

Ertl, John R.

**From:** Ertl, John R.  
**Sent:** Monday, July 03, 2006 10:30 AM  
**To:** Fassbender, Tom J.  
**Cc:** Zhang, Guang S.; Cates, Charles J.  
**Subject:** RE: Photos

MO5-2467

JRE

Tom,

I checked the contact prints of the photos we took at the scene and you are correct; there are none of the inside of the license plate vehicle and none of the burn pit. The reasoning is the same in both instances. We typically do not take photos to document a scene if the scene has knowingly been altered. In regards to the license plates, The fireman had reportedly unrolled at least one of the plates and they had been moved from their original positions. In regards to the burn pit, our involvement began with a request to use our sifting equipment. The scene had obviously been altered at that point.

Had we been working any of these scenes from start to finish, there would likely have been a more thorough photo record; however, under the circumstances, we were merely able to provide technical assistance, rather than complete scene processing.

Any evidence that we collected (including the license plates) was packaged by us, but inventoried and sealed by Calumet County.

John Ertl

**From:** Fassbender, Tom J.  
**Sent:** Friday, June 30, 2006 7:50 AM  
**To:** Ertl, John R.  
**Subject:** Photos

John,

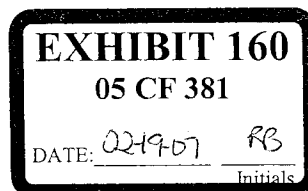
When you processed the vehicle that was found to contain the license plates of Halbach's RAV 4 did you take any photos of the inside of said vehicle? The DA has photos of the outside and surrounding area. According to records you turned over the license plates to Calumet County. If you know did you package them prior to turning them over?

Also, just confirming that you did not take any photos at the burn pit behind the garage where Halbach's bones were found. Why were no photos taken?

Thanks.

*Thomas J. Fassbender*  
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7/06/2006



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