

Oklahoma: NBC reporter goes in

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Searchers found the body of a Marine Tuesday, still in uniform and sitting at his desk in the ruined federal office building. The death toll began to rise again and two leads that investigators were chasing overnight didn't pan out.

The discovery of the Marine was recounted by rescue workers as they described a painstaking, chunk-by-chunk search through treacherous debris. The Pentagon identified him this afternoon as Capt. Randolph Guzman, 28, of Castro Valley, Calif., the recruiting station executive officer.

Roger O'Neil, an NBC reporter who was allowed into the building this morning, said some areas were so clean that "we could rent this space out now." Others resembled a mine shaft, shored up with four-by-fours at all angles.

"The building does creak and crack and groan ... and it's damn scary," O'Neil said.

In other developments:

- The death toll rose by one, to 79. That number did not include a nurse killed in the rescue effort.

- Weldon Kennedy, agent in charge of the FBI's investigation, appealed for businesses with security cameras in the area to preserve the tapes from Wednesday. One camera had yielded what may be an image of the Ryder truck used in the bombing, he said. He also said John Doe

No. 2 had not been identified, contrary to news reports.

- Court-appointed attorneys for Timothy McVeigh, the only suspect charged, filed motions to step aside. They said they feared for the safety of their families and weren't sure they could represent McVeigh in an unbiased way. They also requested a change of venue, saying they doubted McVeigh could get a fair trial in Oklahoma City.

- President Clinton, in a speech in Minneapolis, denounced "the purveyors of hatred and division, the promoters of paranoia." He sought broad new powers to combat terrorism. His chief of staff, Leon Panetta, defended those proposals against charges that they could violate civil liberties.

- An Army deserter from Fort Riley, Kan., was questioned, then released to military custody, after being apprehended in California. McVeigh once served at Fort Riley.

- On the day of the bombing, a Texas congressman's office received a fax in cryptic language that may have described the Oklahoma federal office building, which was devastated. But Michigan authorities said the FBI had indicated it didn't want to talk to the right-wing paramilitary leader linked in broadcast reports to the fax.

- A team from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

was being brought in to deal with the increasing health threat from decaying bodies in the rubble.

As the nation observed a day of mourning on Sunday, there was more bad news.

Besides those killed in the bombing, another person, nurse Rebecca Anderson, 37, died Sunday from head injuries suffered trying to help after the blast. More than 400 were injured in the worst terrorist attack in the United States.

One hundred people were unaccounted for, as rescue efforts lost time over the weekend because of fierce thunderstorms, wind gusts and threatening debris.

Late Sunday, 120 firefighters went into what had been the day-care center and a Social Security office — the area where many bodies are believed to be. The searchers entered the area only after a dangling 20-foot-square concrete slab was bolted to the eighth floor of the building so it wouldn't fall on them.

The search was again halted temporarily this morning for more shoring-up.

Despite continued cool weather — it was 36 degrees overnight — a strong odor began to envelop the area.

No survivor has been found in the rubble since the first night of the effort, and Assistant Fire Chief Jon Hansen agreed finding one now would be miraculous.

Man who took photo surprised by attention

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Charles Porter IV didn't realize his snapshot of a bloody baby cradled in the arms of a firefighter was anything special until three clerks at Wal-Mart, where he developed the film, started weeping.

"I was only thinking that they came out clear, they're in focus," said Porter, a 25-year-old bank employee who had never photographed anything more dramatic than the Bull-nanza Rodeo at the Lazy E Arena.

Within hours of the explosion that killed the baby girl and scores of others in the federal building, Porter's photograph had been transmitted on The Associated Press wire. The next morning, it was on front pages everywhere.

"It was the photo that was felt around the world," said Tommy Almon, the baby's grandfather.

The photo shows firefighter Chris Fields cradling the diaper-clad baby in his arms. A companion shot shows police Sgt. John Avera clutching the limp body to his chest, running to hand her to Fields, his arms outstretched.

The image brought home

the tragedy powerfully. President Bill Clinton mentioned it in a televised address.

Ever since, Porter's life has been chaotic. At times, he wishes he never took the photo. He can't even bring himself to pick up his camera.

But when he met with 1-year-old Baylee Almon's mother April 22, he felt better.

"We never would have known she was treated so good if you didn't take those pictures," Aren Almon, 22, said during the tearful meeting.

