

BAY AREA PAIR WITH ALLEGED TERROR LINKS ARRESTED;

PHILIPPINES SAYS BROTHERS MET WITH GROUPS TIED TO AL-QAIDA

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Body

Two American **brothers** from the **Bay Area** have been **arrested** in the **Philippines** for **alleged ties** with Muslim militant **groups linked to Al-Qaida** and will be deported to the United States, Philippine government officials **said** Tuesday.

One of the **brothers**, Michael Ray Stubbs, 55, of Antioch, is under investigation by the FBI to determine whether he had access to sensitive information while working in the 1990s as an air conditioning and heating technician at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Stubbs worked at the nuclear weapons lab, which also conducts research on the human genome and biological weapons detectors, for almost 10 years before taking a medical leave in 2000, a laboratory official **said** Tuesday.

"The laboratory is aware of his **arrest** by Philippine immigration officials, and we are working closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation on this issue," **said** Susan Houghton, a spokeswoman for the laboratory. "It's really important to put into perspective his past connection with Livermore; he left on a medical leave and never returned."

Stubbs and his **brother**, James, 56, a Muslim convert who lives in Newark and also goes by the name Jamil Daud Mujahid, were visiting the **Philippines** on tourist visas when they were **arrested** two weeks ago by Philippine authorities in a town south of the capital city, Manila.

At a news conference Tuesday, Philippine Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo **said** the **brothers**, in violation of the country's immigration laws, **met** with representatives of two **groups** with suspected **links** to Osama bin Laden's **Al-Qaida** network, the Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. She **said** the **brothers** also appeared to be raising money to build Muslim schools and mosques. It was not clear where the schools would be built.

Domingo **said** that there was no evidence **linking** the **brothers** to any past or planned terrorist plots on the United States, but that they have been deemed "undesirable aliens" based on intelligence reports that they were seen meeting with "known leaders of terrorist cells."

"These are all fabricated lies," shouted James Stubbs, as he stood with his **brother**, handcuffed, at the government news conference. He told reporters that he was in the **Philippines** to be with his pregnant Filipino wife.

A spokesman for the FBI in San Francisco **said** the agency is aware of the **brothers' arrest** but is not clear whether they will be charged once they arrive in the United States, which is expected in January. The U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement also is investigating the Stubbs **brothers**, but ICE spokesman Marc Raimondi **said** the FBI is the lead agency.

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"We don't have any pending charges," **said** FBI spokesman Chris McDonough.

The Stubbs **brothers'** stepmother, Deloncie Stubbs, 83, of Antioch, heard of her stepsons' **arrest** while watching television Tuesday morning.

"The news was **saying** something about terrorists, and I was just shocked," she told the Mercury News. She was surprised to see the **brothers** wearing bright yellow T-shirts emblazoned with the word "Detainee."

She **said** she does not know whether her stepsons, who were both born in Missouri, will be returned to the **Bay Area** or another U.S. location.

A woman who identified herself as the daughter of James Stubbs **said** her father was in the **Philippines** to spend time with his wife. Philippine immigration officials described him as a former teacher in California.

"They have no connection with terrorism at all," **said** his daughter, who answered the door Tuesday at her father's Newark home.

Neighbors who know James Stubbs described him as a strict Muslim who refused to give Halloween candy to neighborhood children because he believes the holiday has pagan roots. Two years ago, he distributed fliers in the quiet neighborhood to announce his conversion from Christianity to Islam, **said** two neighbors who asked not to be identified.

James Stubbs, they **said**, traveled often and was gone for as much as six months at a time. They last saw him the first week of December, when he returned from the Sudan sporting a long gray beard that replaced his normally trim one. He told his neighbors that he was soon heading to the Middle East.

The neighbors **said** they didn't know he was going to the **Philippines**.

Notes

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Graphic

Photo;

PHOTO: BULLIT MARQUEZ -- ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Ray Stubbs, left, and his **brother** James, at a news conference Tuesday in Manila.

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