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# The mysteries mount

## Mulcahy autopsy inconclusive; tests for poison sought

By Gregory Katz  
USA TODAY

Kevin Mulcahy, ex-CIA analyst turned globetrotting arms salesman, died as mysteriously as he lived. Wednesday's autopsy was inconclusive, the results raising as many questions as those surrounding his death, disillusioned and alone on a mountain cabin porch.

In 1976, Mulcahy made headlines by telling authorities his business partners illegally sold advanced weapons to Libyan strongman Muammar Qaddafi — a case scheduled for trial next month.

Mulcahy is the second witness to die. Rafael Villaverde disappeared in a boat accident near the Bahamas seven months ago. His body was never found.

Wednesday's autopsy did show that the 40-year-old Mulcahy, a recovered alcoholic, had a "relatively" low blood alcohol content of 0.11 when he died Tuesday night. He was also suffering from bronchial pneumonia and advanced emphysema.

Shenandoah County officials ordered additional tests, including ones to detect poison.

Mulcahy apparently had locked himself out of his motel room about 60 miles south of Washington, D.C. He was found



By Bob Gunter, AP

**MULCAHY:** A broken, disillusioned man

outside his cabin about 8 a.m. Tuesday. The keys were inside.

By all reports, he was a broken man, bitter about the years living under a false name, wearing disguises while federal investigators followed his warnings of the Libyan connection.

It was a wrenching experience for Mulcahy to blow the whistle on his bosses, former CIA agents themselves. He was the son of a career agent and had worked for the agency as a communications expert during the 1960s. Three brothers were in the CIA.

Mulcahy joined the CIA in 1963 after leaving the Navy but quit in 1968 to take a better paying job as an electronics expert in private industry. He was successful, but developed a drinking problem that contributed to the end of his marriage.

In 1974, he joined Alcoholics Anonymous, kicked the habit and decided to leave the high-pressure electronics industry to work as a counselor in drug and alcohol treatment centers.

A year later, Mulcahy had the chance encounter that shaped the rest of his life. He rented a house from Barbara Wilson, made friends with her husband, Edmund, and eventually joined Wilson's munitions company as an arms salesman.

The breaking point came when Wilson and Frank Terpil, also a former CIA agent, ordered Mulcahy to obtain a missile capable of shooting down commercial planes for Qaddafi.

Mulcahy told his story to authorities and went underground, hiding first in the Shenandoah Valley where he died six years later.

In 1978, he moved to Arizona. Three years later, he went to Colorado to cooperate with prosecutors during the trial of a Wilson employe charged with shooting a Libyan student at Colorado State University. Prosecutors believed Qaddafi ordered the murder attempt.

Few details are known about Mulcahy's life between then and eight days ago, when he checked into the Mountain View Motel Court near Bowman's Crossing, Va. Mulcahy told the manager he was a newspaper reporter on a story about migrant farm workers.