
Interview: Matthew Fogg

Sept. 11 Must Involve Enemy Within U.S.

Matthew Fogg, a decorated U.S. Chief Marshal who has waged a celebrated legal battle against racism in the U.S. Marshals Service, spent several days at Ground Zero, the site of the World Trade Center, in New York City just after the Sept. 11 attack. He gave the interview excerpted below to Marianna Wertz on Oct. 17, 2001.

EIR: Could you give us your view of the situation around the Sept. 11 attacks?

Fogg: Number one, I view it as a total breach of our security. Where did this breach of security come from? I think that it came from within our own country. Certainly, there may be foreign nationals that carried out these acts, but I believe that these foreigners would not have been able to carry out these acts without the support of someone within our own infrastructure.

As you follow the money trail, we can already see that they used American banks, they used American airlines, airplanes, they basically went through all of our security, [with] box cutters and so forth. And they used the simplest techniques to breach our security: They walked onto our airlines and then forced our airlines into our own buildings.

When we had the previous attack on the World Trade Center, back in 1993, that should have opened our eyes then, that this is something that would have been forthcoming. I think that this country *had* to have known that this was forthcoming. This country is always on alert for this type of thing. If the information is correct, this thing had been planned for well over a year. For it to have so-called “bypassed” our CIA and our FBI and so forth—I just think it’s ludicrous for someone to believe that this had nothing to do with our people here in this country.

EIR: Have you any idea of where the finger should be pointing, or the investigation going?

Fogg: Let’s go back to the Alfred P. Murrah Building [in Oklahoma City], with Timothy McVeigh, in this country. He was one of our own and he blew up the Alfred P. Murrah Building, with Terry Nichols as his assistant. Many people believe that there were more than just these two involved in this operation.

EIR: But then McVeigh was executed, under orders from

Attorney General John Ashcroft, so we don’t know who they are.

Fogg: That’s correct. Or, . . . if he hadn’t been executed, I believe maybe we could find that out at some point in the future. But I just don’t believe these foreign nationals could have breached our security to the level they have.

EIR: Lyndon LaRouche has charged that what should be investigated, is that this attack is part of an ongoing coup d’état attempt, to redirect the American government toward a “clash of civilizations,” as advocated by men such as Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Bernard Lewis, and that that policy direction is what is at issue today.

Fogg: LaRouche is a lot more knowledgeable in this approach to looking at it than I would be. It just would be hard for me to say, but I would certainly say that there is an element in this country that we have to be concerned about, right here at home. It’s not abroad; I think it’s more at home. I look at America as like the Roman Empire. Its demise and fall will come from within, not from the outside.

Also, I believe there’s an issue of race in America, where it seems like whenever we’re looking at people of color, all the attention suddenly is placed on them, in any type of breach of security or terrorist act, that’s where racial profiling and all these other issues come from. So there is that tie-in there as well, that I think a lot of people are concerned about—when there wasn’t this same type of emphasis put on this security of America when Timothy McVeigh blew up the Murrah Building.

Also, when we look at Robert Hanssen. This was a supervisory special agent from the FBI. This man went in and gave away all of our secrets for the last 20 years! And this country’s going to tell me that this man was able to do this for 20 years, and nobody knew anything about it?! I don’t think anybody in America believes that. I don’t think anyone on Capitol Hill believes that. Now, we may hear the media say it, and they may tell us that, but I don’t believe it, and nobody, certainly in law enforcement, believes that. So, obviously, there’s someone on the inside that needs to be watched and needs to be checked out.

EIR: You were at Ground Zero in New York just after the attack. Could you tell us what you saw there, and your thoughts about it?

Fogg: I got there the night before it occurred. I was in a hotel room about 30 blocks up the street when it started taking place. . . . I went down to the site and went in and started trying to help out. I was there about the first 4-5 days of it.

It was just pure pandemonium at first, just large piles of debris. The only way I can describe it, is to say that it was as though I were there to visit Jurassic Park. You look at these structures that were so tall and, all of a sudden, all of this metal and twisted rock and steel all coming down.



U.S. Marshal Matthew Fogg at Ground Zero in New York City (he is the third from the right).

EIR: Were you helping to pull people out of the rubble?

Fogg: Right. I wasn't there directly when it occurred, it was about 12 hours or so afterwards. When we went in, there were still bodies being taken out. A couple of magazine photos—*People*—have me escorting the body of a dead fireman off the hill.

EIR: Is there anything more you want to say on that?

Fogg: I want to say that I concur with the President as far as going after anyone that might be the culprits in something of this nature. With this large event that has changed America's way of life, this large Richter-scale event of destruction, I certainly believe that anyone that is responsible for this, we definitely want to find them, and that's the main issue. We definitely don't want to jump the gun, but we want to find them.

I also want to say that the people who were there working, the people I came in contact with, we were all working diligently, trying our best to find as many people alive there as we could, and bring them out and back to their families, even if we had to just recover the bodies. It was an event that I shall never forget, something that will always stay with me: the body parts, what we saw, the amount of debris and destruction, the looks on the families' faces. I talked to a lot of families that stopped at the Fire Department at 48th and 8th Avenue, which wasn't far from where I was staying at the hotel. Just the looks on the faces of the individuals, who would look at us in hope. Every day, we'd come back, and they'd say, "Did you find anybody alive?" It just was a feeling of emotion that you can't explain.

