

# Anthrax Claims 15th Victim U.S. Considers Starting Afghan Base

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A New Jersey woman became the nation's 15th confirmed anthrax victim Monday, and spores turned up in at least three additional government buildings in a slow, steady spread of bioterrorism. "We believe that the country must stay on the alert, that our enemies still hate us," said President Bush.

Three weeks into a new age of anthrax, experts puzzled over an unexplained substance found among spores in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle.

Bush's warning was underscored by a formal terrorist threat advisory issued late in the day to law enforcement agencies nationwide. Attorney General John Ashcroft said officials had credible evidence of a possible attack over the coming week, but he added, "Unfortunately, it does not contain specific information as to the type of the attack or specific targets."

Neither Ashcroft nor FBI Director Robert Mueller offered any indication whether the new threat relates to bioterrorism as opposed to an attack along the lines of the Sept. 11 suicide hijackings that killed 5,000 in New York,

Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

In New Jersey, officials announced the 15th diagnosis of anthrax in the nation since early this month, the first involving an individual with no apparent connection either to the mail service or the media.

The woman, whose name was not disclosed, has been treated successfully for the skin form of the disease and released from the hospital, according to authorities. Officials said she works at a business near the Trenton-area Hamilton Township mail processing center, which is shut down because of the discovery of anthrax contamination. The facility processed anthrax-laced letters sent to Daschle as well as NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw and the New York Post.

The woman developed a lesion on her forehead Oct. 17, and a skin test was taken a week later, officials said. The woman left the hospital Sunday, one day before biopsy results were returned that showed she had anthrax.

Administration officials sought to reassure the public that mail was safe. But the New York Area Postal Union filed suit trying to force the closure of a vast processing and distribution center where traces of anthrax were found on

four machines. The Postal Service has sealed off the machines and says the rest of the building is safe.

Even before Ashcroft and Mueller issued their warning, there was less reassuring news from the investigation into the nation's unprecedented struggle against bioterrorism.

Thus far in an intensive probe, said Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge, "there are a lot of theories out there; we just need some facts to turn a theory into a reality."

In all, three people have died and an additional 12 have been confirmed ill with anthrax in the nation's worst experience with bioterrorism. Among the 15, seven involve skin anthrax and the remaining eight — including all three deaths — the more dangerous inhalation form of the disease.

The number of contaminated locations continues to grow. The Supreme Court, State Department and a third government office building that houses the Voice of America and Food and Drug Administration were added to the list, evidence of contamination found in mailrooms in each structure. That followed the disclosure Sunday that a small amount of anthrax had been found in the Justice Department's main building.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States is considering setting up a base inside Afghanistan from which commandos, and possibly conventional ground troops, would launch missions against Taliban and terrorist targets, defense officials said Monday.

This option, which Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld hinted at in a Pentagon news conference, could indicate the U.S. military is planning more aggressive moves against the Taliban.

More than three weeks of aerial bombardment by Navy fighter-bombers fly-

ing from aircraft carriers in the Arabian Sea and by Air Force bombers and fighters based hundreds of miles from Afghanistan have neutralized the Taliban's air defenses but have not yet routed the terrorists.

Rumsfeld said when the bombing began Oct. 7 that air power alone would not be enough to win the battle in Afghanistan and that special operations forces would play a key role. In the only acknowledged mission by special operations forces so far, more than 100 Army Rangers parachuted onto an airfield in southern Afghanistan from an MC-130 aircraft Oct. 20 and left after several

hours. Troops on the ground will likely be needed to capture or kill bin Laden and other leaders of his al-Qaida network, but past wars in Afghanistan — notably the former Soviet Union's failure after 10 years of fighting — have shown the high cost of a conventional large-scale ground invasion.

Rumsfeld was asked about a USA Today report that said U.S. forces may soon establish a forward base in Afghanistan that would support 200 to 300 commandos. The newspaper, quoting an unidentified defense official, said the base might be in northern Afghanistan.

## PARKING

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spaces, and I don't," she said. "And others maintain that UNC accepts students for an education, not parking spaces."

Of the 14,558 parking spaces currently on campus, 3,553 are held by students, with 480 of those designated for on-campus residents. Faculty and staff have 10,598 of the remaining spots.

But as construction consumes nearly half the available parking in the near future, officials hope to dedicate all remaining spots to faculty and staff.

Cheryl Stout, assistant director of parking services, said the proportionate allocation of parking permits among students and faculty has remained relatively constant in the past. "The numbers have remained static over the years, with the exception of losses to construction and other campus developments," she said. "Roughly 15 percent of the student population obtains permits."

Departments receive permits based on the number of employees and total years of state service. Allocation within the department is then at the discretion of individual department heads.

"Each department comes up with its own distribution system for their permits," Estroff said. "For example, secretarial staff often gets the closest spots because they may have to come and go in the dark."

Dorothy Arial, a student member of TPAC, said that when the issue came to

## Not a Lot of Parking

UNC officials will eliminate on-campus parking for students living in residence halls. The nine lots that contain these types of parking spaces will disappear in construction or go to faculty or staff.

- A Lot — Battle Lane and Kenan, Spencer, Aycok, Graham Residence Halls
- CD Lot — Craige Parking Deck
- K Lot — Ehringhaus Residence Hall
- L Lot — Morrison Residence Hall
- M Lot — Hinton James Residence Hall
- N4 Lot — Cobb, Joyner Residence Hall, Tennis Courts
- N5 Lot — Boundary Street, Park Place, Forest Theatre
- N7 Lot — Nash Parking Lot, Career Services
- S4 Lot — Stadium Drive, Carmichael, Avery, Teague, Parker Residence Halls

SOURCE: UNC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DTH/AUDREY WILKINSON AND ASHLEY CAMPBELL

the committee, the decision to eliminate spaces already had been made by Shelton and Suttentfield.

