FOIA Pictures of Bruce Ivins' Laboratory

Analyzed by
Ed Lake
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In response to a Freedom of Information Act request, on February 9, 2012, I received a CD from the FBI which contained 9 photos of Bruce Ivins' laboratory at Ft. Detrick. This is my analysis of those 9 photos. The photographs were all taken in the early morning hours of November 2, 2007, as part of a massive search of Ivins' lab, his office, his home, his vehicles and even his safe deposit box.

The lab is approximately 11 feet by 17 feet in size. In the floor plan diagram for Room B313 seen below, I have identified the four corners of the lab as A, B, C and D in order to better describe locations within the room. For example, the photo (#1) looking through the window in the door is not a right angle view of the door but is roughly looking toward corner B in the diagram.

Photo #1 - Door to Ivin's lab

The photo above shows the door from the central hallway of Suite B3 into Bruce Ivins' lab in room B313 of Building 1425. The room number can be seen above the door. The only biosafety cabinet in the lab can be seen on the other side of the door. Note that there is no door knob, and there's a "crash shield" at the bottom of the door which protects the door when it is pushed open by a cart full of equipment.
Photo #2 is a head-on view of the biosafety cabinet in room B313. Ivins' name is hand-written in white on the back of the chair, and also on what looks like a second backrest under the cabinet. The biosafety cabinet appears to be a "SterilGARD III - Advance" model SG603 which is 30 inches deep, 63 inches wide and 77 inches tall.

Photo #3 is Ivins' biosafety cabinet from slightly farther away and showing the items in the corner (corner B in the floor plan).

In the lower left corner of Photo #3, part of a centrifuge can be seen. The reflection on the right in the glass of the biosafety cabinet is of the cabinets at the opposite end of the room. The reflection on the left side of the glass should be of the front of the laboratory glassware washer, but, the washer appears to be covered with red tape and plastic, none of which are visible in a photo #9 showing the glassware washer.

Photo #3A - Cabinet Clock

The date/time clock on the biosafety cabinet shows that the photo was taken at 1:37 a.m. on Friday, November 2, 2007.

Photo #4 shows corner B but includes more of the equipment along the B-C wall.

The beige-colored machine with the round lid in the lower center of the photo is a Sorvall 5B superspeed centrifuge. (The model is obsolete.) An identical centrifuge can be seen on the other side of the metal
rack holding the 12 black objects, which appear to be storage bins with their open ends on the far side.

The boxes on the top shelf beyond the black containers are the same boxes that can be seen through the window in Photo #1.

The image above is nearly the same as Photo #4 but shows more of the centrifuge and an old, obsolete Labconco flask washer and scrubber. The sign saying "DIRTY" may indicate that it's not in working order.

The device on the shelf over the centrifuge is a Branson 2200 ultrasonic cleaner.

Photo #6 is a reverse view showing the same flask scrubber/washer with the Emerson radio/CD player atop it, except Photo #6 looks straight down the center of the lab and shows what is directly opposite the biosafety cabinet.

The Emerson CD-player and AM-FM radio has its antenna fully extended. It was probably used mostly as a radio, since taking CDs in and out of a BSL-3 lab could be problematic. Also, once such a device was taken into the BSL-3 lab, it was probably there to stay, since it could be a very complex matter to sterilize it in order to take it out of the BSL-3 suite.
This model Emerson CD player with AM FM radio is also sold as a *nanny cam*. So, Ivins *could* have been using a nanny cam to spy on his female associates.

The photo above is from an identical model Emerson radio. It suggests that the nanny cam's camera eye could be the black dot below the red on-off light. That black dot is supposed to be a light that turns on if the radio is in FM mode, but it seems it could be replaced by the camera lens. There doesn't seem any other likely place to have the camera eye.

This view shows an edge of the Revco freezer against the D-A wall, and that there's something else beyond it, but there's no way to tell how much room there is between the object (which appears to be a broken plastic tub) next to the freezer and the cabinets. One would assume that they would leave room to open the cabinet drawers, but it looks like there's no room at all.

A closeup view of the flasks on the counter or workspace along wall C-D shows flasks that appear to be decades old, but I'm told it just means the plastic outer coating on the flasks has deteriorated due to handling and wear. So, they're old, but not as old as the picture makes them appear.
Photo #8 - Revco Freezer

This view of the Revco freezer against the D-A wall doesn't provide much help to determining what is between the freezer and the cabinets off to the left. It appears that a pile of plastic sheeting has been placed in that space atop the broken plastic tub. That suggests that the tub and plastic sheeting are filling up the entire space.

Photo #8 also gives some idea of how far the glassware washer sticks out into the center of the room.

Photo #9 - Freezer & Washer

This view shows more of what I'm told is most likely a laboratory glassware washer & sterilizer. However, there is no photograph of the front of the device, which is evidently at the end facing the biosafety cabinet.

Photo #2A - Reflection in glass

The only views we have of the front of the glassware washer appear to be reflections in the glass of the biosafety cabinet, and they show a surface consisting of red stripes with wrinkled plastic between the stripes.

It could be that the front of the washer was removed for some reason, and the opening was covered with plastic and red tape.

Internet Photo #3 - Ivins in his lab

The Internet photo above gives a better idea of what is between the glassware washer and the biosafety cabinet. It looks like there's another piece of equipment there. A yellow tub filled with materials is setting atop it. But, it could also just be a shelf or table. And, it's possible the picture was taken before the glassware washer was installed.

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