

TERRORISM

in the United States

1996

Counterterrorism Threat Assessment and Warning Unit
National Security Division

INTRODUCTION

United States soil was the site of three terrorist incidents during 1996. The pipe bomb explosion during the Summer Olympic Games in Centennial Olympic Park that killed two and the robberies and bombings carried out in April and July 1996 by members of a group known as the Phineas Priesthood underscored the ever-present threat that exists from individuals determined to use violence to advance particular causes.

The FBI successfully prevented five planned acts of domestic terrorism in 1996. These preventions thwarted attacks on law enforcement officials, prevented planned bombings of federal buildings, and halted plots to destroy domestic infrastructure.

The explosion of TWA Flight 800 over the Atlantic Ocean near Long Island, New York, on July 17, 1996, resulted in initial speculation that a terrorist attack may have been the cause and served to highlight the potential danger terrorists pose to U.S. civil aviation. The FBI, along with the National Transportation Safety Board, devoted significant resources to the criminal investigation throughout 1996. Evidence did not implicate a criminal or terrorist act by year's-end.

Threats from domestic terrorism continue to build as militia extremists, particularly those operating in the western United States, gain new adherents, stockpile weapons, and prepare for armed conflict with the federal government. The potential for domestic right-wing terrorism remains a threat. Special interest groups also endure as a threat that could surface at any time.

International terrorists threaten the United States directly. U.S. persons and property are targeted by state sponsors of international terrorism, formalized terrorist groups and loosely affiliated international radical terrorists.

Those who spawn and foster terrorist activities are becoming increasingly sophisticated in obtaining and transferring financial support and in planning future terrorist attacks. Despite the continued use of conventional weapons by terrorists, the possibility exists that unconventional weapons of a chemical, biological or nuclear nature could be employed in future attacks with devastating results on citizens, police, and emergency "first responders."

Federal law enforcement efforts received a significant boost with the passage of The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-132). This new law, signed by President Clinton on April 24, 1996, includes several new measures aimed at countering both domestic and international terrorism.

Finally, the success of the U.S. Government in arresting, prosecuting, and convicting perpetrators of past domestic and international terrorist acts may spark terrorist reprisals against citizens and property here in the United States.

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Terrorism in the United States: 1996 chronicles the results of the FBI's counterterrorism efforts.

Major trends and accomplishments in counterterrorism are presented, as well as the number of terrorist incidents and preventions. A current threat assessment and discussion of topical issues are also included. In addition, the report provides an overview of FBI responsibilities in the area of terrorism.

FBI POLICY AND GUIDELINES

- Domestic terrorism investigations are conducted in accordance with the *Attorney General Guidelines on General Crimes, Racketeering Enterprises, and Domestic Security/Terrorism Investigations*. These guidelines set forth the predication threshold and limits for investigation of crimes, including criminal activities in support of terrorist objectives.

- International terrorism investigations are conducted in accordance with the *Attorney General Guidelines for FBI Foreign Intelligence Collection and Foreign Counterintelligence Investigations*. These guidelines set forth the predication level and limits for intelligence collection through investigations of U.S. persons or foreign nationals in the United States who are targeting U.S. national security interests on behalf of a foreign power.

Terrorism is a crime under several existing federal statutes. There are several U.S. Code sections which define the criminality of terrorism (for example, 18 USC §2332b (g) (5), Acts of Terrorism Transcending National Boundaries; 18 USC §3077, Rewards for Information Concerning Terrorist Acts and Espionage; 18 USC §2331(1), Definition of "International Terrorism;" and 18 USC §921(a) (22), Firearms). Additionally, there are provisions in The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 which make fundraising for a terrorist organization a criminal offense and criminalize participation in international terrorist activities on U.S. soil. All suspected terrorists placed under arrest are provided access to legal counsel and normal judicial procedure, including Fifth Amendment privileges and a fair trial by judge and jury.

DEFINITIONS

There is no single definition of terrorism. The FBI defines terrorism as "the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."

The FBI further classifies terrorism as either domestic or international, depending on the origin, base, and objectives of the terrorist organization. For the purpose of this report, the FBI will use the following definitions:

- Domestic terrorism involves groups or individuals who are based and operate entirely within the United States and Puerto Rico without foreign direction and whose violent acts are directed at elements of the U.S. Government or population.
- International terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence committed by a group or individual, who has some connection to a foreign power or whose activities transcend national boundaries, against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.

THE FBI DIVIDES TERRORIST-RELATED ACTIVITY INTO THREE CATEGORIES:

- A terrorist incident is a violent act or an act dangerous to human life, in violation of the criminal laws of the United States, or of any state, to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof.
- A suspected terrorist incident is a potential act of terrorism in which responsibility for the act cannot be attributed at the time to a known or suspected terrorist group or individual.
- A terrorism prevention is a documented instance in which a violent act by a known or suspected terrorist group or individual with the means and a proven propensity for violence is successfully interdicted through investigative activity.

NOTE

The FBI investigates terrorism-related matters without regard to race, religion, national origin, or gender. Reference to individual members of any political, ethnic, or religious group in this report does not imply that all members of that group are terrorists. Terrorists represent a small criminal minority in any larger social context.

The 1996 Summer Olympic Games was the largest Olympics in history. Some 2 million visitors were drawn to Georgia for the Atlanta Olympics, while an additional 3.5 billion people worldwide watched the events on television. With 15,000 athletes representing 197 countries and numerous foreign heads of state in attendance, the Summer Olympic Games presented a unique security challenge.

At 1:20 a.m. (EDT) on July 27, 1996, a pipe bomb exploded at Centennial Olympic Park, a major attraction of the Olympic Games. The local 911 system received a telephone call warning of the impending bombing at 12:58 a.m.

Unfortunately, the warning did not allow sufficient time to locate and defuse the bomb, and a woman from Albany, Georgia, was killed. A Turkish cameraman suffered a fatal heart attack subsequent to the blast. The Fulton County (Georgia) Medical Examiner ruled his death a homicide, based on a determination that the heart attack was precipitated by the bombing. In addition, the blast injured 112 people.

Since then, a law enforcement task force has interviewed hundreds of witnesses, reviewed thousands of photographs and video tapes, and conducted extensive forensic analysis. The investigators determined that the bomb was placed under a bench in front of the National Broadcasting Company Tower between midnight and 12:45 a.m. The device was enclosed in a green, military-style backpack, commonly known as an "Alice pack." The case remains a high priority, and the FBI is offering a reward of up to \$500,000 for information, photos, or videotape leading to the arrest and conviction of the bomber(s).

The second terrorist incident of 1996 occurred on April 1, 1996, with bombings and a bank robbery designed to further the goals of a group known as the Phineas Priesthood, a violent subset of the white separatist Christian Identity Movement. On that day, a pipe bomb exploded in Spokane, Washington, at the Valley Branch of *The Spokesman-Review* newspaper. Approximately ten minutes later, a branch of

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IN
REVIEW

the U.S. Bank in Spokane was robbed of \$50,000 in a take-over style robbery. At the conclusion of the bank robbery, one of the perpetrators lit a pipe bomb. Both robbers then shouted that their actions were in retaliation for maltreatment of the members of the Freemen Organization by federal authorities.

