

Waco

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said two survivors were injured critically, one had a serious injury and three have minor injuries, all including burns. One person taken into custody told authorities that people inside the compound had set the blaze, Stern said.

The person said that as he left one of the buildings, "he could hear above him people saying, 'The fire's been lit, the fire's been lit,'" Stern said.

"We can only assume it was a massive loss of life," FBI spokesman Bob Ricks said in a solemn afternoon news conference.

Ricks said multiple witnesses spotted cult members setting several fires.

FBI agents reported seeing a man wearing a gas mask and black uniform throw something inside, followed by a fireball. Additionally, Ricks said, a man found Monday afternoon in a bunker on the grounds said lantern fuel had been spread throughout the wooden complex and that the fire was started simultaneously in several places.

Koresh had warned the FBI in a letter last week that agents would be "devoured by fire" if they tried to harm him.

A maze of tunnels was believed to

run under the complex, but Jack Killorin, a spokesman in Washington for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said the agency believed no tunnel system would have allowed people to survive the fire.

"It's a bad end and one of the ends we feared from the beginning," Killorin said. "Obviously, suicide was a concern all along, but the method was different, unexpected."

Attorney General Janet Reno approved the assault and informed President Clinton. The FBI notified the compound's neighbors before daybreak "that it would end today," according to Melanie Felton, a nearby rancher.

Late in the day, Reno said the FBI's assault had been carefully planned over several days. She added that she "could not give the president that assurance" that the agents could prevent a mass suicide such as the cyanide poisoning that killed 913 people at Jonestown, Guyana, in 1978.

The fire erupted while television cameras provided live coverage of an armored vehicle battering a hole into the compound's first story. Moments before, the mother of one cult member had voiced her fear in a telephone interview about what might happen.

"It's impossible to know how he (Koresh) will respond," said Balenda

Ganem, mother of cult member David Thibodeau. "When you're under great stress and great fear, you rarely respond responsibly. We hope he will."

Thibodeau was one of the eight survivors.

Agents in the predawn tear gas assault were met by gunfire, at least 75-80 rounds, the FBI said. The agents continued ripping holes in compound buildings throughout the morning, and at a 10:30 a.m. session with reporters, Ricks spoke calmly about the decision to force Koresh and his followers out.

"The action taken today was, we believe, the next logical step in a series of actions to bring this episode to a conclusion," Ricks said.

Ricks also said authorities believed the tear-gassing was the best way to avert a possible mass suicide, because it would "cause confusion inside the compound."

Barely 90 minutes later, billowing flames and smoke began spewing from the sprawling rural compound. Fire department units had to be summoned and arrived about 12:30 p.m.

Ricks later refused to second-guess the decision not to have firefighters on the scene, explaining that gunfire from cultists and explosives stored in the compound would have put them at risk.

End of the cult compound

Profile of the final hours of the Branch Davidian cult in Waco, Texas:

Diagram is schematic based on preliminary reports.

6 a.m.: Armored assault
Federal CEV assault vehicle began punching holes in walls to deliver tear gas.

12:15 p.m.: Fire in compound
Reportedly started by two members of the Branch Davidian cult. Blaze appeared to start directly above the main entrance. Firetrucks arrived at 12:38 p.m.

Mount Carmel Branch Davidian compound
Waco, Texas 76791
Trading Creek Reservoir
Area of detail
2 miles
2 km

Pressure tanks
Gas container tank
M5 gas disperser mounted on vehicle
M9 gun with 12-foot hose

Sources: U.S. Army Material Command; Waco Herald-Tribune; Jane's Armour and Artillery

Reaction

Continued from Page 1

Firearms agents.

"It appeared an arrest could have been made outside of the compound when they were shopping in town," he said. "Some have argued that we could have put a fence around it and called it a prison and let them come out when they come out."

Professor Larry Walklin, chair of the broadcasting department in the College of Journalism, said Koresh saw the media as an avenue to spread

his ideas, and law enforcement officials welcomed his early conversations with radio stations.

"If one of those people call somewhere, the people that put them on try to engage them into conversation," he said. "The police would rather have them do that because they are talking as opposed to something else."

Hostage situations are difficult to cover, he said. If one radio station would have refused to grant the interview, Koresh could have gone to a different station or newspaper, Walklin said.

Eskridge said the crisis warranted news coverage, but there was a fine line between facts and sensationalism.

"The press has an entertainment function," he said. "I'm not sure we see true reporting, but the need to see 80 persons dead should make the front page."

The press should have downplayed the issue, he said.

"They were molded by him, they were putty in his hands," he said. "As we speak, Hollywood will have 'David Koresh the movie.'"

S. Dakota governor dies in plane crash

DUBUQUE, Iowa (AP)—A plane carrying South Dakota Gov. George Mickelson and seven other people crashed in eastern Iowa after reporting engine failure Monday. There were no survivors, a sheriff said.

