

Bomb shakes up Olympics, America looks for answers

THE INVESTIGATION:

Authorities have identified several potential perpetrators of the Atlanta blast that killed one and injured 111

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Investigators tracking a host of leads have identified several Americans as potential suspects in the Olympic bombing, a federal law enforcement official said Monday.

Authorities did not indicate an arrest was imminent.

From across Georgia, meanwhile, police and National Guard reinforcements converged on Atlanta to add more eyes, ears and firepower to the security force shielding the Games from new terror attacks.

Centennial Park, closed since a pipe bomb went off there early Saturday, will reopen Tuesday morning with a memorial service for the victims. One woman was killed and 111 people were injured, and a Turkish cameraman died of a heart attack rushing to the scene.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, other than the person who called 911 to warn that the bomb was about to go off. "There is a bomb in Centennial Park. You have 30 minutes," was all the caller said before hanging up, the FBI said.

Investigators are confident the caller was a white American male with no discernible accent. That, and the crudeness of the device and method, apparently have led them to suspect a homegrown, relatively unsophisticated individual or group, not international ter-

rorists.

Investigators have identified several potential suspects who are the focus of immediate attention, according to a law enforcement official in Washington who spoke on condition of anonymity.

FBI spokesman David Tubbs said in Atlanta it was a "pretty strong assumption" the 911 caller placed the bomb, and that there was no evidence yet that more than one person was involved.

Investigators have received a flood of information — witness statements, videotapes and snapshots taken by tourists in the area before the explosion, and video from surveillance cameras in the park.

The bomb, in a green knapsack left beside a sound tower, exploded with a hail of nails, screws and shards of a shattered aluminum fence.

THE 911 CALL: The bomb threat was not geographically specific enough to enable police to secure the area

By Marc Rice
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A vague threat, then a hang-up. The result: a warning about a bomb in Centennial Olympic Park could not be relayed to authorities there before it exploded, Atlanta's police chief says.

The response could have been quicker if the man calling 911 with the threat early Saturday had said exactly where in the park the bomb was planted, Police Chief

Beverly Harvard said Sunday.

"In this instance we received a call that was very general ... the caller stated there was a bomb in the park with no specific location being given at all and basically said you have 30 minutes and hung up," Harvard said.

When a threat is called in from a pay telephone, she said, officers secure the phone before a bomb squad is dispatched or street officers are notified. Those procedures were correctly followed, she said.

"We are looking at protocol," she said, but did not elaborate on whether any changes in procedure were likely.

Officers patrolling the park

were never told of the threat.

A stage hand at a concert in the park had noticed the suspicious package and a Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent was moving the crowd back when the package exploded, killing a woman and injuring more than 100 people.

Harvard said the police department has received numerous calls with bomb threats since the Olympics began. The one that came in Saturday was handled according to normal procedures, she said.

"This call gave no specifics ... You've got to keep in mind that we receive dozens of these calls," she said, adding that bomb threats have increased since Saturday.

THE REACTION: Leaders work to develop tactics in order to guard the country against terrorism

By Ron Fournier
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Seeking to calm a jittery nation, President Clinton and Republican leaders Monday began shaping a package of anti-terrorism tools, including more wiretaps and authority to prosecute terrorists as racketeers.

Sitting elbow-to-elbow with House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, the president declared, "When we are attacked ..., we come together."

But their sober White House

meeting ended without agreement on an anti-terrorism bill. Scheduling a Capitol Hill meeting Tuesday, both sides expected a swift accord in response to the bombing at the Olympics and the explosion of TWA 800.

Clinton's proposed package included initiatives to:

- Expand authority for wiretaps, including the so-called "roving wiretaps" that allow police to tap into all telephone lines belonging to suspected terrorists. A related idea would allow the attorney general to approve emergency wiretaps for 48 hours on suspected terrorists, a power already given in organized crime and national security cases.

- Allow the FBI to get information on suspected terrorists from ho-

tels, telephone companies and storage facilities in foreign counterintelligence cases.

- Allow suspected terrorists to be prosecuted under federal racketeering laws, making them subject to asset forfeiture and longer sentences.

- Make it easier to trace telephone numbers called by suspected terrorists.

- Make it tougher for suspected terrorists to encrypt their communications to avoid detection by police.

Several other proposals are floating in Congress, including making it illegal to post bomb-making instructions on the Internet, expanding funding for the FBI and getting the military involved in nuclear and chemical terrorism.

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