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# SunHerald

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## FBI issues photos of suspects in bombing

One seen setting down backpack near second site

By DENISE LAVOIE and ADAM GELLER  
Associated Press

**BOSTON** — Plucking a couple of faces in baseball caps out of a swarming crowd, the FBI zeroed in on two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing and shared surveillance-camera images of them with

**WEB EXTRA** | Watch the video and find a photo gallery at sunherald.com

the world Thursday in hopes the public will help hunt them down.

The somewhat blurry but still detailed photos and video depict one young man in a dark cap and another in a white cap worn backward, both wearing backpacks and one walking behind the other on the sidewalk near the finish line as marathoners run by.

The man in the white hat

was seen setting down a backpack at the site of the second explosion, said Richard DesLauriers, FBI agent in charge in Boston.

"Somebody out there knows these individuals as friends, neighbors, co-workers or family members of the suspects," he said. "Though it may be difficult, the nation is count-

BOSTON TO 7A



This combination of images from surveillance video shows who the FBI are calling Suspect 2, left, in white cap, and Suspect 1, right, in black cap, as they walk near each other before the explosions at the Boston Marathon on Monday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS/FBI

## Man in ricin case described as bipolar, delusional

Officers search home; Curtis due back in court today

By HOLBROOK MOHR and ADRIAN SAINZ  
Associated Press

**OXFORD** — A Corinth man charged with sending ricin-laced letters to the president and other officials was described Thursday as a good father, a quiet neighbor and an entertainer who impersonated Elvis at parties. Other accounts show a man who spiraled into emotional turmoil trying to get attention for his claims of uncovering a conspiracy to sell body parts on the black market.

Paul Kevin Curtis, 45, wrote numerous Web posts over the past several years describing the event he said "changed my life forever" — the chance discovery of body parts and organs wrapped in plastic in small refrigerator at a hospital where he worked as a janitor more than a decade ago.

He tried to talk to officials and get the word out online, but he thought he was being railroaded by the government. Authorities said

RICIN TO 7A



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Neighbors say this photo from Facebook shows Paul Kevin Curtis, 45.

## Texas scene 'completely chaotic'

Death toll uncertain as buildings are searched for bodies after explosion



LM OTERO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Firefighters conduct a search and rescue Thursday of an apartment destroyed by an explosion Wednesday at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas. The massive explosion at the West Fertilizer Co. may have killed as many as 15 people and injured more than 160, officials said.

By NOMAAN MERCHANT and JOHN L. MONE  
Associated Press

**WEST, Texas** — Rescuers searched the smoking remnants of a Texas farm town Thursday for survivors of a thunderous fertilizer plant explosion, gingerly checking smashed houses and apartments for anyone still trapped in debris while the community awaited word on the number of dead.

Initial reports put the fatalities as high as 15, but later in the day, authorities backed away from any estimate and refused to elaborate. More than 160 people were hurt.

A breathtaking band of destruction extended for blocks around the West Fertilizer Co. in the small community of West. The blast shook the ground with the strength of a small earthquake and crumpled dozens of homes, an apartment complex, a school and a nursing home. Its dull boom could be heard dozens of miles away from the



PAUL MOSELY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sammy Chavez, whose face was cut by debris from the West, Texas, fertilizer plant explosion, speaks to the media Thursday. Chavez and some friends were shooting video of a fire about 200 yards from the plant when it exploded.

town about 20 miles north of Waco.

Waco police Sgt. William Patrick Swanton described ongoing search-and-rescue efforts as "tedious and time-consuming," noting that crews had to shore up much of the wreckage before going in.

There was no indication the blast, which sent up a mushroom-shaped plume of smoke and left behind a crater, was anything other than an industrial accident, he said.

The explosion was apparently touched off by a fire, but there was no indication

what sparked the blaze. The company had been cited by regulators for what appeared to be minor safety and permitting violations over the past decade.

The Wednesday night explosion rained burning

WEST TO 7A

## 'I saw what happened if anyone spoke out'

Witnesses in court-martial recount abuse

By KAREN NELSON  
knelson@sunherald.com

**BILOXI** — Trainees on Thursday recounted the effect painful or humiliating treatment had on them during their basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in 2009.

One raw recruit was put on suicide watch, another was stunned for several days and others were confused and wary.

Air Force prosecutors called 15 as witnesses in the second day of testimony in the military trial of Tech. Sgt. Bobby D. Bass, the man who was their basic-training instructor.

All were young men. Most are still in the Air Force at the rank of senior airman, but some were in the reserves or out altogether. The unit Bass is accused of abusing was the band group.

Charges against him are cruelty, abusive sexual con-

LACKLAND TO 7A



RHONDA HERRING/SPECIAL TO THE SUN HERALD

Tech. Sgt. Bobby Bass is on trial this week at Keesler, charged with sodomy while deployed in 2007 and 2008 and 33 counts of dereliction of duty, cruelty, hazing, wrongful sexual contact and assault while a drill sergeant at Lackland in 2009.

**PASS CHRISTIAN'S TOUR OF HOMES FEATURES A HIDDEN GEM. @HOME, 1B**

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