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Pentagon

# Phone Boast by 'Weatherman' Before Explosion

Associated Press

Washington

An explosion ripped through a restroom in the Pentagon early today, a short time after an anti-war organization told a newsmen it had bombed the office of the Air Force secretary.

A Pentagon spokesman said the explosion occurred in a woman's restroom on the fourth floor of the Pentagon's E-Ring, the outermost of several concentric rings in the huge building.

The spokesman said the section is an Air Force area where many executive offices are located in the building across the Potomac River from Washington in Arlington, Va.

Pentagon desk officer Sergeant James Horner said the explosion was caused by a bomb placed in the restroom.

Air Force Brigadier General Daniel James, deputy assistant defense secretary for public affairs, said there was considerable flooding in the area, apparently from broken water pipes, and there was the possibility of damaged electrical wiring.

There were no injuries in the blast.

A short time before the blast, which the General Services Administration said occurred at 12:40 a.m. (EDT) a caller identifying himself as "Weatherman Underground No. 12" told the New York Post:

"We have just bombed the office of the secretary of the Air Force in the Pentagon."

The caller did not further identify himself or his organization, but directed the Post to a telephone booth outside the newspaper's printing plant in New York.

## LETTER

There, a Post reporter found a letter saying:

"Today we attacked the Pentagon, the center of the American military command. We are acting at a time when growing U.S. air and naval shelling are being carried out against the Vietnamese; while U.S. mines and warships are used to block the harbors of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; while plans for even more escalation are being made in Washington."

After an explosion ripped through a restroom in the

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Senate side of the Capitol March 1, 1971, security was tightened at the Pentagon and most other government buildings.

But the Defense Department headquarters is an open building and no identification is required to enter during working hours.

## GUARDS

Identification is required after 6 p.m. but some Pentagon workers say it is not difficult to slip unnoticed past guards.

The Capitol bombing, which ripped up an interior section of the Senate wing, also came about 30 minutes after a caller warned of the explosion and said it was to retaliate for the U.S.-supported invasion of Laos.

An organization calling itself the "Weather Underground" claimed responsibility for the Capitol bombing.