I just thank God that I was able to be there, to be a part of that. It showed me one thing and said something to America:

Many people thought that individuals who complain when the system is out of order or things aren't right, they want to quickly say that you're not patriotic. My civil rights issue against America—many wanted to try to say, "You're not patriotic because you stood up against these legislators." But I think this shows my patriotism . . . the same way it was when I tracked down the many fugitives I did, and received awards from the Justice Department for my outstanding work. It just goes to show that none of that—all the accolades and awards—could stop the inherent racism that was within the system, in those bad apples down there in control. I certainly believe that America is not all bad apples. But the problem is, those few bad apples, when left in the bushel, they spoil the lot, and that's the issue.

But definitely, it was my honor to be at Ground Zero and be able to serve this country and, in that sense, be able to help all those we could to come out alive. Those brave firefighters, those brave police officers who lost their lives in this whole ordeal; it's just a shame it happened that way, but certainly we hope that America finds the real bad guys.

One of the things that I did notice, though, and I've heard this spoken of so many times: I didn't see a lot of African-Americans. When I looked around and saw that Mayor Giuliani was replacing the firefighters who were lost—they were promoting a whole group of new firefighters—I didn't see very many African-Americans. All the officials on the stage to congratulate these people and welcome their promotions, every one of them was white. Not one African-American was on the stage. Also, a lot of the media images from around the country didn't show any African-Americans, people of color involved. Certainly we were, as I was, right there involved, and many more wanted to be involved.

Decorated U.S. Marshal Fights For Justice

Matthew Fogg, currently a Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal, began his career in the U.S. Marshals Service in the District of Columbia in April 1978. He has received widespread recognition for his outstanding accomplishments in law enforcement, including major trials, fugitive arrests, and other operations.

As a Supervisory Inspector during 1989-92, Fogg led the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Metropolitan Area Task Force Fugitive Group, with the arrest of over 267 Federal, state and local fugitives from justice throughout the United States.

Fogg received the Certificate of Appreciation for meritorious service to the citizens of Washington from former

United States Attorney for the District of Columbia Jay Stevens. He was recognized by the Federal Bar Association, District of Columbia Chapter, for outstanding law enforcement service above and beyond the call of duty, and has received many awards for outstanding service in law enforcement.

His 1998 discrimination case, *Fogg v. Reno*, effectively set the stage for class actions brought against law enforcement agencies which fall under the umbrella of the Department of Justice. In April 1998, Fogg was awarded a \$4 million judgment and other relief by a Federal jury, which found that the U.S. Marshals Service had carried out a 13-year vendetta against him, in retaliation for his efforts to expose and eliminate racial discrimination and corruption within the Marshals Service.

Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, at the Justice Department's request, attempted to drastically reduce the jury's relief, but was effectively reversed by the U.S. Court of Appeals, and the judgment is now in mediation.

EIR: Is there still discrimination in the hiring process in New York City?

Fogg: Definitely in the hiring process of the Fire Department. I heard that mentioned over and over again. As a matter of fact, the black firefighters up there filed suit. And the same with the Police Department up there. That's something that they've got to overcome. If they want to find one of the downfalls of Mayor Giuliani, that is it.

When he came on board, he hired one of our assistant directors in the United States Marshals, whose name is Howard Safir. He came from the Marshals Service and started off in the New York Fire Department, and then went over to the New York Police Department, and became the Commissioner for both of those departments. This man was known in the Marshals Service to have problems with blacks.

Howard Safir's record, once he came onto that department, was clear when it came down to hiring African-Americans, as well as what his officers did to African-Americans, including the Abner Louima and Amadou Diallo cases. The Louima case just typified the whole cultural network of racism: to bring this man into the station and then sodomize him inside the police station. That said that it was an accepted culture, it was an accepted network of rogue cops working within that department. It told me that just about every manager in that particular precinct should have been fired, behind something like that. New York City has serious problems when it comes to racism in its public services. . . . Speaking of my case, it shows a point here. I won a major case against the Department of Justice. It proved that racism was alive and well within the United States Marshals Service. As a matter of fact, the jury came back and said it was a "racially hostile

environment" throughout the United States Marshals Service all across America.

On top of that, you would have thought that the agency would have tried to do something to fix the problem. Well, not only did they not do anything to fix the problem, but the Black Marshals Association, in turn, had to file a class-action complaint against the United States Marshals Service earlier this year, in March.

In my case, we're going back to the judge to discuss equitable relief, but it's just amazing: This case has been going on for 16 years, without any resolution [see box]. That says something right there about the people in charge.

I think we have one of the greatest Constitutions that could be written, on paper; but, as we know, it's not the Constitution on paper that's the problem. A lot of times, it's the rogues and the bigots that end up having to be the ones who have to enforce the rules or carry out what's written in that Constitution, which damages it. But it's never the Constitution. It's: Who do we have in charge, that's going to follow the procedures of the Constitution?

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