

FBI wanted the members to do what it should have done to begin with.

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FBI Asks Public for Photos, Videotapes in

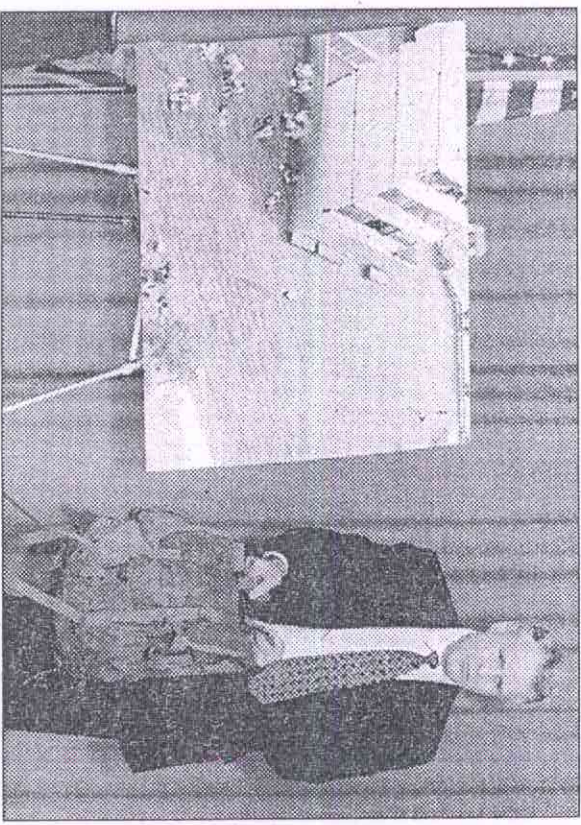
By Roberto Suro
Washington Post Staff Writer

With an admission that it has no suspects in the July 27 Olympic bombing, the FBI issued a plea for help yesterday, asking for any photographs or videotapes taken in the Atlanta park that night, promising a \$500,000 reward and releasing a tape of the 911 call warning of the blast in hopes that somebody will recognize the voice.

Federal law enforcement officials said the announcement is an attempt to jump-start an investigation that has stalled despite more than four months of work by a legion of federal, state and local investigators. By seeking public attention, the FBI hopes to jog loose a recollection or some potential evidence that might produce fresh leads.

The most dramatic attempt to revive public interest in the bombing came at an Atlanta news conference yesterday, when the bureau publicly played the 911 tape for the first time. A somewhat muted voice, in an almost robotic cadence, is heard saying 11 words: "There is a bomb in Centennial Park. You have 30 minutes."

FBI Deputy Director Weldon Kennedy said at the news conference that perhaps someone might



FBI Special Agent David Johnson shows an enlarged photo of the location where a military-style backpack, similar to the one he is holding, was placed.

BY JOHN KUNTZ—REUTERS

recognize the voice. He cited "investigative reasons" to explain why the tape had not been released sooner, when people's memories of the event were still fresh.

Investigators placed greater emphasis on the chance that a picture might produce a breakthrough. "We firmly believe that somewhere, someone has a photograph of the per-

come forward because they do not see anything relevant in their pictures. With enhancement technology, however, even blurry backgrounds can be rendered into recognizable images, he said.

Thousands of photographs and videotapes have been reviewed by investigators already, so far with no luck. Federal officials said that the time invested in that process helps explain why the FBI has issued its plea for help now.

"They had a lot of material, and they spent a lot of time on it convinced it would yield something, but it didn't," said a senior federal official. "Now they are hoping to get more."

Even as the FBI sought the public's help yesterday, it insisted that everything was proceeding normally in an investigation that already has brought considerable embarrassment and consternation to the bureau.

Asked whether yesterday's announcement indicated problems with the probe, Kennedy said at the news conference, "No, it means that we have made a lot of progress in the investigation."

But Kennedy also said that the bureau had moved no closer to determining whether the blast was the work of a lone bomber or a conspiracy. He also said that the FBI had no

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behavioral profile of the bomber or any idea of the motive involved.

"We're not leaning in any particular direction at this time point because, again, we do not have the identity—or even the suspected identity at this point—of the person or persons who did this act," Kennedy said.

Pressed to explain what the FBI had to show for its efforts since July, Kennedy said it has narrowed the time frame during which the bomb was placed near a light and sound tower to between midnight and 12:45. It exploded at 1:20 a.m., leaving two dead and more than 100 injured.

He also said that, by piecing together thousands of fragments and through painstaking forensic tests, investigators have determined that the bomb weighed about 40 pounds and that it was carried in a green military-style backpack.

The FBI's efforts confirmed a description of the backpack provided the night of the bombing by Richard Jewell, the security guard who spotted the bomb minutes before it exploded and then spent 88 days under suspicion before being exonerated by the FBI.

The attempt to publicize the investigation comes as the FBI and

Justice Department are completing internal disciplinary probes into the Atlanta investigation. One inquiry will determine whether FBI personnel leaked Jewell's name to the news media and another whether Jewell's constitutional rights were abused when he was interrogated.

NBC, Lawyers for Jewell Settle Libel Allegations

NBC and lawyers for Richard Jewell announced yesterday that they had reached a settlement that will avert a threatened libel lawsuit. Jewell had protested a July 30 broadcast during which NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw said that the authorities probably had enough evidence to arrest and prosecute Jewell.

Although NBC admitted no wrong in the settlement, the network will make a monetary payment to Jewell, according to both parties.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To listen to the 911 call reporting the bomb, and the FBI's description of the pack that carried it, click on the above symbol on the front page of The Post's site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.washingtonpost.com>