

## BACKGROUND

### Current Explosives Threat

The most recently compiled bomb threat data from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms<sup>7</sup> and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)<sup>8</sup> is shown in Table 1. The data for property damage and injuries in 1993 was significantly affected by the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York; the 1995 data was affected by the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. For example, the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993 caused \$510 million in damage and resulted in 1042 persons injured—a significant portion of the 1993 data.

The most common materials used as ingredients in destructive devices in 1994 were reportedly flammable liquids (29%); various chemicals (26%); black powder (16%); photoflash/fireworks powders (16%); smokeless powder (9%); military explosives other than C-4 and TNT (1%); and dynamite/water gels, matchheads, blasting agents (including ammonium nitrate fuel oil, (ANFO)), and other fillers (2%). Ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO), although used in a few highly publicized bombings, is not a frequently used ingredient. Significant amounts of information are now available on the Internet, compounding the bombing threat.

TABLE 1 Historical Bomb Threat Data

| Type of Incident                     | 1990   | 1991   | 1992    | 1993     | 1994   | 1995     |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|----------|--------|----------|
| <b>Bombings</b>                      | 931    | 1551   | 1911    | 1880     | 1916   | 1562     |
| <b>Attempted bombings</b>            | 254    | 395    | 384     | 375      | 522    | 417      |
| <b>Incendiary bombings</b>           | 267    | 423    | 582     | 538      | 545    | 406      |
| <b>Attempted incendiary bombings</b> | 130    | 130    | 112     | 187      | 180    | 192      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | 1582   | 2499   | 2989    | 2980     | 3163   | 2577     |
| <b>Reported killed</b>               | 27     | 29     | 26      | 49       | 31     | 193      |
| <b>Reported injured</b>              | 222    | 230    | 349     | 1323     | 308    | 744      |
| <b>Reported property damage</b>      | \$9.6M | \$6.4M | \$12.5M | \$518.0M | \$7.5M | \$105.1M |

SOURCE: FBI Explosives Unit, Bomb Data Center. 1997. "1995 Bombing Incidents," General Information Bulletin 97-1.

<sup>7</sup> Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. 1995. Arson and Explosives: Incidents Report 1994. ATF P 3320.4. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.

<sup>8</sup> FBI Explosives Unit, Bomb Data Center. 1997. "1995 Bombing Incidents," General Information Bulletin 97-1.