Approximately three months later, on July 12, 1996, two armed males placed a pipe bomb at the Planned Parenthood office in Spokane, Washington. The pipe bomb caused extensive damage to the building. Loss of life and injury to persons was avoided in this third terrorist act of the year because the office was unoccupied at the time the bomb detonated. Minutes later, the same branch of the U.S. Bank that was robbed on April 1, 1996, was taken over by three heavily armed, masked men. The robbers carried an AK-47, a 12- gauge shotgun, a revolver, and a 25-pound propane tank bomb.

The FBI identified Robert Sherman Berry, Charles Harrison Barbee, and Verne Jay Merrell as suspects in the bombings and robberies. The spree of terrorist bombings and robberies ended when the FBI arrested Berry, Barbee, and Merrell on October 8, 1996, near Yakima, Washington. At the time of their arrests, Berry, Barbee, and Merrell possessed

The year 1996 also included the prevention of five planned acts of terrorism. These acts were directed against local law enforcement officials in Montana, an FBI facility in West Virginia, communications and transportation infrastructure, and banking facilities in Washington state.

several handguns, rifles, and hand grenades, as well as a letter that was identical to those left at the scenes of the previous crimes. These letters espoused the domestic terrorism philosophy of the Phineas Priesthood. Phineas members allegedly conspired to conduct bank robberies as a method of funding their cause and viewed murder as biblical justification for restoring “God’s law.” Subsequent searches of the subjects’ homes and businesses revealed a small arsenal of weaponry and gear.

A fourth member of the “Phineas Priesthood” conspiracy, Brian Ratigan, allegedly planted the pipe bomb that exploded in the Planned Parenthood Clinic on July 12, 1996. He was also said to be a participant in the robbery of the U.S. Bank on the same day. Ratigan did not participate in the April 1, 1996 terrorist incident with Berry, Barbee, and Merrell. At the time his three co-conspirators were arrested, Ratigan was not present. He was arrested by the FBI some five months later.

The efforts expended by the FBI and local law enforcement in preventing these domestic acts of violence resulted in savings of lives, property, and capital investments and thereby enhanced the safety of the citizenry.

Success in fighting terrorism was notably achieved in 1996 in the courtroom. Using the machinery of the criminal justice system, the U.S. Government oversaw the successful prosecution



and conviction of a number of major terrorist leaders who committed acts of planned terror against U.S. persons and property, both at home and abroad. In 1996, alleged World Trade Center bomber and mastermind Ramzi Ahmed Yousef was convicted on conspiracy charges for plotting to bomb U.S. airliners in the Far East; Shaykh Omar Abdel Rahman and nine co-defendants were sentenced for conspiring to bomb New York City landmarks and assassinate political leaders; Abu Nidal Organization member Muhammed Ali Rezaq was sentenced to life in prison for his role in the 1985 hijacking of an Egyptian airliner; and Tsutomu Shiroasaki, an alleged adherent of the Japanese Red Army, was arraigned in Washington, D.C., on charges stemming from the May 14, 1986 firing of a rocket launcher at the U.S. Embassy in Indonesia.

Domestically, Ray Willie Lampley and three co-conspirators were found guilty of conspiring to build and possess a bomb in connection with planned attacks on civil rights offices, abortion clinics, and federal buildings. Edward Nicholas Laurent Flinton, a fugitive and alleged member of the Jama'at al-Fuqra (FUQRA) Sunni Muslim radical sect, was arrested on charges relating to violations of the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act.

Also in 1996, the FBI successfully concluded a stand-off involving members of the Freemen Organization in Montana. For 81 days in 1996, 16

inhabitants of the Freemen's "Justus Township" held federal law enforcement officials at bay following the arrest of two of the group's leaders on various charges, including mail and bank fraud, interference with commerce by threat of violence, and the carrying of firearms during a crime of violence.

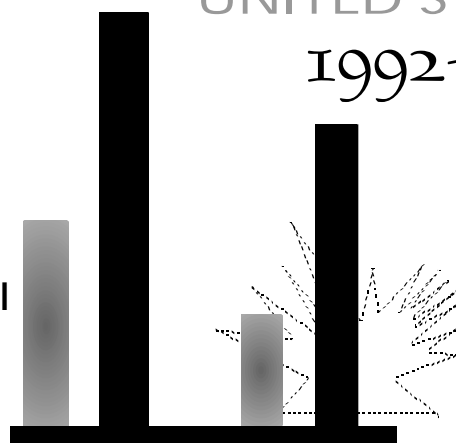
Of significant note in the last year, the FBI established its Domestic Counterterrorism Center. The Center concept is designed to have FBI Special Agents and Intelligence Analysts work closely with personnel from other federal law enforcement agencies, intelligence organizations, military branches, and federal departments. This interaction has increased the ability of the U.S. Government to counter domestic terrorism at home, as well as terrorism emanating from abroad.

On April 24, 1996, President Clinton signed The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (PL 104-132) which provides federal law enforcement officials with new tools to fight domestic and international terrorists. Highlights of the law include measures that block terrorist groups from fundraising in the United States, enhance the powers of the federal government to deny visas to persons belonging to groups that have been designated as terrorist, and simplify the process for deporting aliens convicted of crimes. The new law also bans all U.S. aid to countries that provide assistance or military equipment to terrorist states,

PREVENTIONS

During 1996, the FBI, working in conjunction with state and local law enforcement, prevented five major planned acts of domestic terrorism aimed at public officials, federal buildings, banking institutions, and the railroad system

TERRORIST PREVENTIONS in the UNITED STATES 1992-1996



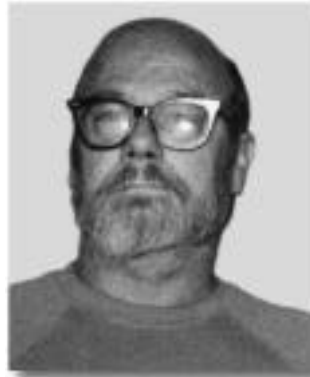
provides enhanced standing to allow U.S. citizens to sue foreign nations in federal court for terrorist acts committed against U.S. nationals abroad, and authorizes approximately \$1 billion over a four-year period to strengthen federal law enforcement efforts in the fight against terrorism. Finally, the omnibus law broadens federal jurisdiction over crimes linked to terrorism and includes new federal criminal status for participating in international terrorist activities on U.S. soil.

THE FREEMEN ORGANIZATION

On March 25, 1996, the FBI arrested two members of the Freeman Organization, Leroy Schweitzer and Rodney Skurdal, near Brusett, Montana. The Freeman consider themselves to be “sovereign citizens” and not bound by the laws of the United States. Members of the Freeman filed illegal liens on local, state, and federal property; set up their own court system; and offered rewards for the arrests of local and federal officials. The group additionally produced and utilized forged financial instruments, mostly in the form of money orders. Following the March 25, 1996 arrests, several other members of the Freeman group, including women and children, barricaded themselves on a ranch near Brusett, which they called “Justus Township.” On June 13, 1996, the FBI successfully negotiated a peaceful end to the 81-day stand-off as the 16 remaining Freeman on the compound surrendered to the FBI. The arrests of Schweitzer and Skurdal deterred planned acts of terrorism against two local law enforcement officials.

