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## **NORTHCOM Chief Pledges Support To ‘Second Seattle’**

Terror Attack

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By Skip Jenkins

Associated Press

WHATCOM COUNTY, Wash. (May 6) – “This is an act of terror,” said Col. Michael Boatner, U.S. Northern Command’s Director of Future Operations, referring to the truck explosion and gas release this morning on the outskirts of Ferndale. Officials said the truck contained 4,000 gallons of Methyl Isocyanate and comes less than a week after the earlier chemical leak that has killed more than 300 people and contaminated hundreds of square miles.

“From all indications this was an act of terrorism and connected to the recent attack in Seattle,” Boatner said. The explosion released a plume of deadly gas extending northeast from the blast site. This was the same chemical that was released in downtown Seattle on May 1. A casualty count from the second blast was not immediately known and evacuations are taking place.

“Make no mistake, we have taken significant and aggressive steps to increase our homeland defense posture readiness levels,” Boatner said. “Our command is working closely with officials at all levels of government to determine the nature of the incident and provide the appropriate response.

The President, in a statement issued at 1 p.m. EDT today, said “Federal, state, local, tribal, private sector and non-government organizations are working together to save lives and prevent suffering. The identities of those responsible currently remain unknown; however, we will find them and bring them to justice.”