



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

ORDER NO. 2256-99

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE
GOVERNMENT CONDUCT RELATIVE TO
CERTAIN EVENTS OCCURRING IN WACO, TEXAS

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Attorney General by law, including 28 U.S.C. §§ 509 and 510, in order to discharge my responsibility to provide supervision and management of the Department of Justice, and to ensure that there is a full and thorough investigation of whether any government employee or agent directly caused the loss of life at the Mt. Carmel compound at Waco, Texas, on April 19, 1993, and of whether any government employee or agent withheld or suppressed evidence or information or made fraudulent statements regarding the events at the Mt. Carmel compound at Waco, Texas, on April 19, 1993, I hereby order as follows:

(a) John C. Danforth is appointed to serve as Special Counsel at the United States Department of Justice.

(b) The Special Counsel is authorized to investigate the following matters:

(1) whether any government employee or agent made false or misleading statements, allowed others to make false or misleading statements, or withheld evidence or information from any individual or entity properly entitled to obtain evidence or information, concerning the events occurring at the Mt. Carmel compound at Waco, Texas, on April 19, 1993;

(2) whether any government employee or agent destroyed, altered, or suppressed evidence or information relative to the events occurring at the Mt. Carmel compound at Waco, Texas, on April 19, 1993;

(3) whether any government employee or agent used any incendiary or pyrotechnic device at the Mt. Carmel compound at Waco, Texas, on April 19, 1993;

(4) whether any government employee or agent started, or contributed to the spread of, the fire at the Mt. Carmel compound at Waco, Texas, on April 19, 1993;

(5) whether any government employee or agent engaged in gunfire at the Mt. Carmel compound at Waco, Texas, on April 19, 1993; and

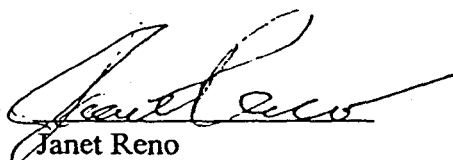
(6) whether there was any illegal use of the armed forces of the United States in connection with the events leading up to the deaths occurring at the Mt. Carmel compound at Waco, Texas, on April 19, 1993.

(c) If the Special Counsel believes it is necessary and appropriate, the Special Counsel is authorized to prosecute federal crimes arising from his investigation of these matters and federal crimes committed with the intent to interfere with the Special Counsel's investigation, such as perjury, obstruction of justice, destruction of evidence, or intimidation of witnesses.

(d) Sections 600.4 through 600.10 of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations are applicable to the Special Counsel.

(e) In addition to the confidential report requirement under section 600.8(c), the Special Counsel, to the maximum extent possible and consistent with his duties and the law, shall submit to the Attorney General a final report, and such interim reports as he deems appropriate, in a form that will permit public dissemination.

Sept. 9, 1999
Date


Janet Reno
Attorney General