

TERROR IN THE HEARTLAND

McVeigh diary shows plan to hit Omaha, Phoenix

By The Fort Worth Star-Telegram

OKLAHOMA CITY — Federal investigators have located a diary in which Timothy McVeigh and associates outlined plans for simultaneous bombings in Phoenix; Omaha, Neb.; and Oklahoma City. The suspects concentrated only on the last site when they ran out of time to acquire enough explosives for all three, sources told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram Wednesday night.

Two high-ranking federal officials said they were told that the so-called McVeigh Diary details the bombing strategy and indicates that the buildings had been "cased," suggesting that the bombers knew that a

day-care center was in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The Murrah building was bombed April 19 and the death toll is approaching 100 with many more missing, officials said.

The diary disclosure surfaced as Terry Nichols, one of two brothers held as a material witness in the Oklahoma City explosion, was quoted in a Wichita, Kan., federal court as saying that three days before the bombing, McVeigh told him, "Something big is going to happen."

Sources said they do not know when or where the diary was found or whether it mentions anyone other than McVeigh by

name. McVeigh is the only suspect charged in the bombing, but the FBI is searching for a second man depicted in a sketch as square-jawed, tattooed and identified only as John Doe 2.

McVeigh, who officials say is John Doe 1, was arrested during a traffic stop 90 minutes after the bombing but was not linked to it until two days later.

Since then, "a diary has been discovered, a McVeigh diary, that lays out a plan," one of the sources said. "The plan involved, actually, simultaneous bombings in Omaha, Phoenix and Oklahoma City.

"But they were running out of time to per-

form the job and gather all the materials they needed for that day. So they just decided to focus on the one in Oklahoma City."

The diary, the source said, "also suggests that the individuals had cased the places ... and were aware of all the tenants in those buildings at all three locations."

Questioned about the diary and its contents, a second federal official said, "I can't deny what you've just told me."

Dan Vogel, the FBI spokesman in Oklahoma City, declined to comment.

"I'm not going to confirm or deny that report," he said. The FBI in Washington also declined to comment.