THE MOUNTAINEER MILITIA

On October 11, 1996, the FBI arrested Floyd Raymond Looker, commanding general of The Mountaineer Militia (TMM), a right-wing paramilitary organization based in north-central West Virginia. After exchanging a package containing photographs of blueprints of the FBI’s Criminal Justice Information Services facility at Clarksburg, West Virginia, and receiving an envelope containing \$50,000 from an undercover FBI Special Agent, Looker was taken into custody. The Special Agent posed as a broker for an international terrorist organization. Also arrested as a result of the investigation were James Richard Rogers, Terrell Coon, Jack Phillips, and Edward Moore, all members of TMM. Ohio Unorganized Militia-member James M. Johnson and his associate Imam Lewis were also arrested.



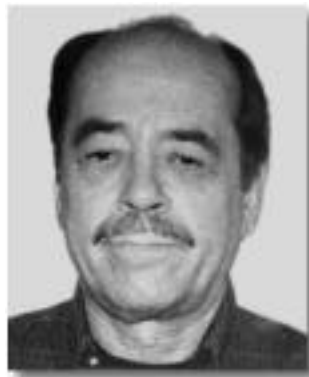
■ JACK PHILLIPS



■ JAMES “RICH” ROGERS



■ JAMES M. JOHNSON



■ EDWARD F. MOORE



■ IMAM A. LEWIS



■ FLOYD RAYMOND “RAY” LOOKER

FBI Special Agents executed search warrants, thus enabling them to recover items of evidentiary interest, including C-4 plastic explosives, chemicals used in making bombs, detonator cord, and blasting caps. Also seized were more than 50,000 rounds of ammunition; thirty-three shoulder weapons, including a .50 caliber sniper rifle; and an Uzi-submachine gun.

The arrests of the militia members involved in the conspiracy, and the possession and transfer of illegal weapons were accomplished before any destruction took place at the FBI facility.

WASHINGTON STATE MILITIA

On July 27, 1996, FBI Special Agents and Bellingham (Washington) police arrested eight individuals following the recovery and disarmament of pipe bombs and other explosive devices built by members of the group. The subjects had discussed plans to bomb various targets, including a radio tower, a bridge, and a train tunnel while a train was inside. The particular tunnel the group mentioned is utilized by freight trains and Amtrak passenger trains.

During the arrests, authorities seized two fully automatic machine guns the defendants had made in expectation of a showdown with law enforcement authorities. All subjects were charged with conspiracy to possess and manufacture illegal firearms and destructive devices. The arrested suspects were affiliated with the Washington State Militia, including John Pitner, the leader of the group.

Special Agents arrested five of the suspects in Bellingham, Washington, before they could finalize plans to commit a bombing. The undercover investigation of the group culminated with raids on three homes in the Seattle and Bellingham, Washington areas.



■ PIPE BOMBS



■ CHARLES BARBEE



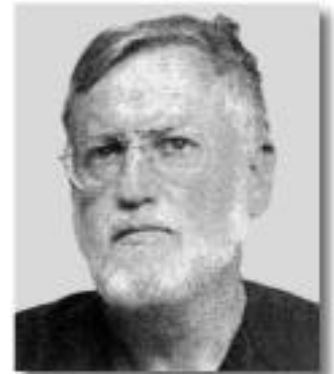
■ ROBERT S. BERRY

PHINEAS PRIESTHOOD

FBI Special Agents prevented the robbery of a U.S. Bank branch in Portland, Oregon, on October 7, 1996. One day later, Phineas Priesthood members Robert Sherman Berry, Charles Harrison Barbee, and Verne Jay Merrell were arrested by the FBI and accused of waging a six-month terrorist campaign.

While under surveillance by the FBI on October 7, 1996, Berry, Barbee, and Merrell were observed casing the Portland branch of the U.S. Bank. The men began making preparations to rob the bank, employing methods identical to those used in two previous robberies of a U.S. Bank branch in Spokane, Washington. FBI Special Agents responded proactively, and the three subjects aborted the planned robbery. Searches of the vehicles used by the men revealed machine guns, body armor, ski masks, and grenades.

Berry, Barbee, and Merrell had committed previous criminal acts of domestic terrorism and were preparing to commit another when arrested. Their final attempted criminal act of 1996 would have involved a bank robbery and possibly the detonation of grenades (in keeping with their previous practice of exploding pipe bombs). Brian Ratigan, the fourth member of a conspiracy of "Phineas Priests" was charged with Berry, Barbee, and Merrell in a prior crimi-



■ VERNE JAY MERRELL

nal act of domestic terrorism. Ratigan was not with the three on October 7, 1996, when the robbery of the U.S. Bank was prevented.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The U.S. Government was highly successful during 1996 in the prosecution and conviction of foreign and domestic terrorists who perpetrated deadly acts aimed at U.S. citizens and property. The FBI's major accomplishments in 1996 included the conviction of Ramzi Ahmed Yousef for conspiracy to bomb U.S. airliners in the Far East, the sentencing of Shaykh Omar Abdel Rahman for terrorist acts intended to create chaos and disrupt life in New York City, and the conviction and sentencing of Muhammed Ali Rezaq for the offense of air piracy as related to the hijacking of EgyptAir Flight 648. Other successes included the arraignment of a suspected Japanese Red Army member for attacks on the U.S. Embassy in Indonesia and the convictions of Ray Willie Lampley and Edward Nicholas Laurent Flinton for the commission of domestic acts of terrorism. With the convictions and sentencing of these high-profile individuals, the FBI continued to fight the spread of terrorism through legal recourse in the courtroom. This segment highlights these accomplishments.

YUSEF SENTENCING

During early January 1995, FBI investigation determined that suspected World Trade Center (WTC) mastermind Ramzi Ahmed Yousef was in the Philippines, where he was organizing a conspiracy to bomb U.S. commercial aircraft transiting the Far East region.

On February 7, 1995, an FBI arrest team located and arrested Yousef in Islamabad, Pakistan. He was transported back to New York City and arraigned on charges relating to the WTC bombing. On April 12, 1995, Yousef was indicted in the Southern District of New York for conspiracy to bomb U.S. airliners. Yousef was convicted on all counts of conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism worldwide on September 5, 1996. Sentencing will take place in 1997. The trial of Yousef on WTC bombing-related charges was also scheduled to begin in 1997.

SHAYKH RAHMAN SENTENCING

During an intensive four-month investigation in 1993, the FBI uncovered a plot to bomb several New York City locations, including the United Nations Building, 26 Federal Plaza which houses the New York Office of the FBI, and the Lincoln and Holland tunnels, as well as plans to assassinate several prominent political figures, including Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The investigation culminated with the arrest of 15 individuals over a two-month period for participation in seditious conspiracy against the Government of the United States. One of the subjects arrested, Shaykh Omar Abdel Rahman, is the spiritual leader of the Al-Gama'a Al-Islamiyya, an Egyptian-based international radical terrorist organization.

During 1994, one defendant pled guilty and agreed to cooperate with the U.S. Government, one defendant pled guilty to lesser charges, and one defendant was severed from the case.

One defendant pled guilty to the indictment and one pled guilty to lesser charges, in 1995. Both agreed to cooperate with the U.S. Government.

