

## **Bomb Suspect Still a Mystery - John Doe No. 2 Proves Elusive**

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OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. - With one radical charged and locked up in Oklahoma, and with two other key witnesses in hand, authorities Saturday still faced a John Doe dilemma in solving the worst terrorist bombing case on American soil.

Investigators conceded they were not sure who the still-missing subject is or what region he might have fled to. They continued their appeal for clues about the stockier of two suspects depicted in now internationally familiar composite drawings of bombing suspects.

"John Doe Number Two remains unidentified and at large. We consider him to be armed and dangerous," said Weldon Kennedy, the FBI agent in charge of the Oklahoma City investigation. "There is much work left to be done."

The man first known to the nation as John Doe Number One, Timothy James McVeigh, 27, remained under the tightest of security inside a medium-security federal prison in El Reno, Okla.

Terry Nichols, who surrendered Friday in Herington, Kan., was held there until early Saturday morning when he was moved to Abilene, the county seat. In the afternoon, he was whisked on to Wichita for a hearing before U.S. District Judge Monty Belot.

The hearing on his status as a material witness was postponed until Thursday. Authorities made it clear that the slight man with the wire-rimmed glasses was not John Doe Number Two.

That did not stop a swarm of investigators in little Herington Saturday as agents roped off six blocks around his home for a search with robot and dogs.

Dickinson County Sheriff Curt Bennett said the agents were looking for "some kind of chemicals" that might have some connection to the bombing.

The agents also secured a storage area just north of town, bringing in what appeared to be a FBI mobile crime lab at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

Deep tire ruts could be seen in the gravel outside the rental bay that drew agents about 2 a.m. Saturday. The unit easily could have held the thousands of pounds of ammonium nitrate believed used in the truck bomb.

That bomb shattered a nation's calm shortly after 9 a.m. Wednesday and plunged Oklahoma City into mourning for the 78 dead and 150 still missing.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich visited the remains of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Saturday. President Clinton and his wife are attending a prayer service today at the Oklahoma state fairground.

Efforts to comb the rubble were stalled again Saturday as the temperature dropped and rain and hail pelted the scene off and on through the day. That caused the settling of debris in the already unsteady structure and stalled the work.

"Go out there and work your hardest for three days and then go out there and stand in wet clothing with the wind blowing," said Oklahoma City Fire Chief Gary Marrs. "That's what it's like."

Rescue workers climbed through the wreckage wearing heavy gloves to protect their hands against the sharp edges of the debris and surgical masks rubbed with Vicks VapoRub to shield them from the worsening odor of death.

The locations of many bodies still unrecovered were marked by the letters "DB" spray painted on parts of the rubble.

Efforts to identify the dead already dragged out of the building also crept along at a painfully slow rate.

#### Herington search

Shortly after 7 a.m., FBI agents, sheriff's deputies and Herington police cordoned off a six-square block area surrounding Nichols' pale-blue, single-story house.

Neighbors in the nine or ten homes adjacent to the house were ordered to leave while others were told they could remain as long as they stayed inside their homes. Nichols had given authorities permission to search his home, but the FBI preferred to secure a search warrant, Bennett said.

About noon, a warrant was obtained from a judge in Wichita, he said. Then fire and rescue squads positioned themselves around the perimeter as the FBI moved to search the house and its outbuildings.

Bennett said a robot was employed in the search as precaution against possible boobytraps. Helmeted soldiers then brought two bomb-sniffing German shepherds into a shed. The search continued for several hours.

Investigators also were intent on searching a storage garage just northeast of Herington in Morris County.

Ray Mueller, whose family owns the 26-unit, self-storage business, said FBI agents called him at 1 a.m. Saturday to ask about a specific rental unit, and met them there an hour later.

A later check of company records showed the garage was rented late last year. Mueller would not give a reporter the name of the person to whom it was rented. It said neither McVeigh or Nichols' names were on the contract. Mueller did not recognize the name, however, and said authorities are checking to see whether it was an alias.

Nichols moved to Herington with his wife and small daughter last month.

Mueller, who met the agents at 2 a.m. at the storage facility, said the agents knew exactly which bay they wanted.

Of particular interest to the agents were the deep ruts in the crushed rock driveway leading to the particular storage unit as if from a large truck. A dozen small, orange traffic cones had been arranged around the tracks and the garage was roped off with yellow police-line tape.

The garage measures 7 1 2 feet by 10 feet and is 10 feet high.

The storage garages are on the east side of U.S. 77, a direct highway link between Junction City, Kan., and Oklahoma City. Before 4 p.m. Saturday, five soldiers from Fort Riley, at least two Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents and at least two FBI agents arrived at the garage. Two of the soldiers led a dog around the unit.

Mueller said the garage was rented monthly and the tenant paid the \$20 monthly rental with cash.

After interviewing Mueller, FBI agents took the rental contract, apparently for fingerprint checks.

The clerk who rented the unit was away from town.

Mueller believed agents would take casts of the water-filled tire ruts.

Bennett and Mueller said the agents were awaiting a search warrant before entering the garage, which was padlocked.

Wichita hearing

Nichols was brought before Belot shortly before 5 p.m. in the federal courthouse in Wichita.

Wearing blue jeans and a brown shirt, the 40-year-old Nichols was flanked by two public defender attorneys, Steve Gradert, assistant federal public defender from Wichita, and David Phillips, federal public defender from Kansas City, Kan.

Belot asked the two men to represent Nichols at the 20-minute hearing, which was continued until 9:30 a.m. Thursday.

Randy Rathbun, U.S. attorney for Kansas, presented the warrant for the arrest of the witness. He said a copy had been served on Nichols Friday.

When Belot asked Nichols whether he understood the proceeding, he replied: "I don't know if I ever will."

Speaking for his client, Gradert told the judge, "He's probably a little bit confused, a little bit shaken."

Belot told Nichols he didn't need to make any statements, explained the law that covers material witness, and offered Nichols and his attorneys time to confer, but they declined.

The warrant made reference to testimony that Nichols has attempted to leave the jurisdiction of the United States. That prompted Nichols to express "concerns because I didn't attempt to leave." Nichols had turned himself in voluntarily at the Herington Public Safety Center.