

FBI: We gave faulty evidence for 20yrs

FBI bosses have admitted they gave flawed laboratory evidence over 20 years of criminal trials.

Nearly every examiner in the bureau's microscopic hair comparison unit provided inaccurate testimony in 'almost all' trials in which they offered evidence against defendants

Forensics: FBI's lab hair tests were flawed

by **JOEL TAYLOR**



over a two-decade period before 2000, The Washington Post reported.

All but two of the 28 examiners overstated forensic matches in ways that favoured prosecutors in more than 95 per cent of the 268 trials reviewed, the newspaper said.

The FBI and Justice

Department said they were 'committed to ensuring that affected defendants are notified of past errors and that justice is done in every instance'.

According to the Post, FBI experts systematically testified to the near-certainty of 'matches' when in reality there is no accepted research on how often hair from different people may appear the same. The cases include those of 32 defendants sentenced to death; of those, 14 have been executed or died in prison, the paper said.