On October 1, 1995, the remaining 10 defendants, including Shaykh Rahman, were convicted in the Southern District of New York of seditious conspiracy for forcibly opposing the U.S. Government through the commission and planning of terrorist acts.

On January 17, 1996, the 10 defendants were sentenced for their roles in the seditious conspiracy. The sentences ranged from 25 years to life imprisonment.

ABOUHALIMA INDICTMENT

On September 18, 1996, an indictment was unsealed in Federal District Court in Manhattan charging Mohammed Abouhalima with helping his brother flee the United States days after the February 26, 1993 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. The brother, Mahmud Abouhalima, was arrested in his native Egypt weeks after the bombing and was eventually sentenced to 240 years in prison for his role in the attack in the same Federal Court in Manhattan. According to the indictment, Mohammed Abouhalima allegedly drove his brother to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport for a flight overseas to help

him avoid arrest in connection with the bombing. If convicted, Abouhalima could face 15 years in prison.

REZAQ CONVICTION AND SENTENCING



■ MUHAMMED ALI REZAQ

On July 19, 1996, Muhammed Ali Rezaq was convicted of Air Piracy for his role in the 1985 terrorist hijacking of EgyptAir Flight 648. Rezaq, a member of the Abu Nidal Organization, systematically shot two Israeli and three American passengers in the head following the hijacking. One American and one Israeli died. Fifty-eight people in all died as the result of this terrorist incident. Rezaq was sentenced by a U.S. District Court to life in prison on October 7, 1996.

MOUSA ABU MARZOOK

On May 8, 1996, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York ruled that Mousa Abu Marzook, a leader of the Palestinian extremist group known as the Islamic Resistance Movement, or HAMAS, could be extradited to Israel. The ruling was upheld on October 9, 1996, by a U.S. District Judge. (At the time of publication of this issue, resolution had not been reached on whether Marzook would be extradited from the United States to Israel to stand trial.)

The case was initiated on July 25, 1995, when the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service detained Marzook at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport for suspected terrorist activity. Based on additional information provided by the FBI and the Israeli Government, the Court issued a provisional arrest warrant for Marzook.

On October 5, 1995, the Israeli Government formally filed for the extradition of Marzook to Israel to stand trial on charges of conspiracy to commit murder and other offenses related to a series of terrorist bombings in Israel over the previous five years.

RENDITION OF JAPANESE RED ARMY MEMBER, TSUTOMU SHIROSAKI

On May 14, 1986, two projectiles containing a high explosive were fired from a rocket launcher at the U.S. Embassy compound in Jakarta, Indonesia. The projectiles failed to explode when they landed on the roof and courtyard of the Embassy compound.

The U.S. Government charged Tsutomu Shirosaki, an alleged member of the Japanese Red Army, for his role in the attempted bombing. Shirosaki was taken into custody abroad and turned over to the FBI on September 21, 1996, for removal to the United States.

Shirosaki was arraigned in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., on September 30, 1996. He is presently awaiting trial.



■ TSUTOMU SHIROSAKI

GUILTY VERDICT FOR RAY WILLIE LAMPLEY

On April 24, 1996, a court convicted Ray Willie Lampley, his wife Cecilia Lampley, John Baird, and Larry Wayne Crow of one count of conspiring to build and possess a destructive device. Ray Lampley and John Baird were also found guilty of carrying a firearm during the commission of a violent crime. Crow was sentenced on April 24, 1996, for his part in the conspiracy. Crow had pled guilty to felony charges in February 1996 and testified against the other subjects. Crow received three years probation, six months community confinement, and 100 hours of community service. On July 10, 1996, Lampley, his wife and Baird were sentenced to prison terms of eleven and one-half years, four and one-half years, and ten years, respectively.

At the time of the November 11, 1995 arrest, Lampley possessed all the components to make an ammonium nitrate explosive, including a home-made detonating device.

Lampley and his co-conspirators plotted to destroy various buildings, including the Southern Poverty Law Center located in Montgomery, Alabama; a B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League office; and several unspecified federal buildings.



■ RAY WILLIE LAMPLEY



■ CECILIA KAY LAMPLEY

Lampley is a self-proclaimed “Prophet of the Most High” and militia leader with virulent anti-government views. He wrote letters to public figures prophesying their deaths as divine retribution for what he said were their “corrupt actions.” Lampley also indicated a desire to stockpile homemade bombs and other weapons to fight a “foreign invasion.”



■ LARRY CROW

ARREST OF EDWARD NICHOLAS LAURENT FLINTON

On September 12, 1996, the FBI arrested fugitive Edward Nicholas Laurent Flinton in a trailer park in Lake City, South Carolina. Flinton is a member of a radical Sunni Muslim sect known as Jama'at al-Fuqra (FUQRA) that is dedicated to purifying Islam through violence. His fugitive status stemmed from a violation of the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act on various charges, including racketeering; conspiracy involving the August 1, 1984 arson of a Denver Hare Krishna temple; and the January 30, 1990 murder of Rashid Khalifa, a controversial Muslim religious leader.

Flinton is presently being detained in Denver, Colorado, where he is awaiting trial.

The year 1996 witnessed a dramatic bombing that occurred during the Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, a series of terrorist bombings and bank robberies in Washington state, and numerous terrorist-related events. These events included law enforcement prevention actions, along with legal activity aimed at punishing those convicted of acts of terrorism perpetrated on U.S. soil or directed at U.S. citizens.

GEORGIA

BOMBING AT CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC PARK

The Summer Olympic Games presented special security concerns due to the magnitude of the Games and the widespread international participation in the event. Eight days into the Olympic Games, a terrorist incident occurred.

A pipe bomb exploded in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park on July 27, 1996. The park was a major attraction but was not a venue site of the Olympic Games. At the time of the bombing, the park was crowded with tourists who were attending a concert featuring several bands.

One individual died as a direct result of the explosion, and a Turkish cameraman suffered a fatal heart attack that was attributable to the bombing. Persons in the park injured by the blast numbered 112.

FBI investigation has determined that a bomb placed under a bench in front of the National Broadcasting Company Tower between midnight and 12:45 a.m. was responsible for the blast. The case remains a high priority for the FBI.

NEW YORK

WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBERS CONVICTED

On September 5, 1996, Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, Abdul Murad, and Wali Khan Amin Shah were convicted in the Southern District of New York on all counts for their roles in the conspiracy to blow up American commercial airliners transiting the Far East.

The origins of the case date back to February 26, 1993, when a massive explosion occurred on the B-2 level of the parking garage at the World Trade Center (WTC) complex in New York City, killing six people and injuring over 1,000. Property damage amounted to over half a billion dollars. FBI investigation determined that the bomb consisted of roughly 1,200 pounds of explosives. Immediately following the bombing, the FBI and other law enforcement agencies launched a massive coordinated effort to process the crime scene and determine who was responsible for the terrorist incident.

In early January 1995, FBI investigation determined that Yousef, the alleged mastermind of the WTC bombing, was in the Philippines organizing a conspiracy to bomb U.S. commercial aircraft flying in the Far East. On February 7, 1995, an FBI arrest team, working with Diplomatic Security Service Officers of the U.S. Department of State, located and arrested Yousef in Islamabad, Pakistan. He was immediately transported back to New York City, arraigned on WTC bombing charges, and indicted in April 1995 on charges relating to the plot to bomb U.S. airliners.

