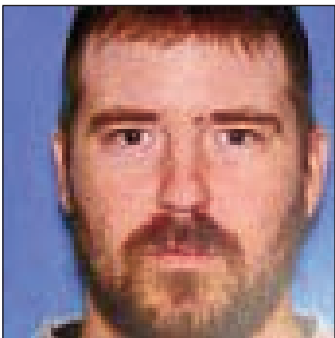
The Southern Poverty Law Center says Harpham made more than 1,000 postings on the Vanguard News Network site, many of them under the pseudonym "Joe Snuffy."

In 2008, a Kevin Harpham complained on the website that he couldn't access his "Joe Snuffy" account.

A 2010 posting mentioned the radioactive element thorium was useless in making bombs. Another, from 2006, said, "I can't wait till the day I snap."

A federal law enforcement official confirms investigators are reviewing online postings attributed to Harpham as part of their probe.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the case is ongoing.



White supremacist bomber

device, it was planted with the aim of hurting or killing people," Holder said.

Harpham was arrested at a rural home near the town of Addy, about 20 miles south of Colville. There was no telephone listing for a Kevin Harpham in the general area.

A neighbor who told KHQ-TV of Spokane that he saw Harpham

being taken into custody Wednesday morning said a vehicle was put on a trailer and removed by federal agents.

Kevin Coy described Harpham's home as a trailer with lots of dogs around.

A federal law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity and declining to provide additional details because the case is ongoing, said Harpham was a white supremacist.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups across the nation, also said they have a record of him being a member of the white supremacist National Alliance in 2004. But the neo-Nazi group has fallen on hard times since the death of its founder William Pierce in 2002, Potok said.

"We don't know when he joined or if he remains a member," said Mark Potok of the Alabama-based SPLC.

Pierce was author of "The Turner Diaries," a novel about a future race war that was influential in the white supremacist movement.

Erich Glibe, chairman of the National Alliance, based in Hillsboro, W.Va., told The Spokesman-Review newspaper of Spokane that Harpham is not a member of his organization, which he said believes all races are entitled to their own living spaces.





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