

# Review Ordered on McVeigh Ties

The  
Washington  
Post

**The Washington Post**

February 28, 2004

The FBI ordered a formal review yesterday of some aspects of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing investigation, reopening the question of whether Timothy J. McVeigh may have had more accomplices in the worst domestic terrorist attack in U.S. history.

The FBI ordered agents to determine why some documents reached neither the bureau's Oklahoma City task force during the original investigation nor McVeigh's lawyers before he was executed in 2001, officials said.

The review of evidence and documents will also try to determine whether FBI agents in a separate investigation of white supremacist bank robbers may have failed to alert the Oklahoma City investigation of a possible link between the robbers and McVeigh, and allowed some of that evidence to be destroyed.

The Associated Press reported Wednesday that documents never introduced at McVeigh's trial indicated that FBI agents destroyed evidence and failed to share other information that raised the possibility that a gang of white supremacist bank robbers may have assisted McVeigh.

The evidence includes documents showing that the Aryan Republican Army bank robbers possessed explosive blasting caps similar to those McVeigh stole and a driver's license with the name of a central player who was robbed in the Oklahoma City plot.

The documents do not prove that additional accomplices were involved -- blasting caps are plentiful, and the gang was expert in document fraud. But the FBI agent who ran the Oklahoma City investigation, Dan Defenbaugh, said his team never had a chance to investigate the evidence. He called for the probe to be reopened.

The April 19, 1995, bombing killed more than 160 people, and McVeigh was put to death for it in 2001. His co-defendant, Terry Nichols, will stand trial in Oklahoma next week on state charges that could carry the death penalty.

Nichols's attorneys asked on Thursday for the trial to be delayed in light of the AP story, but the judge refused.

FBI officials and Nichols's attorneys declined to comment last night, citing a gag order in the case.