Yousef is scheduled to go on trial for the WTC bombing in 1997.

SENTENCING OF SHAYKH FOR NEW YORK CITY BOMB PLOT

On January 17, 1996, sentencing occurred for Shaykh Omar Abdel Rahman and nine co-defendants in the Southern District of New York for their roles in a 1993 plot to bomb the United Nations building, the New York Office of the FBI, and the Lincoln and Holland tunnels. The sentences ranged from 25 years to life imprisonment.

This terrorist plot to disrupt life in New York City was uncovered following an intensive FBI investigation involving the FBI/New York City Police Department Joint Terrorism Task Force, as well as FBI offices in Newark and Philadelphia. Shaykh Rahman and his followers plotted the bombing campaign as well as the assassination of several prominent political figures.

Rahman is the spiritual leader of the Al-Gama'a Al-Islamiyya, an Egyptian-based international radical terrorist organization.

INDICTMENT OF WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBER'S BROTHER

Mohammed Abouhalima was indicted in Federal District Court in Manhattan in July 1996. The indictment was formally unsealed on September 18, 1996. Abouhalima is the brother of one of the four men convicted of bombing the World Trade Center and was himself charged with helping his brother flee the United States days after the attack.

MONTANA

FREEMEN STANDOFF

On March 25, 1996, the FBI arrested Leroy M. Schweitzer and Daniel Peterson near Brusett, Montana. Charges against the two included mail and bank fraud, interference with commerce by threat of violence, aiding and abetting, carrying firearms during a crime of violence, and other

firearms-related charges. Schweitzer and Peterson were leaders of the Freemen, a small group of individuals in central Montana who hold strong feelings against the U.S. Government. Individuals most active in the group had experienced severe financial problems, and many of their properties were the subject of foreclosure proceedings. These experiences led members to view themselves as “sovereign citizens” and a law unto themselves. Their arrest sparked an 81-day stand-off which pitted the 16 remaining Freemen inhabitants of the “Justus Township” compound against federal law enforcement officials.

Members of the Freemen Organization engaged in “paper terrorism” by clogging legal and financial institutions in Montana with phoney documents such as illegal liens on property and forged money orders. Soon the group escalated their tactics by threatening government employees and conducting court proceedings in their own common law courts. During 1994, Freemen-generated documents were circulated in parts of Montana, offering a bounty of \$1 million for the arrest and conviction of the Garfield County prosecutor and sheriff as well as other local government officials.

The stand-off, which began on March 26, 1996, was peacefully concluded on June 13, 1996, with the surrender of 16 individuals.

WEST VIRGINIA

MOUNTAINEER MILITIA MEMBERS ARRESTED

On October 11, 1996, Floyd Raymond Looker was arrested in north-central West Virginia. Looker is the commanding general of a right-wing paramilitary organization known as The Mountaineer Militia.

The group obtained blueprints of the FBI’s Criminal Justice Information Services facility in West Virginia and attempted to sell the plans to another terrorist organization. When arrested, Looker had just received \$50,000 for the blueprints from an undercover FBI Special Agent posing as a frontman for a terrorist group.

The Mountaineer Militia had been under investigation for possession and interstate transportation of explosive materials. The investigation revealed that the group possessed unlicensed automatic weapons and silencers.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

REZAQ SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON

On June 17, 1996, the trial of Abu Nidal Organization terrorist Omar Mohammad Ali Rezaq commenced in Washington, D.C. On July 19, 1996, Rezaq was convicted on charges of Air Piracy, and on October 7, 1996, he was sentenced to life in prison.

Rezaq’s trial resulted from the November 23, 1985 terrorist hijacking of EgyptAir Flight 648 en route from Athens, Greece, to Cairo, Egypt. Upon landing in Malta, Rezaq shot two Israeli and three American passengers in the head and dumped their bodies on the tarmac. Two of these shooting victims, one American and one Israeli, died. On November 24, 1985, Egyptian commandoes stormed the aircraft in a rescue attempt. However, in the ensuing chaos, 58 passengers were shot or burned to death aboard the aircraft. On July 15, 1993, an FBI arrest team took Rezaq into custody in Lagos, Nigeria, and brought him back to the United States to stand trial on Air Piracy charges.

EMBASSY ATTACKER APPREHENDED

The apprehension of Tsutomu Shiroasaki, a Japanese Red Army member, occurred abroad on September 21, 1996. Shiroasaki allegedly launched two explosives at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta and onto the Embassy grounds on May 14, 1986.

The FBI returned Shiroasaki to the United States where he was arraigned on September 30, 1996, in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Charges against Shiroasaki include assault with intent to murder, attempted murder of internationally-protected persons, and attempted destruction of buildings.

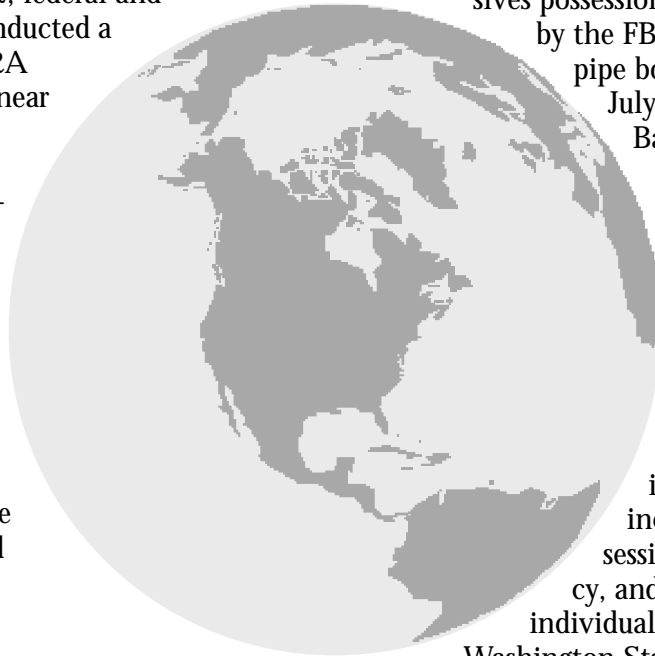
SOUTH CAROLINA

FUQRA TERRORIST FUGITIVE CAPTURED

On September 12, 1996, the Columbia FBI Field Office arrested Edward Nicholas Laurent Flinton, also known as Edward Solomon Katz and William Alfred Lemay, in Lake City, South Carolina. Flinton, a fugitive at the time and member of the Sunni Muslim radical sect known as Jama'at al-Fuqra (FUQRA), faced charges under the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act for racketeering, conspiracy, arson, and murder.

The search of a storage locker on September 14, 1989, by the Colorado Springs Police Department produced various documents and photographs identifying targets and describing methods of attack. On October 8, 1992, federal and state authorities conducted a search of the FUQRA mountain property near Buena Vista, Colorado.

This search produced additional documents as well as a cache of weapons, which resulted in the indictment of seven additional individuals charged with violation of the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act.



building belonging to Spokane's *The Spokesman-Review* newspaper, and on July 12, a pipe bomb exploded at an abortion clinic. No one was injured in either bombing, but there was significant property damage. Law enforcement officials discovered white supremacist Phineas Priesthood documents at both crime scenes. These documents made clear that the bombings and robberies were perpetrated in furtherance of the goals of this violent group.

