

Examples of Terrorist Attacks

Domestic Terrorist Attacks:

Individuals

“. . . Theodore Kaczynski, the infamous ‘Unabomber,’ waged an 18-year war against people he associated with technology. Over that period of time, 16 bombs were sent to or left near victims, killing 3 people and injuring 23 (many seriously).” Source: Waugh, William L., Jr. 2000. *Terrorism and Emergency Management: Instructor Guide*. Emmitsburg, Maryland: Emergency Management Institute, Federal Emergency Management Agency, p. 3-6.

On April 19, 1995 the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building was bombed. Deaths, including many children in an employee day care center, totaled 167. In addition, 460 persons were injured. Two anti-government perpetrators were apprehended. One was found guilty (Timothy McVey and later executed (June 11, 2001). His alleged co-conspirator (Terry Nichols) remains in prison awaiting outcome of various appeals. Source: *2002 Britannica Book of the Year*. 2002. Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., p. 134.

Organized Groups

“In November 1996, three members of a Georgia Militia group were arrested and charged with conspiring to use pipe bombs to destroy roads and other infrastructure and to attack federal officials. They were convicted for having pipe bombs with the intent of attacking the federal government.” Source: Waugh, William L., Jr. 2000. *Terrorism and Emergency Management: Instructor Guide*. Emmitsburg, Maryland: Emergency Management Institute, Federal Emergency Management Agency, p. 3-14.

“In July 1996, a pipe bomb was thrown into the Planned Parenthood Clinic in Spokane, Washington, as a diversion while individuals believed to be members of the Phineas Priesthood robbed a nearby bank. Three men with ties to Christian Identity and other anti-government groups were arrested. Four grenade launchers, along with other weapons and ammunition, were found in the suspects’ homes.” Source: Waugh, William L., Jr. 2000. *Terrorism and Emergency Management: Instructor Guide*. Emmitsburg, Maryland: Emergency Management Institute, Federal Emergency Management Agency, p. 3-14.

Waugh (2000) also lists numerous other groups active within the U.S.A. These include white supremacists, anti-abortionists, Black militants, various militias, and many others.

International Terrorist Attacks:

October 14, 2002. Bali, Indonesia. Bombing of the Sari Club. Deaths: near 200, including 2 Americans; injuries: over 300, including four Americans. “An estimated 20,000 Americans are in Indonesia at any one time, although relatively few are permanent residents. They range from tourists to employees of large companies such as Exxon Mobil . . .” After this bombing: “The State Department urged Americans to leave the country. The U.S. Embassy ordered the evacuation of its staff. The order applies to non-essential personnel and families.” Source: *USA Today*, October 15, 2002, p. 6A.

September 11, 2001. New York and Pennsylvania, U.S.A. Four U.S.A. commercial aircraft were hijacked. Two were crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City which later collapsed. Another was crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The final plane was crashed into a rural area of Pennsylvania near the town of Shanksville. Except for a successful passenger revolt, the fourth plane may have been headed for the White House, the U.S. Capital or some other such target. Death toll exceeded 3,000 and financial losses for just the destruction of the WTC are estimated to be in excess of \$83 billion. The hijackers have been linked to a middle eastern terrorist group known as Al Qaeda. Source: Adapted from *Rocky Mountain News*, September 11, 2002, p. 45 and *Natural Hazard Observer*. 2002. 27 (September):7.

Based on records published by the U.S. Department of State, Waugh has summarized the total number of international terrorist attacks between 1979 and 1999. The largest number occurred in 1987 (666) and the fewest were in 1998 (273). During this 21 year period, the average number was 460. Source: Adapted from: Waugh, William L., Jr. 2000. *Terrorism and Emergency Management: Instructor Guide*. Emmitsburg, Maryland: Emergency Management Institute, Federal Emergency Management Agency, p. 4-12.

“The Year 2000 showed that terrorism continues to pose a clear and present danger to the international community. From the millennium-related threats at the beginning of the year to the USS Cole bombing and the rash of hostage takings at the end, the year 2000 highlighted the need for continued vigilance by our government and our allies throughout the world. The tragic death of 19 U.S. citizens at the hands of terrorists is the most sober reminder.” Source: U.S. Department of State. 2001. *Patterns of Global Terrorism – 2000*. Washington, D.C.: Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, U.S. Department of State, p. 1.

Appendix A (“Chronology of Significant Terrorist Incidents, 2000”) lists 145 international terrorist attacks, including such incidents as the following selected examples. India experienced the largest number of such incidents (46 or 32% of the total). Next in frequency were Sierra Leone (13 incidents) and Columbia (12 incidents).

March 10, 2000 - El Salvador

“U.S. Embassy officials reported unidentified gunmen kidnapped a U.S. citizen and his El Salvadoran nephew from their vehicle near San Antonio Pajonal. On 21 March, the hostages were released unharmed following a ransom payment of \$34,000.”

May 25, 2000 – Sierra Leone

“In Freetown, according to press reports, armed militants ambushed two military vehicles carrying four journalists. A Spaniard and one U.S. citizen were killed, and one Greek and one South African were injured in the attack. The RUF was probably responsible.”

June 8, 2000 – Greece

“In Athens, press reported two unidentified gunmen killed British Defense Attache Stephen Saunders in an ambush. The Revolutionary Organization 17 November claimed responsibility.”

July 31, 2000 – Nigeria

“Press reported armed youth stormed two oil drilling rigs, taking 165 persons hostage. The hostages included 145 Nigerians, seven U.S. citizens, five Britons, eight Australian and Lebanese nationals. All were employed by service contractors of Shell Oil Company. No one claimed responsibility, but the gunmen were believed to be ethnic Ijaw. On 4 August all hostages were released unharmed.”

August 2, 2000 – India

“In Rajwas, armed militants killed 30 persons and injured 47 others when they threw a grenade and then opened fire on a community kitchen, according to press reports. The Lashkar-e-Tayyiba claimed responsibility.”

August 11, 2000 – Columbia

“Police authorities reported suspected ELN militants kidnapped a group of 27 tourists in Antioquia. A U.S. professor and a German student were among the hostages. On 12 August the rebels released all hostages unharmed.”

September 6, 2000 – Indonesia

“A militia-led mob attacked a UNHCR aid office in Atambua, West Timor, killing three aid workers—one U.S. citizen, one Ethiopian, and a Croatian—and destroying the compound.”

October 12, 2000 – **Yemen**

“In Aden, a small dingy carrying explosives rammed the U.S. destroyer, USS Cole, killing 17 sailors and injuring 39 others. Supporters of Usama Bin Ladin are suspected.”

October 19, 2000 – **Sri Lanka**

“In Colombo, a suicide bomber detonated the explosives he was wearing near the town hall, killing four persons and wounding 23 others, including two U.S. citizens, according to press reports. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were probably responsible.”

December 5, 2000 – **Jordan**

“In Amman, an unidentified assailant shot and wounded an Israeli diplomat as he, his wife, and his bodyguard were leaving a grocery store. The Movement for the Struggle of the Jordanian Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility.”

December 30, 2000 – **Philippines**

“A bomb exploded in a plaza across the street from the U.S. Embassy in Manila, injuring nine persons, according to press reports. The More Islamic Liberation Front was possibly responsible.

Source: Adapted from U.S. Department of State. 2001. *Patterns of Global Terrorism – 2000*. Washington, D.C.: Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, U.S. Department of State, Appendix A.
<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/pgtrpt/2000/2444.htm> (accessed October 31, 2002).