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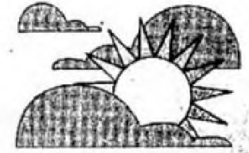
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## Biochemist linked to McVeigh arrested in Arizona

### Arrest is part of search for bombing accomplice

By The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — A biochemist whose name surfaced in the Oklahoma City bombing investigation was arrested Friday in Arizona on an unrelated weapons charge after a brief struggle with federal agents.

Also Friday, the death toll in the bombing rose to 168 after a man died in the hospital of injuries sustained in the blast.

And officials in Kansas said investigators are looking into the possibility that one of the bombing suspects was in the building's day care center only minutes before the bomb went off.

Federal marshals arrested Steven Gar-



Colbern

rett Colbern on a federal firearms charge in Oatman, Ariz., when a hotel owner recognized him as a guest at his hotel after agents showed his picture around town.

Justice Department spokesman Bert Brandenburg confirmed the arrest but gave no other details.

A senior federal official in Washington said Colbern may have a link to bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh.

"We have found a letter from McVeigh addressed to 'S.C.' and Colbern is thought to have used McVeigh mailbox address in Arizona," the official said.

"The arrest of Colbern is part of a search for an associate of McVeigh who might help us clear up the mystery of John Doe No. 2. We are not saying he is John Doe No. 2."

McVeigh and his Army buddy Terry Nichols have been charged with the bombing and could get the death penalty.

Earlier, authorities said they were searching for a man who may have driven a brown pickup truck alongside McVeigh

immediately after the bombing. However, a brown pickup linked to Colbern may have been immobile for a while.

Ted Tonioli, who owns the hotel in the town about 20 miles south of Kingman, Ariz., where McVeigh lived recently, said the man had been in town a month or two, apparently working at a gold mine.

Colbern pulled a .38 caliber revolver from his jeans pocket when agents approached him on the street, said Tom Nixon, chief deputy in the marshal's office in Phoenix. Officers struggled with him and pushed him to the ground.

Colbern, 35, had been described in a news release from Upland, Calif., police as "Steven Garrett Colbern, AKA John Doe No. 2."

John Doe No. 2 is the elusive, dark-haired suspect in FBI sketches distributed shortly after the April 19 blast.

McVeigh was pulled over in Perry, Okla., 75 minutes after the bombing for not having a license plate on his car and was jailed after he was found to be carrying a

gun.

According to a senior federal official, a witness told investigators that a brown pickup that appeared to be traveling in tandem with McVeigh's car pulled over in front of McVeigh's vehicle, waited and then moved on.

"It might have been someone traveling with McVeigh or it might have been someone who was speeding, heard the siren and thought he was being pulled over until he saw there was another car stopped," said the official.

Authorities are checking to see if the pickup shows up in a videotape produced by a camera in the Oklahoma police car, the source said.

A woman living in a trailer park in Bullhead City, about 30 miles from Kingman, recalled a next-door neighbor named Steven who wore fatigues, liked to raise snakes and lizards, and left his trailer so dirty it stank.

"He was a jerk. He's a lazy, no-good mama's boy," said Maybelle Hertig, 70.

Hertig recalled that Steven, whose last name she did not know, had packages of ammunition delivered to her trailer and other neighbors'.

"He told us he was never home enough to have the mail delivered to him," she said. He recently made infrequent stops at the trailer, arriving with another young man in a jeep, she said.

Sources in Kansas said investigators might have witnesses or videotape to place Nichols in the day care center 15 to 20 minutes before the blast.

Of the 19 children who were killed in the blast, 15 were in the day-care center.

Prosecutors have suggested the federal building was bombed to avenge the cult disaster at Waco, Texas, exactly two years earlier. More than 80 people died in the disaster, including 19 children.

Asked if authorities were checking to see if Nichols was in the day-care center, FBI agent Walt Lamar said, "I'm sure if it has any relevance to the case, we'll check it out."