# FBI expert wavers at Nichols' trial

## His earlier testimony on fingerprints was mistaken, he says

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McALESTER, Okla. — An FBI fingerprint examiner said Tuesday that he mistakenly testified earlier in the week that he had found Terry Nichols' prints on a piece of evidence in the Oklahoma City bombing case.

Under cross-examination, Louis Hupp said some of the prints were actually from executed killer Timothy McVeigh.

He also testified that fingerprint examiners uncovered more than 1,000 unidentified prints on the evidence but never tested them. He said it was assumed the prints would not be in the FBI's database, which at the time had prints from 35 million people.

Nichols is on trial on state murder charges that could bring the death penalty for his part in the blast at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995. The bombing killed 168 people.

His lawyers maintain that he was set up to take the fall for the bombing.

On Monday, Hupp testified that Nichols' palm prints were found on a handwritten map that supposedly showed the location of the building. But under cross-examination by the defense Tuesday, Hupp said the prints were McVeigh's.

Hupp also testified Monday that McVeigh's prints were found eight times on a lease agreement for a storage shed where bomb components allegedly were stored.

But a sheet prepared by the FBI showed there were only six prints from McVeigh.

"I can't explain what that was. It was an administrative error," Hupp said. "I take full responsibility for the clerical errors."

Nichols was convicted on federal charges in the bombing and is serving a life sentence. McVeigh was executed in 2001.