"I'm relieved. I thought, 'What must they think of me?' I hope it didn't hurt you," Porter replied quietly, sitting with Ms. Almon at the family's dining room table.

"Of course it broke our hearts, but it let us see how much they did care," said the baby's grandmother, Debbie Almon.

Porter had been sitting at his computer in his office three blocks from the federal building when he heard the explosion Wednesday morning. He thought it might have been a planned demolition and he might get some interesting pictures.

Nuclear dispute moves back toward brink of crisis

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S.-North Korea nuclear dispute, which lay deceptively dormant over the winter, is springing back toward the brink of crisis.

The problem looks less threatening now than a year ago, when there appeared to be a real prospect that it would erupt into a military conflict requiring a large American troop reinforcement of South Korea. On the other hand, recent hopes for a permanent solution are suddenly crumbling.

On a practical level, the issue now is whether North Korea will abandon an agreement struck with Washington last October to freeze its nuclear program in exchange for receiving two new Western-supplied reactors. If the deal dies, the Clinton administration might seek economic penalties against the communist North — a move the North Koreans have said would amount to an act of war.

There was a somewhat more optimistic report today from Seoul, South Korea, that North Korea may accept a U.S. proposal for high-level political talks.

"We could resume a dialogue with the United States, which we consider important. But there are certain conditions for that," South Korea's national news agency, Yonhap, quoted a North Korean official as saying.

Asked about the report, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said "we don't know exactly what the problem is from they standpoint of North Korea," but that the United States was anxious to pursue the framework accord reached last October.

He said North Korea had not responded to the U.S. offer to shift the negotiations to Geneva with higher-ranked negotiators.

On Thursday in Berlin, the North Koreans broke off the latest round of talks with the United States on the reactor issue, and on Friday the head of their delegation said the U.S.

side was to blame for its "unrealistic approach" to determining the extent of South Korean participation in the reactor deal.

The North Koreans insisted that arrangements for supplying the two reactors be settled by Friday; the Americans say Friday was only a target date, not a deadline.

"They've made a mess of things," Korea expert Selig Harrison said of the North Koreans. Harrison, a senior associate of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said the Clinton administration is to blame, too, for being inflexible.

Christopher urged the North Koreans to reopen the talks, but they seemed unwilling. "It is not an insoluble problem," Christopher said.

The latest twist in this political drama makes painfully clear one central fact: that this is about more than nuclear ambitions; it is about finding a way of overcoming the hostilities that have divided the two Koreas for four decades.

Certainly the specific point of dispute now — the role of South Korea in building the reactors for the rival North — seems too technical to mean much. But the meaning runs deeper: to the distrust between the North and the South, and, ultimately, to who will control the terms of their eventual reunification.

Given the long history of hostility between North and South Korea, it should come as no surprise that, at this juncture in the nuclear dispute, South Korea is resisting its U.S.-assigned role of onlooker to the reactor negotiations. The 1950-53 Korean War, in which the United States fought on the South's side, ended not in a peace treaty but in a "temporary" suspension of hostilities. The United States never established formal diplomatic relations with the North.

South Korea has offered to provide the largest share of the estimated \$4.5 billion

cost of the two new reactors, but only on condition that it take the leading role in supplying not only the hardware but also the technical staff. The North views this with suspicion; it wants a U.S. company to be in control.

"The bottom line is pretty clear: South Korea is not going to put up \$2 billion and let somebody else sell the reactors," said Robert Manning, a State Department adviser on Asia policy during the Bush administration. He said the South considers its investment a "down payment on reunification" with the North.

The South resents being wedged out of the U.S.-North Korean dialogue. It prefers dealing directly with the North itself so as to deny the North the sense of legitimacy it derives from having government-to-government talks with Washington.

The South is unhappy with the Berlin talks that broke off this week, and a senior South Korean official made that clear in unusually explicit terms Friday.

"The format of the talks, in which South Korea cannot participate and is forced to follow the view of the United States, should be broken off," said Rha Woong-bae, the deputy prime minister.

The whole idea of last October's agreement was to shut down the North's nascent nuclear program, which Washington contends was designed to build a nuclear arsenal, and replace it with newer reactors that could supply the North with the electrical power it needs while posing less of a military threat.

As of Friday, on-site inspectors of the U.N.-sponsored International Atomic Energy Agency had verified that the North's 5-megawatt nuclear reactor and associated nuclear facilities were still inactive, agency spokesman David Kyd said.

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