"The only decision we have now is how to implement the decision, whether it be over one year or on a sliding scale basis," Arial said. "We need to look out for commuters and those who need hardship spaces."

Estroff said she expects reactions to the decision to be divided. "Parking is a perennial complaint for everyone. But we have to make the transition to (park-and-ride lots), albeit a painful one," she said. "Faculty and staff need to have spaces — they work at UNC. It's how they make a living."

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## UNC HOSPITALS

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The federal department's decision comes after a recommendation from the state department to revoke the hospital's Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. The state concluded that the hospital practices inefficient procedure for dealing with mentally ill patients. The state determined in an investigation that 35-year-old Arcadio Ariza Cortes of Carrboro received insufficient supervision after his involuntary commitment to the hospital's Behavioral Health Care Unit.

According to the state's report, nurses allowed the patient — later identified

as Cortes — to leave the unit the night of his alleged suicide, Oct. 1. He was found dead from head trauma at the ground floor of the Kenan-Flagler Business School parking deck.

But Jeff Horton, chief of the mental health licensure and certification section of the state department, said UNC Hospitals has the chance to notify the agency of improved procedures before Nov. 18. The agency will then recommend that the state reinstate the hospital's procedures.

If the hospital passes reinpection, the termination will be reversed, officials said.

Tom Hughes, spokesman for UNC Hospitals, said the hospital will definitely undergo a re-evaluation before the November deadline, but no date has

been set. "We fully expect that when we have the next inspection, they will say everything's OK and we won't lose our funding," he said. "If they say everything's not OK, then I don't know what we will do (at that point)."

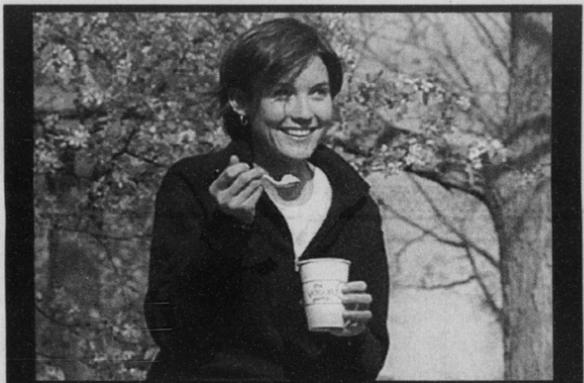
UNC Hospitals CEO Eric Munson said he does not expect the termination to take effect in November. "We have fixed our deficiencies," he said.

Horton said hospitals that lose Medicare and Medicaid funding can still function and eventually reapply for certification, although it is difficult.

Horton said even if UNC Hospitals do not pass a reinpection by Nov. 18, it would not be impossible for it to become recertified by the federal agency. "(But) sometimes (the agency) will not immediately allow (hospitals) to re-enter the program," he said. "Hopefully we won't have to go through that."

This situation does not happen often, and hospitals usually correct their problems, Horton said. "We've never involuntarily terminated a hospital in this state."

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## CHAPEL HILL

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spilling out into the community. "The University has to provide a 'bed for every head,'" Hill said, referring to the late Chancellor Michael Hooker's goal of supplying on-campus housing for every UNC student.

Foy said, "Housing on campus needs to be more attractive than housing off campus."

Pavao said he would oppose any changes to the housing ordinance that would limit the number of students living together in a house.

"It's a delicate balance between residents and students," Pavao said.

Nelson asked the candidates how they would support Chapel Hill's fledgling business community, which makes up only 20 percent of the local tax base.

Pavao responded by saying, "As we grow, we have to diversify our tax base."

But Foy and Hill both said it was not the responsibility of the Town Council to recruit businesses or employers. "It's not our job to be out recruiting business," Foy said. "I think it's the job of local government to provide amenities to make (the town) attractive."

Hill said, "You live here because of the town, not because it's the best place to do business."

Elections will be held Nov. 6, and all three candidates said they hope students will come out and vote.

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## CARRBORO

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Smith said she envisions the town as an outdoor mall with a couple of anchor stores. "I don't want to recruit stores that will compete with existing businesses," Smith said.

Mike Nelson, an incumbent, said the most important thing is to increase the square footage available for growing businesses. "I'd like to keep doing what we're doing, just more," he said.

Aaron Nelson also questioned the candidates about how they would approach affordable housing in Carrboro.

Smith said she thinks residents would be willing to compromise on the amount of land that surrounds their houses to accommodate affordable housing.

"Duplexes and attached housing don't affect the value of nearby homes, so I would like to focus on those," Smith said.

Mike Nelson said the problem of building more affordable housing is complicated because there are several different groups that need affordable housing.

"I'd like to find a piece of public land to do a large-scale housing project focusing on diversity," he said.

In response to Hunter's question about student tenants living in Carrboro, Smith said she has found that most residents think students are disruptive.

"There should be housing on campus, and the University should build housing that students want," Smith said.

Mike Nelson disagreed, saying he does not have a problem with it.

"Both Chapel Hill and Carrboro, and the University, will play a role in providing more housing for students," he said.

In regard to a question from DTH Editorial Board Editor Kate Hartig about improving community safety, Smith said the solution is more lighting and increased patrolling by police.

Nelson said policing was suspended a few years ago because of inadequate funding, which negatively impacted the community.

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