

McVeigh Tag On Mystery Car in Video May Have Been Driven By 2nd Suspect in Blast

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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 said.

The FBI has asked for help finding Arizona plate LZC 646, 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 and also shows the rental 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 may be in the possession of the second suspect, the source said.

Late Friday, police in Santa Monica, Calif., questioned an Oklahoma man detained for investigation of auto theft. Broadcast reports citing unidentified police sources said the man resembled sketches of the fugitive.

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

McVeigh, 27, has refused to talk to police, but when he was first jailed in Perry, Okla., before he was identified as a bombing suspect, he told other prisoners that the charge he faced involved a gun he bought in New York, a senior federal official said.

"He was trying to throw people off his Kansas connections," the official said.

At the blast site, 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 safety nets on the edges of the crumbled floors to keep debris from falling on searchers.

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.

Investigators also found fragments of metal high-pressure gas cylinders that 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.

FBI agent John Hersley testified Thursday at a preliminary hearing for McVeigh that a witness had seen McVeigh in Oklahoma City on April 13. On April 14, McVeigh checked into a motel in Junction City, Kan., where the government says the Ryder truck was rented.

A crumpled business card from an Antigo, Wis., military supply store that was found in the police car that carried McVeigh to jail also was providing new leads.

Investigators were looking into whether Ed Paulsen and his son David, of west suburban Melrose Park, had supplied the small explosive devices needed to set off the bomb, the Los Angeles Times reported. Ed Paulsen co-owns Paulsen's Military Supply with his wife, Linda.

Sources in Antigo said phone records show McVeigh made calls to the three Paulsens as far back as nine months ago. The sources were unable to say how many calls were made or how recently.

Richard Jorzak, the son's lawyer, said Thursday David Paulsen's name and phone number were on the card. He said all three Paulsens had been subpoenaed to testify May 2 before a federal grand jury in Oklahoma City.

Contributing: Los Angeles Times