

Source: Tape captures possible 2nd getaway car

Death toll at 118; search still going slowly for victims

By Michael J. Sniffen
The Associated Press

Timothy McVeigh's missing Arizona license plate appears on a mystery vehicle in a videotape taken just before the Oklahoma City bombing, and authorities believe the elusive "John Doe 2" may have used that vehicle for his getaway, a source told The Associated Press on Friday.

The FBI has asked for help finding Arizona plate LZC646, which was on McVeigh's yellow 1977 Mercury Marquis five days before the bombing but was missing from the car when he was stopped by a state trooper 75

minutes after the blast.

The videotape from a security camera shows another vehicle with the plate — not the Mercury — and also shows the Ryder truck believed to have carried the 4,800-pound bomb, said the source, a federal law enforcement official in Washington.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, would not describe the vehicle. But investigators suspect it was used in the getaway and even now may be in the possession of the missing suspect, the source said.

A third, more detailed sketch of the second bomber may be released within the next few days, the source added, as the investigation continues into the worst act of terrorism in U.S. history.

The death toll rose to 118 Friday, including 15 children.

During a preliminary hearing Thursday for McVeigh, FBI agent John Hershey testified that the agency is racing to find the second man because of fears he may strike again. He also said that one of several witnesses spotted a yellow car carrying McVeigh and another man speeding away from a parking lot near the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building before the blast.

At that hearing, McVeigh, 27, the only person charged so far in the April 19 bombing, was being held without bail based on what a federal magistrate called "an indelible trail of evidence."

At the building, a major part of the search was held up after a slab of concrete broke loose and slid into the area that held a Social Security office and day-care center, Assistant Fire

Chief Jon Hansen said.

Workers spent the afternoon rigging orange safety nets on the edges of the crumbled floors to keep debris from falling on searchers.

The Oklahoma bombing occurred on the two-year anniversary of the fiery end to the siege of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas. McVeigh, known to hold extreme right-wing views, was particularly agitated by the conduct of the federal government at Waco, an FBI affidavit said.

On Friday morning, about seven people from Waco brought three flow-

er-covered crosses to the demolished federal building. "We all have a common bond now, and it's terrible that it had to happen like this," said Amber King, who works at the Waco Wal-Mart.

In Washington, a senior federal official said investigators believe the bomb was composed of 20 to 25 plastic 55-gallon drums of "ANFO," ammonium nitrate and fuel oil, using detonating cord as a booster and a safety fuse.

Detonating cord is a powerful explosive used as a cutting tool; a safety fuse can be lit with a match and burns at a known rate of speed so a bomber can give himself time to get away.

Investigators also found fragments of metal high-pressure gas cylinders, which may have been filled with acetylene or hydrogen to add to the explosive power, the official said on

condition of anonymity.

The official said the bomb probably would have cost at most \$5,000 to make. Investigators are focusing on Kingman, Ariz., where McVeigh formerly lived, to discover how the money was raised. McVeigh was known to attend gun shows, and one possibility was that the plotters sold replica weapons and key chains with defensive sprays attached, the official said.

In Milan, Mich., a bail hearing for James Nichols, a material witness in the case who is being held without bail, was recessed until Tuesday with no change in Nichols' status. Both brothers have also been charged with conspiring with McVeigh to build and detonate homemade bombs at James Nichols' farm in Decker, Mich. Nichols' brother Terry is being held in Kansas as a material witness.

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