

# Bombing probe shifts to Arizona desert town

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The FBI has turned its attention to an Arizona town frequented by Oklahoma City bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh, examining motel rooms inch by inch and questioning friends in an effort to trace his movements — and find where he got his money.

It was learned Friday that McVeigh stayed at the Imperial Motel in Kingman, Ariz., for almost two weeks before turning up in Kansas in the final days before the worst act of terrorism in U.S. history.

Kingman, where McVeigh lived off and on since 1993, also was the site of a mysterious explosion earlier this year outside the home of an apparent McVeigh acquaintance.

As a result, the desert city of 31,000 along Interstate 40 has become "a secondary focus of the investigation," a senior federal official in Washington told The Associated Press late Friday.

One line of inquiry: Could McVeigh have financed his life of cross-country drives and cheap motels by peddling military gear at gun shows?

The investigation pressed forward elsewhere, spurred by thousands of tips and purported sightings of the fugitive known as "John Doe No. 2."

Early today, police in Santa Monica, Calif., announced the

FBI was questioning a man picked up on suspicion of auto theft because he resembles an FBI sketch of a man seen at the bombing scene with McVeigh.

"There is no evidence other than a close likeness to the composite of John Doe No. 2 that would connect him with the bombing," Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts said.

Butts said the 24-year-old man, whom he would not identify, has a lengthy arrest record for offenses like larceny and burglary.

A photo of the man shows him with the same square jaw as the FBI composite of John Doe 2, but the man in custody has longer hair and appears to be thinner.

Asked if he has a tattoo on his arm like the fugitive, Butts said he has tattoos all over body, including his arm.

"He looks amazingly like the guy in the sketch," the chief said at a news conference. "He has the tattoo in the right design in the right place."

More than a dozen men have been detained since the bombing because they either looked like the suspect or because officials thought they were connected to the case for some other reason.

Earlier Friday, a federal law enforcement official in Washington, speaking on condition of anonymity, disclosed that investigators had recovered a videotape showing

McVeigh's missing Arizona license plate on a mystery vehicle just before the Oklahoma City bombing.

The Arizona plate — LZC646 — was on McVeigh's yellow 1977 Mercury Marquis five days before the bombing, but was missing from the car when he was stopped by a state trooper 75 minutes after the blast.

One resulting theory, according to the source: The vehicle in the video was a second getaway car driven by John Doe No. 2.

The plate would be less useful if found on the ground somewhere, unless it has fingerprints or its location points to an unexpected escape route, the source said.

The source wouldn't describe the vehicle. He said investigators suspect it even now may be in the possession of John Doe 2, he said.

At the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, the death toll rose to 121 Friday, including 15 children. Rescue workers were forced to rig orange safety nets on the edges of the crumbled floors to keep debris from falling on them.

"The more we take out the weaker it gets," Scott Nicholson, a firefighter from the Seattle area, said of the structure.

Searchers also feared a return of the foul weather that hampered last week's rescue efforts. Today's forecast called for a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms.