

John Doe No. 2 Is Kansas Soldier Mistakenly Linked to Bombing

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WASHINGTON Agents investigating the Oklahoma City bombing have found the man they believe is John Doe No. 2 but have concluded he was not involved, the Justice Department said Wednesday.

The FBI still is trying to determine whether a second man helped rent a truck believed to have carried the bomb.

Federal officials said the man who resembles the three John Doe No. 2 sketches is Army Pfc. Todd Bunting of Fort Riley, Kan.

A terse Justice Department statement, which did not name Bunting, said the man interviewed by the FBI "resembles the sketch previously circulated as the second of two men who rented the truck on April 17 and who had been called John Doe No. 2."

"The bureau has determined that the individual . . . was not connected with the bombing," the statement said.

The Justice Department said the FBI was continuing to investigate whether there was a second man involved in renting the Ryder truck April 17.

Officials said the statement left open the possibility that the chief defendant in the case, Timothy McVeigh, was accompanied by another man when he rented the truck allegedly used in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

The Florence, S.C., Morning News, which first reported that Bunting, 23, was believed to be John Doe No. 2, said he is heavysset, has dark hair and has a tattoo on his upper left arm. Those elements are in the FBI's description of Doe No. 2.

Citing Bunting's wife, Denise, and two federal sources, the Florence paper reported that Bunting had returned a truck to the Ryder office the day before McVeigh's appearance there and was mistakenly associated with McVeigh when descriptions of a possible suspect were given to the FBI.

When asked the real identity of the man referred to as John Doe No. 2, a law enforcement official pointed out the Florence newspaper story. A second official said the man was an Army private at Fort Riley, Kan.

The FBI interviewed Todd and Denise Bunting May 24-25, the Florence paper reported.

McVeigh, 27, and Terry Nichols, 40, are the only people charged in the bombing.