On October 8, 1996, the FBI and the Spokane Task Force members arrested Robert Berry, Charles Barbee, and Verne Merrill. (The Task Force was created specifically for this case.) The three were charged with attempted bank robbery and explosives possession. Brian Ratigan was later arrested by the FBI and charged with planting the pipe bomb at the abortion clinic and the July 12, 1996 robbery of the U.S. Bank.

WASHINGTON STATE BOMB PLOTTER ARRESTED

On July 27, 1996, the FBI's Seattle Division arrested eight individuals near Bellingham, Washington, charging them with offenses which included the manufacture and possession of explosive devices, conspiracy, and transfer of illegal weapons. These individuals, who are affiliated with the Washington State Militia, discussed plans to bomb various targets, including a bridge, a railroad tunnel used by freight trains and Amtrak, and a radio tower. Although no specific time frame was set for the attacks, one leader of the group indicated that it would take place in retaliation for the U.S. Government relinquishing control to the United Nations.

The arrests of group members involved in the conspiracy occurred before final plans were made for the bombing campaign.

WASHINGTON

PHINEAS PRIESTHOOD ACTS OF TERRORISM

On April 1, and July 12, 1996, members of what is believed to be a white separatist Phineas Priesthood cell robbed the same branch of the U.S. Bank. Both robberies were preceded by bombings by the cell. On April 1, a bombing took place at a

The terrorist threat in the United States is composed of two separate components: domestic terrorists and foreign terrorists. Each presents a separate and distinct threat.

The current domestic terrorist threat stems in part from the rise of the militia movement in the United States. Several factors have contributed to the growth of this movement, including gun-control legislation, fears of increased United Nations involvement in domestic affairs, and several recent clashes between right-wing groups and law enforcement.

Concurrently, the FBI has seen an increase in activities among extremists associated with right-wing groups and special interest organizations. Right-wing terrorists are usually guided by racist or anti-Semitic philosophy and are concerned with ensuring the survival of the white race and/or the United States.

Traditional left-wing domestic extremism has continued to decline from the levels seen in previous years.

CURRENT THREAT 1996

DOMESTIC TERRORISM

Domestic terrorism involves groups or individuals who are based and operate entirely within the United States and its territories, and are directed at elements of the U.S. Government or population, without foreign influence. Domestic terrorist groups represent right-wing, left-wing, and special interest beliefs. Their causes spring from issues relating to American political and social concerns.

Domestic terrorism investigations are conducted in accordance with the *Attorney General Guidelines on General Crimes, Racketeering Enterprises, and Domestic Security/Terrorism Investigations*. These guidelines govern the justification, elements, and duration of FBI investigations.

RIGHT-WING TERRORISM

The major themes espoused today by right-wing groups are conspiracies, such as the New World Order and gun-control laws, apocalyptic views stemming from the approach of the millennium, and white supremacy. Many right-wing extremist groups also articulate antigovernment and/or anti-taxation and anti-abortion sentiments, and engage in survivalist and/or paramilitary training to ensure the survival of the United States as a white, Christian nation. A convergence of ideas has occurred among right-wing white supremacist groups. Efforts have been made by these groups to reduce openly racist views in order to appeal to a broader segment of the population and to focus more attention on antigovernment rhetoric and resistance to anti-Christian court decisions.

Many extremist right-wing organizations generally operate through political involvement within the established system. Most activity is verbal and is protected by the First Amendment right of free speech. Adherents of extremist organizations are generally law-abiding citizens who have become intolerant of what they perceive to be violations of their constitutional rights. Certain extremists, however, such as members of the "militia" or "patriot" movement are unable to work within existing structures of government. These activists wish to remove federal involvement from a host of issues. For example, some militia members do not identify themselves as U.S. citizens and refuse to pay federal income taxes.

Membership in a militia organization is not an illegal activity in the United States. FBI interest in the militia movement is based upon the rise of violence or potential for violence or criminal activity stemming from the militia movement.

Militias are typically loose knit in nature. Adherents often are members of multiple groups, and because leaders of these groups tend to greatly inflate membership levels, actual group size is difficult to determine.

The most ominous aspect of the militias is the conviction, openly expressed by many members, that an impending armed conflict with the federal government necessitates paramilitary training and the stockpiling of weapons. Some militia members believe that federal authorities are enacting gun-control legislation in order to make it impossible for

the people to resist the imposition of a "tyrannical regime" or a "one-world dictatorship." Many militia supporters believe that the conspiracy involves the United Nations as well as federal authorities.

The growth of the militia movement is traced, in part, to an effective communications system. Organizers promote their ideology not only at militia meetings, but at gun shows, patriot rallies, and gatherings of various other groups espousing antigovernment sentiments. Video tapes, computer bulletin boards, and networks such as the Internet are used with great effectiveness by militia sympathizers. Exploiting yet another medium, pro-militia fax networks disseminate material from well-known hate-group figures and conspiracy theorists.

Another phenomenon related to militias is the establishment of so-called "Common Law Courts." These courts, which have no legitimate legal basis, have self-appointed judges and juries, and have issued nonbinding "indictments" or "warrants" against law enforcement and government officials who have investigated or served them legal papers.

LEFT-WING TERRORISM

The United States still faces a threat from some leftist extremists, including Puerto Rican terrorist groups. Although Puerto Rico voted in 1993 to remain within the U.S. Commonwealth, some extremists are still willing to plan and conduct terrorist acts in order to draw attention to their desire for independence.

Left-wing groups generally profess a revolutionary socialist doctrine and view themselves as protectors of the American people against capitalism and imperialism. They aim to bring about a change in the United States and believe that this can only be accomplished through revolution, such as well-orchestrated criminal actions rather than participation in the established political process.

In the past, left-wing terrorist groups have claimed credit for numerous bombing attacks in the United States and Puerto Rico. These attacks have targeted military facilities, corporate offices, and federal buildings. Such groups believe that bombings alone will not result in change, but they are tools to gain publicity for their cause and thereby earn the support of the masses.

Over the last three decades, leftist-oriented

extremist groups posed the predominant domestic terrorist threat in the United States. In the 1980s, the FBI dismantled many of these groups by arresting key members who were conducting criminal activity. The dissolution of the Soviet Union also deprived many leftist groups of a coherent ideology or spiritual patron. As a result, membership and support for these groups has waned, and the threat has diminished.

SPECIAL INTEREST TERRORISM

“Special Interest” terrorism differs from traditional left-wing and right-wing terrorism since specific interest resolutions are sought, rather than widespread political changes. Some of the special interests of these groups include animal rights, environmental issues, and Hawaiian independence.

While the causes special interest groups represent can be understandable or even noteworthy in nature, they are separated from traditional law-abiding special interest groups by the conduct of criminal activity. These terrorist groups are attempting through their violent criminal actions to force various segments of society, including the general public, to change attitudes about issues considered important to them. Therefore, special interest groups will continue to present a threat that could surface at any time.

