

# UPDATE

April 25, 1995

A PUBLICATION FOR OKLAHOMA CITY BRANCH EMPLOYEES

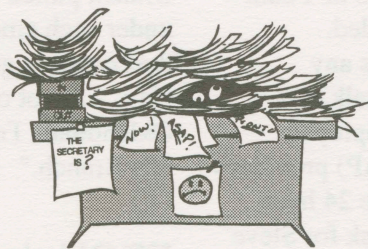
## Oklahoma City Branch employees stand proud!

After the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building on Wednesday, April 19, 1995, the Bank's number one task was making sure employees were safe.

And then, making sure the building was safe for employees to enter. For most of us this did not occur until Monday; however, many employees worked Wednesday through Sunday to ensure safety and maintain limited operations.

The following are accounts from each department describing what they experienced and how employees did what was necessary to keep the Branch running.

The **Accounting** Department was able to maintain limited operations with the help of dedicated staff members. According to Dan Straughan, "Karrie Rodriguez did magical things to close-out Thursday night!" Kansas City helped the Department by completing many of the normal transactions. Securities was unable to complete their normal work requirements because the mail, which contains the majority of their work load, was not delivered. Accounting is now faced with the task of adjusting various general ledger accounts. These adjustments are a direct result of the disaster.



The **Administrative** Department was a busy area. "The phones were pretty hectic on Thursday and Friday," Anne Boyett told us. "I

think we were all just in a daze; but, I was so impressed by all the calls from people wanting to help and share their sympathy."

The **Cash Services** Department employees did an outstanding job providing services to our customers. Employees worked extended hours to fill emergency cash orders with Dallas and Kansas City lending a helping hand. Not one institution ran out of cash! Employees also called institutions that were expecting orders to be shipped on Wednesday.

We are thrilled to report that Rick Rankin's wife, Beverly, escaped the disaster without injuries. Beverly worked on the first floor of the Alfred P. Murrah Building. She was sitting at her desk at the time of the blast. The blast hurled the desk on top of her and caused part of the ceiling to fall. Beverly climbed out of the disaster and helped several people out of the building.

The **Check Collection** Department was faced with two major obstacles, the couriers were unable to deliver checks to the

Branch and the problem of limited staff. To resolve the courier obstacle, Martinaire was chosen as a central location for check deliveries. The Check Collection staff picked up the checks, brought them to the Branch for processing and then returned the checks to Martinaire for dispatching. The second obstacle was resolved by dedicated employees working around the clock to process large volumes of checks. The Check Collection Department is to be commended for a job well done!

On Wednesday when the building was evacuated, the **Dining** staff did not have time to shut down the equipment in the kitchen area. A massive cleanup awaited the staff upon their return. The Dining staff provided meals to the employees that worked Friday and Saturday following the blast.

The **Examinations and Inspections** Department conducted limited operations because of the absence of staff. Since the majority of their work is conducted out of the Branch, no major interruptions occurred in their operations.

The **Facilities Management** Department maintenance staff worked to seal up damage at all windows and at the front entrance to the building. The crew also worked to remove ceiling tiles and grids that were left dangling from the blast.



Finally, the crew inspected the operational integrity and safety of the major building systems (i.e. boilers, chillers, fire systems, electrical panels, plumbing, etc.)

On April 20 a complete building walk-through was conducted with two architects and a structural engineer from HTB, Inc., as well as a representative from McMaster Construction, Inc. Although the group identified a number of windows and frames, ceiling tiles, grids and sheetrock soffits that were damaged, the structural integrity of the building has not been diminished by the blast.

April 21 brought clean-up of broken glass and debris by the Facilities Maintenance staff.

The Department of Labor conducted air-monitoring testing in the basement, first, second and third floors on April 23, to ensure that there was not an accidental release of asbestos fibers into the air after the blast. These samples have been analyzed and the building has been cleared for occupancy.

The **Financial Services** Department was conducting a seminar in Tulsa for credit unions the day of the blast. When one of the attendees showed up late, she informed our staff of the bombing. A television was brought in to keep up with the activity in Oklahoma City.

Kas Davisson spent Friday at the temporary location of the Federal Employees Credit Union (FECU). In addition to Kas, the office was staffed with volunteers from other credit unions, including six people from Fort Knox, Kentucky. Tinker Credit Union has built a new office in Bethany, and they have agreed to rent their old office to FECU for \$1 dollar per month.

The **Office Services** Department had the switchboard up and running Thursday through Saturday. The calls to the Branch were continual. Callers were concerned about the safety of employees and how

business should be conducted. Many calls were received from other Feds, institutions, retirees, friends and employees. A special thank-you to Don Coats and John Jespersen, a Kansas City employee, for covering the switchboard immediately following the blast.

The **Personnel** Department has canceled and rescheduled many of the Branch events because of the disaster. Children in the Workplace Day and Harmony Week have been canceled until further notice. The Gearing Up for Teamwork and Recognizing Drug Usage in Youth classes will be rescheduled.

Personnel encourages any employee that needs to talk to a counselor to call the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider's office at 842-4435 or the 24 hour number at 521-0021. Ask for Steve Kristic.

The **Protection** Department had many obstacles facing them. Immediately following the blast, they secured the construction entrance and assessed the threat level and source of the emergency. The guard staff was then doubled to protect the Branch. After assisting Facilities with emergency maintenance, Protection conducted a bomb search, established communications with employees at the evacuation site, listed and secured employees' personal property and established a perimeter watch.

After-hour guards were placed on standby and contacts were made with Federal, State, County and City law enforcement officials. A second bomb search of the building was then conducted and the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office and Tinker Air Force Base officials conducted a search of the garage and construction area with bomb dogs.

Critical employees were escorted in and out of the Branch through police lines. The Oklahoma City Police Department was contacted and at our request searched the Bank of

Oklahoma Plaza Parking Garage with their bomb dog. At noon on Thursday, Protection set 12-hour shifts and established relief guard rotation.

Protection worked with the FBI to obtain the release of many employees' vehicles inside the Federal Center Parking Garage.

The **Public Affairs** Department, Trisha Thompson, told us that the biggest hurdle for her was relaying accurate and up-to-date information to the media. Trisha also said, "I am so proud of how the people at the Branch pulled together and worked under such emotional stress to keep the economy going in Oklahoma City. I'm not only proud to be an Oklahoman, I'm proud to be a part of this Branch."

## FECU donations

Because of our Branch's close association with the Federal Employees Credit Union, many of you have shown interest in making a contribution on behalf of their employees and families. A Disaster Relief fund has been established at the Corporate Credit Union in Tulsa for the Federal Employees Credit Union. Those interested can make their checks payable to:

Credit Union Foundation  
Oklahoma Disaster Relief Fund  
Account No. 3039-0036-0 and  
mail to:

Oklahoma Corporate Credit Union,  
P. O. Box 702297, Tulsa, OK 74170

