

## **FBI Identifies Mystery Leg from Oklahoma City Bombing Rubble**

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OKLAHOMA CITY - The leg found clad in a military boot in the rubble of the Oklahoma 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 21-year-old Air Force Airman Lakesha Levy, 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 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 with her body.

Also, the medical examiner's report erroneously said that leg was still attached to the body by a piece of skin, and that Levy was found with a boot on her left foot. Jordan said he believes that the boot was actually on her right leg, which was still attached to her torso.

The leg was found in the rubble of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on May 30, more than a month after Levy's body was found on April 27. Authorities did not publicly acknowledge the leg's existence until Aug. 7, after Jones suggested that it belonged to the "real bomber."

The medical examiner hopes to exhume Levy's body in a few days for tests on the left leg buried with her. Then he hopes to match that leg to one of the eight victims found without all or part of their left legs.

"My gut feeling is that there were 168 people," Jordan 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."

Levy, a student in the laboratory technician training program at Tinker Air Force Base's hospital, was buried in New Orleans. Her family, notified about the leg Thursday, was in seclusion.