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

International terrorism against the United States is foreign based and/or directed by countries or groups outside the United States. The activities of these countries or groups transcend national boundaries. The current international terrorist threat to U.S. persons and interests continues from years past and can be divided into three categories: state sponsors of international terrorism, formalized terrorist groups, and loosely affiliated international radical extremists.

The first threat to Americans comes from the activities of state sponsors of international terrorism. State sponsors include Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Cuba, and North Korea. In recent years, terrorist activities of Cuba and North Korea have declined due primarily to the deteriorating econom-

ic situations in both countries. However, the activities of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, and Libya have continued.

State sponsors continue to view terrorism as a tool of foreign policy. Past activities included direct terrorist support and operations by official state agents. Following successful investigations which have identified their involvement in terrorism, state sponsors now generally seek to conceal their support of terrorism by relying on surrogates to conduct actual operations. State sponsors, however, continue to engage in anti-Western terrorist activities by funding, organizing, networking, and providing other support and infrastructure to many extremists. A classic example of state-sponsored terrorism is the attack on Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988, which killed 270 people. Two Libyan intelligence operatives were indicted for their role in the attack.

The second terrorist threat to U.S. interests is posed by formalized terrorist groups. These autonomous organizations have their own infrastructures, personnel, financial arrangements, and training facilities. They are able to plan and mount terrorist campaigns overseas and support terrorist operations inside the United States. Extremist groups such as Lebanese Hizballah, the Egyptian Al-Gama'a Al-Islamiyya, and the Palestinian HAMAS have supporters inside the United States who could be used to support an act of terrorism here. Hizballah is one of the most dangerous of these groups. Hizballah has staged numerous anti-U.S. terrorist attacks, including the suicide truck bombing of the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon in 1983 and the U.S. Embassy annex in Lebanon in 1984. Elements of the group were also responsible for the kidnaping and detention of U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

Other formalized terrorist groups include the Irish Republican Army and Sikh terrorist elements. These groups have committed criminal activities in the United States over the years, including weapons acquisition, illegal immigration, and provision of safe haven to fugitives.

The final terrorist threat to U.S. interests stems from loosely affiliated international radical extremists, such as Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, and the other World Trade Center bombers. These extremists are neither surrogates of, nor strongly influenced by, any one nation. They have the ability to tap into a variety of official and private resource bases in order to facilitate terrorist acts against U.S. interests.

TOPICAL ISSUES 1996

THE CHANGING FACE OF TERRORISM

There are a broad range of threats confronting the United States. Many are external—the result of changes around the world which have brought unrest, armed conflict, and political instability. The U.S. Government continues to fight terrorism in five traditional ways: diplomacy, sanctions, covert operations, military options, and law enforcement action. In this modern era of law enforcement, the responsibilities of the FBI include the protection and safety of American citizens from terrorist acts within the United States, as well as the application of its extraterritorial jurisdiction in instances where Americans are harmed by terrorist acts abroad.

On April 24, 1996, just over a year after the Oklahoma City bombing, President Clinton signed The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 which was designed in part to bolster federal powers to fight terrorism. The House-Senate compromise bill bans fund-raising activities in the United States by terrorist-linked organizations and expedites deportation of aliens convicted of felonies.

One example of federal law enforcement efforts in combating the terrorist threat is FBI participation in the Critical Infrastructure Working Group (CIWG). The FBI has been a participant since January 1996, by request of the Attorney General. The CIWG was created to assist the Attorney General in reviewing “the vulnerability to terrorism of...critical national infrastructure and making recommendations to [the President] and the appropriate Cabinet member or Agency head” as required by a Presidential mandate. Infrastructure is the system of interdependent networks which is made up of identifiable industries and institutions that provide a continual flow of goods and services essential to the security and welfare of this country. The critical infrastructures include electrical power, gas and oil, transportation, telecommunications, banking and finance, continuity of government, water supply systems, and emergency services.

The FBI also uses cooperative measures in countering the broad array of terrorist threats by participating in organized groups of the world's leading industrialized countries, now known as The Eight (formerly the G-8). The Eight consists of the member states of Germany, France, Russia, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. Following the deadly Khobar Towers bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, which killed 19 U.S. servicemen, and the Lyon Summit in June 1996, a Terrorism Experts Working Group convened in Paris, France, to consider specific, cooperative measures to recommend for implementation. At the Ministerial in July 1996, Attorney General Janet Reno presented a statement identifying several key proposals eventually incorporated into an amended Declaration of Principles. The Eight member nations have pledged to strengthen the ability of the international community to stop terrorism before it happens and to respond more effectively if it does occur.

THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM

There has been a steady decrease in the amount of financial support provided to terrorist groups by state sponsors of terrorism. A noted exception is Iran, which continues to fund terrorist organizations, both in the Middle East and abroad. However, and in spite of countervailing measures such as Executive Order 12947, "Prohibiting Transactions with Terrorists Who Threaten to Disrupt the Middle East Peace Process," terrorists are increasingly more sophisticated in their methods of obtaining and transferring funds—utilizing financial institutions and front companies to launder the money. Those groups that lack foreign support generally rely on criminal activity to obtain operational support.

FBI JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCES



JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCES

The FBI works to combat terrorism on the domestic front through its participation in Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs). The first JTTF was initiated in 1980 in New York. In 1996, there were 14 formalized JTTFs operating in the FBI field divisions throughout the country. The formation of several additional JTTFs is in the process of being established.

JTTFs strive to increase the effectiveness and productivity of scarce personnel and logistical resources, to avoid duplication of investigative effort, and to expand cooperation and liaison among federal, state and local law enforcement.

The composition of JTTFs include Special Agents of the FBI, other federal agencies (e.g., U.S. Marshals, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Secret Service, and the Bureau of

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms), and state and local law enforcement personnel. Supervision is shared by the involved agencies with the FBI maintaining overall responsibility for the operation of the JTTFs.

JTTFs have the mission of gathering intelligence with regard to domestic and international terrorist organizations, conducting investigations related to planned terrorist acts, preventing such acts, if possible, or investigating the facts and collecting evidence should a terrorist act occur in their territorial responsibility. Furthermore, JTTFs attempt to neutralize terrorist groups, and where applicable, pursue the effective prosecution of identified offenders.

As long as violence is viewed by some as a viable means to attain political and social goals, extremists will engage in terrorism.

UNCONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND TECHNIQUES

Terrorists continue to rely on conventional weapons such as bombs and small arms; however, the following examples suggest that terrorists and other criminals may consider using unconventional weapons and techniques in an attack here at some point in the future.

- On February 28, 1995, a jury in Minnesota convicted Patriot Council members Douglas Allen Baker and Leroy Charles Wheeler for the manufacture of Ricin, a highly toxic biological substance made from castor beans. They manufactured the Ricin to use as a weapon against a Deputy U.S. Marshal and a Sheriff. These law enforcement officials served papers on an associate of the two men who was also a member of the Patriot's Council, a small antigovernment tax protest group based in Minnesota. The amount of biological agent produced could have killed over 100 people, if effectively delivered.
- An Amtrak train derailed near Hyder, Arizona, on October 9, 1995. The derailment of the 12-car Sunset Limited killed 1 person and seriously injured 12 others. Investigation by the FBI, Amtrak, and Southern Pacific Railroad personnel revealed that the train tracks had been deliberately sabotaged, causing the train to derail. Four typed letters were found at the scene which mentioned the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the FBI, "Ruby Ridge," and "Waco." The letters were signed "Sons of the Gestapo."

