

## Sketch of John Doe No. 2 might draw wrong conclusion

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Associated Press

After thousands of tips nationwide, investigators in the Oklahoma City bombing are casting doubt about the now-infamous sketch of John Doe No. 2.

Investigators said Wednesday that the sketch of the dark-haired male might actually be that of a customer at the Ryder Truck rental agency in Junction City, Kan., who had no involvement in the bombing or ties to suspect Timothy McVeigh. A Ryder truck was used to hold the explosives in last month's Oklahoma City bombing that claimed 167 lives.

"They may have wasted all that time," said one law enforcement official, commenting on investigators' efforts based on the sketch.

Federal agents were told to continue to field tips based on the sketch — at least until a final determination about its validity is made.

Despite questions about the sketch, authorities still believe there is a John Doe No. 2, and

the FBI apparently has widened its search for conspirators.

The doubts came as three Junction City residents who helped the FBI create the sketch say he was not the husky 12-year-old son of suspect Terry Nichols, as speculated last week.

Josh Nichols, big for his age, visited his father in Herington, Kan., for a few days before the blast and has been questioned by authorities.

But the three say Josh Nichols was not the person they saw. One of them, Sylvia Niemczyk, a clerk at a Texaco Food Mart, also said FBI agents told her they had discounted the possibility that he was John Doe No. 2.

John Doe No. 2 is described as being in his 20s or 30s, muscular, tan, known to wear a hat with a zigzag design and to have a tattoo on his arm. He reportedly was seen in Kansas with McVeigh in the days before the April 19 destruction of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

Niemczyk also said FBI

agents have been regular visitors to her store, but for the first time Tuesday, they showed her pictures of people other than McVeigh or John Doe No. 2. An agent showed her six snapshots. She said she didn't recognize them.

Of the six photos, five were of young men in military uniforms, she said. Junction City is near the Fort Riley Army post where McVeigh and Nichols were once assigned.

To date, McVeigh and Terry Nichols have been the only ones charged in the bombing.

Oklahoma City FBI agent Walt Lamar said he could not confirm either of Niemczyk's comments.

In other developments:

■ The death toll was lowered to 167 after the medical examiner's office said remains believed to be those of an unidentified woman were found to belong to another victim.

■ Oklahoma City officials announced plans to use less than 100 pounds of explosives to demolish the federal building sometime before 10 a.m. Tuesday.