

# **Leg Found in Okla. Blast Rubble Identified After Errors**

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OKLAHOMA CITY The leg found clad in a military boot in the rubble of the federal building bombing belongs to a previously identified victim, meaning the death toll may have to be lowered to 168, the medical examiner reported Friday.

The FBI used DNA and footprints to match the leg to Air Force Airman Lakesha Levy, 21, said Dr. Fred Jordan, the state medical examiner. That means that Levy was buried with the wrong left leg.

The discovery of the severed leg after the bombed-out federal building was demolished had led defense lawyers to speculate it may have belonged to "the real bomber" in the April 19 attack.

Now, Jordan's admission that his office erred in its identification of some remains is likely to give lawyers for defendants Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols ammunition against the prosecution's case.

McVeigh's lawyer, Stephen Jones, said the government's forensic evidence "appears to be moving in different directions like a weather vane in an Oklahoma stormy spring."

Jordan said his office staff apparently made three mistakes in identifying Levy's remains, including burying the wrong leg.

Also, the medical examiner's report erroneously said that leg was still attached, and that Levy was found with a combat boot on her left foot. Jordan said he believes the boot was actually on her right leg.

The leg - clad in a military-style boot and olive-drab strap used to tuck pants into the boot - was discovered in the rubble of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on May 30. Levy's body was found on April 27. Authorities did not publicly acknowledge the extra leg's existence until Aug. 7, after Jones suggested that it belonged to the "real bomber."

Initially, authorities said the leg belonged to a white man around 30. Three weeks later, citing more sophisticated tests, they said it belonged to a black woman between 16 and 30.

Those tests also showed that the leg did not match the victims with missing legs, and the death count was raised to 169.

Jordan hopes to exhume Levy's body in a few days for tests on the left leg buried with her. Then Jordan hopes to match that leg to one of the other victims.

"My gut feeling is that there were 168 people," the medical examiner said.

Jones said: "There is still no certainty whether the number of victims is 168 or 169 or some other number. Nor, do we know for certainty whether the leg belongs to Mrs. Levy, to an unidentified female or male or whether the individual was white or black. We have been told all three at one time or another."