TERRORIST REPRISALS

The FBI has recorded numerous successes against domestic and international terrorists inside the United States and overseas. These successes include prevention of terrorist attacks before they occurred, and an effective response leading to the identification and apprehension of terrorists after attacks against the United States. With the incarceration of Shaykh Omar Abdel Rahman—the spiritual leader of the militant Al-Gama'a Al-Islamiyya—and the detention and pending status of HAMAS leader Mousa Abu Marzook, it is possible that members of formal terrorist groups may consider some form of retaliation.

CURRENT TRENDS IN THE UNITED STATES

SPECIAL EVENTS

Major events taking place inside the United States may be seen as attractive targets for terrorism. The Summer Olympic Games were the largest special event held on U.S. soil. This was followed by the Republican National Convention in San Diego, California, from August 12-15, 1996, and the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois, from August 26-29, 1996. New York City hosted the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly from September 19 to October 11, 1996. Simultaneously, planning and preparation for the 1997 Presidential Inauguration had also begun. These special events present unique challenges for law enforcement. All are high-profile events, commanding worldwide media attention. Heads of state and foreign ministers, presidential candidates and distinguished political officials, decorated athletes and enthusiastic fans from all over the world present a powerful motivating force for individual zealots or terrorist extremists to use these events as staging areas for their causes.

The FBI is the lead investigative agency in the ongoing fight against terrorism in the United States. In this capacity, the FBI works closely with law enforcement counterparts and local officials to identify key areas of potential concern and to implement effective security countermeasures at these events. Unfortunately, the massive media attention afforded these events is often viewed as an excellent opportunity in which to execute a terrorist act or to stage an incident designed to disrupt the event.

THE 1996 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

For the second time in just over a decade, the Summer Olympic Games were held in the United States. This XXVI Olympiad marked the 100th anniversary of the modern Olympic Games. The Olympics, last hosted in the United States by Los Angeles, California, in 1984, began in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 19, 1996. The event brought approximately 2 million visitors to the Atlanta area, including foreign heads of state and athletes from 197 countries around the world. With an estimated 11 million event tickets sold, more than the Los Angeles, Barcelona, and Seoul Games combined, the Atlanta Olympics is the largest peacetime event ever held.

The FBI assumed responsibility for identifying areas of security concern, implementing additional security countermeasures, and coordinating response plans with law enforcement and other "first responder" agencies. The FBI also had lead agency jurisdiction over any act of violence committed against protected foreign officials, to include the athletes, coaches, trainers, and other members of the Olympic family. In addition, the FBI coordinated all intelligence collection and dissemination of relevant intelligence concerning threats directed against this event. Despite this massive effort, the event was marred by the tragedy of the bombing at Centennial Olympic Park.

Prior to the bombing at Centennial Olympic Park, there had not been a successful terrorist attack launched at an international sporting event since the 1972 attack at the Olympics in Munich, Germany, which resulted in the deaths of 11 Israeli athletes. By the end of the nearly 20-hour siege, which culminated in an airfield shootout, four ter-



rorists were killed and one policeman and one helicopter pilot had also died. The tragedy was played out in front of millions of television viewers throughout the world. Its impact is evident to this day, in the high security and concern surrounding major international special events.

TERRORIST THREATS TO TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

International aircraft and airports have been a high-profile target of terrorist groups throughout the years. Most recently, our civil aviation system has been the attention of considerable media coverage, with particular attention directed to issues surrounding aviation safety, as well as the security of our ground transportation systems. Airports, and other transportation facilities, by their very nature and design, present an attractive target to terrorists, where the objective for inflicting mass casualties can be obtained. To prevent these actions from occurring, the law enforcement and intelligence communities are increasingly being called upon for guidance to assess the security countermeasures at our airports, in an effort to further strengthen and prevent acts of terrorism against this important transportation infrastructure. The FBI plays a major role in providing intelligence and threat warnings to protect our nation's transportation systems.

The traditional threat to aviation has stemmed from international terrorists. State sponsors of terrorism, many formal terrorist groups and loosely affiliated extremists view the United States as an enemy. Some examples of the aviation threat from international terrorists include the bombings of Pan Am Flight 103 in December 1988 and UTA Flight 772 in September 1989.

Recently, terrorist attacks against aircraft and other transportation facilities, both here in the United States and abroad, have taken a disturbing upswing. Examples include the conspiracy by Ramzi Ahmed Yousef and others to bomb U.S. airliners in Asia in December 1994; the derailment of an Amtrak passenger train near Hyder, Arizona, in October 1995, which killed 1 and injured 78; and the bombing of the World Trade Center in February 1993, which substantially damaged the Port Authority Transportation and Housing

Railway Line. The latter is a major commuter line running from New Jersey to New York City. At one point, it passes through the parking garage of the World Trade Center Complex, where the 1,200-pound urea nitrate bomb detonated. Less than four months later, a group of followers of Shaykh Omar Abdel Rahman planned to use explosives to unleash a campaign of terror on New York City. Their targets included the Lincoln and Holland tunnels, major arteries into and out of New York City. Obviously, the worldwide terrorist threat to aviation and other transportation systems still exists, both within the United States and outside. At the time of the explosion of TWA 800 on July 17, 1996, worldwide attention focused on the possibility that this was yet another terrorist threat to aviation security.

In the aftermath of the TWA 800 explosion, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13015 on August 22, 1996, directing Vice President Gore to create and chair a Presidential Commission to serve as an advisory group on aviation safety and security. The Commission, known as the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security, was empowered to study matters involving aviation safety and security, and to develop recommendations to improve the nation's aviation safety and security procedures, both domestically and internationally. The President subsequently appointed 21 members to the Commission, including FBI Director Louis J. Freeh.

By their very nature, U.S. transportation systems are vulnerable to terrorist attack. As long as violence is viewed by some as a viable means to attain political and social goals, extremists will engage in terrorism. However, transportation systems across the United States have increased their levels of security, and protection of the nation's critical transportation infrastructures remains a national security priority. The FBI has been aided in this counterterrorism mission by the Aviation Security Improvement Act of 1990 and, more recently, the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996. These initiatives have resulted in security enhancements at U.S. airports to ensure the safety of domestic air transportation systems and expanded cooperative measures and coordination between federal agencies.

CONCLUSION

Terrorism stands as one of the greatest threats to U.S. national security today

The United States is an attractive target for terrorist attacks and will remain so for the foreseeable future. Because of threats emanating from domestic and international sources, the prevention of terrorist acts before they occur will continue to be the primary mission of the FBI's Counterterrorism Program.

The FBI is committed to combating terrorism on three fronts: international terrorism operations within the United States, domestic terrorism operations, and countermeasures pertaining to both international and domestic terrorism. The FBI will continue to aggressively locate and arrest terrorists who have committed criminal acts of terror against U.S. persons and property, both at home and abroad.

Steps taken by the executive, legislative and judicial branches in 1996 helped strengthen federal law enforcement in the fight against terrorism. The FBI will continue to direct its efforts to preventing terrorist incidents from occurring in the United States.