Mickelson's body wasn't immediately identified. However, Dick Vohs, an aide to Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, said the airplane's passenger list included Mickelson. Janelle Toman, press secretary for Mickelson, confirmed Mickelson was on the plane.

"What a tragedy. We lost the heart out of South Dakota," said the Democratic leader of the South Dakota Senate, Roger McKellips.

The other victims were Roger Hainje, director of the Sioux Falls Development Foundation; state Economic Development Commissioner Roland Dolly; state Energy Policy Commissioner Ron Reed; Sioux Falls banker Dave Birkeland; Angus Anson of Northern States Power Co. in Sioux Falls; and two pilots from Pierre, S.D., Ron Becker and Dave Hansen.

Former South Dakota Gov. Bill Janklow said he knew all those aboard the plane.

"Angus Anson worked for me. Dave Hansen was my security chief, and Ron Becker was my pilot. He taught me how to fly," Janklow said. "Everyone of these people was a leader."

Mickelson's death means Lt. Gov. Walter Dale Miller takes over the governor's office.

Mickelson, the son of former Gov. George T. Mickelson, followed his father's political footsteps and was elected South Dakota's governor in 1986. His father was governor from 1947 to 1951.

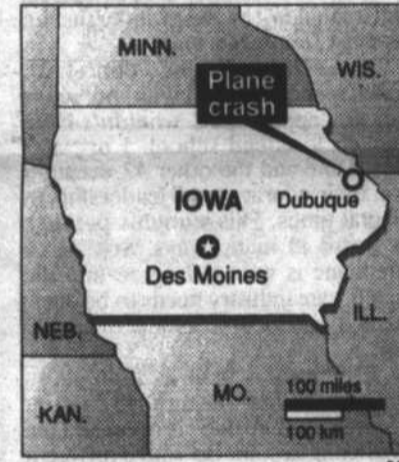
Mickelson, 51, a Republican, was serving his second term. He was elected governor in 1986 and won another four-year term in 1990. He also served six years in the South Dakota House, where he was speaker in 1979-80.

The plane was returning to South Dakota from Cincinnati when it crashed after reporting engine trouble.

The twin-engine turboprop had been headed for an emergency landing at the Dubuque airport when it struck a barn and silo about 15 miles southwest of Dubuque at about 4 p.m., said Sandra Campbell, a spokeswoman at the Federal Aviation Administration regional office at Kansas City, Mo.

A flight plan filed earlier listed eight people aboard, she said.

"We were notified by the highway patrol that seven have been confirmed dead. They're searching for a possible eighth person who was aboard," Mrs.



Campbell said.

The Mitsubishi turboprop corporate plane is registered to the Department of Transportation of the state of South Dakota.

"The pilot reported a lost engine and lost pressurization. The aircraft then was handed off to the Dubuque tower for clearance to land. It was the nearest location," Mrs. Campbell said.

"It was cleared to land. About a minute after the last transmission, the Dubuque tower reported to the sheriff the aircraft was down on the ground," she said.

Heavy rain was reported in the area at the time, but the FAA said it had not determined if it was a factor in the crash.

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board were en route to the crash site.

Ohio prison inmates turn a cellblock into fortress

LUCASVILLE, Ohio (AP)—Inmates barricaded inside a state prison for more than a week hung a banner from a cellblock window Monday saying they're willing to end the standoff, but want to talk to a lawyer first.

A newspaper reported that prisoners were arming themselves with makeshift weapons and may have booby-trapped some prison entrances.

Authorities dug a trench on prison grounds looking for possible tunnels dug by inmates. Bulldozers were brought there over the weekend after reports of tunneling, prisons spokeswoman Sharron Kornegay said.

Inmates turned their cellblock at the maximum-security Southern Ohio Correctional Facility into a fortress in case authorities decide to rush it, the Dayton Daily News said Monday.

Rhonda Millhouse, a spokeswoman for the state prison system, said she could not confirm the report.

About 450 inmates have held the cellblock since a riot on April 11, when they took eight guards hostage. At least seven inmates and one guard died. Two hostages were released last week.

The banner made from a bedsheet read, in part: "State lying to public. We are willing to end. Must first talk face-to-face with attorney."

The banner referred to attorney Niki Schwartz, who spoke with inmates Sunday. There was no indication when that meeting would be held, but Kornegay said negotiations Monday were "positive."

The newspaper, quoting sources it did not identify, said prisoners were armed with knives, shovels, barbells and "zip" guns—handmade weapons made from nails and rubber bands.

Some cellblock entrances were believed to be booby-trapped, possibly with makeshift arrows, the newspaper said. Inmates also were thought to have tapped the prison's gasoline supply and could have made fire bombs.

About 1,000 mourners paid their last respects for the slain guard, Robert Vallandigham, 40, during a memorial service at a high school in his hometown of Minford, about 10 miles east of Lucasville.

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Services for Students with Disabilities invites all Notetakers and Readers to a Thank-you reception
Thursday, April 22, 1993
7:00 to 8:30 pm
NE Union Georgian Suite
Refreshments will be served

foxy Lady
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