

Anthrax Investigations Continue

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI has investigated 2,500 reports of possible anthrax exposure but has found no links yet between them and the Sept. 11 hijackings, bureau Director Robert Mueller said Wednesday.

Telling the nation's mayors of the challenge facing his investigators, Mueller said the FBI is responding to every report of an anthrax attack even though the vast majority are hoaxes or false alarms.

The largest investigation in FBI history now involves more than 7,000 bureau personnel — about one in four employees — looking into the hijackings and the subsequent anthrax attacks. Much is still to be learned about the bioterrorism assaults, which have produced a growing number of anthrax cases.

"At this point, it is not clear if the few

confirmed anthrax exposures were motivated by organized terrorism," Mueller said in a speech to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. "But these attacks were clearly meant to terrorize a country already on the edge. We're responding swiftly to each and every incident."

In an interview with the Associated Press, Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said the anthrax spores that killed two postal workers were so small and finely milled that they suggest "more than a casual scientist" is behind the attacks through the mail.

Frist, who was a surgeon before becoming a senator, predicted "there will be more illness." Whoever mailed the anthrax-laced letters wanted to "personalize the terror" by making Americans fearful to open their mailboxes, he added.

Anthrax spores that specked into the air of a Capitol Hill office and a Washington postal facility were

aerosolized — manipulated to a tiny size and finely milled — in a very sophisticated manner, said Frist.

"The aerosolization of this product, of the weapon itself, had never been done before to the degree that it has," he said. "It suggests more than a casual scientist is involved in its manufacture."

"I would not use the word weaponized," he cautioned.

Regular masks will not protect postal workers or anyone else from such small bacteria, Frist said.

"The masks we use in surgery are no good, that's false security," he said. Even the better-filtered masks doctors use around tuberculosis patients won't work, according to Frist.

New recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will advise the U.S. Postal Service that several specially fitted respirators with spore-trapping filters can be

used, and to offer the battery-operated kind when workers can't be properly fitted with others.

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Campus Calendar

Today

5 p.m. — The Association of English Majors will host a peer advising session in Gaskin Library of Greenlaw Hall.

5 p.m. — Come to a National Association for the Advancement of Colored People meeting in Union 226.

5:30 p.m. — Come to the Union Cabaret to eat and talk about being friends, couples, and hooking up. It is sponsored by Living with Compassion Initiative and the Carolina Union.

6 p.m. — Delta Sigma Theta sorority will host an investment workshop with the Investment Club in 8 Gardner Hall.

6 p.m. — BoUNCe Magazine, Carolina's humor magazine, is holding an interest meeting in downstairs Lenoir.

6:30 p.m. — Anders Gyllenhaal, the senior vice president and executive editor of the News & Observer, and Margaret Blanchard of the journalism school will lead a discussion on newspaper coverage of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. It is sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists and will be in 33 Carroll Hall.

7 p.m. — Come eat free Peppers pizza

and watch "Battle of Algiers," a film about Algerian resistance to French rule. Discuss terrorism, violence, gender and nationalism. The event, sponsored by the Association of English Majors in the lounge on the second floor of Greenlaw.

7 p.m. — American Music Awards Concert Tour, sponsored by Carolina Athletic Association, is at Memorial Hall. Tickets are free at the door. Two students will win a trip to see the AMAs.

7 p.m. — "Beyond Myth & Tradition: The world cries out for the end of conflict." A half-hour video followed by dialogue is sponsored by the Association for India's Development in 203 Dey Hall.

10 p.m. — Bloody Bob's Halloween Bash, Habitat for Humanity's fall fundraiser organized with Pi Lambda Phi and Delta Zeta, is at Pantana Bob's. Those under 21 should arrive before midnight. Tickets and T-shirts are \$15 in the Pit.

The Daily Tar Heel

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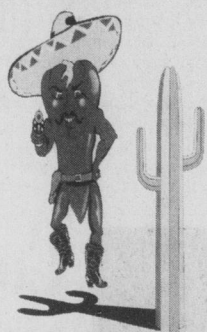
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