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How Quickly We Forget

By Dr. Melissa Katheryn Luke

The recent bombing attacks in London have once again brought attention to worldwide acts of terrorism. Most Americans vividly remember the terrorist attacks on U.S. grounds on September 11, 2001, but unfortunately, concerns wane over time until a large-scale atrocity occurs again on a universal level.

The United States has been threatened with attacks from domestic terrorists, foreign agents, militant radicals, traitors and spies since its founding, however several have been forgotten at this present day. A critical component of corporate leadership is the protection of their respective workforce (employees/management) and the existing shareholders. Organizations that begin developing plans for possible attacks of terrorism after global monstrosities could be likened to training for last place in the Olympics...one will never win. This month, I will provide a small historical outline of the terror in America from 1776 to present day. Hopefully, this will be a reminder to corporate leadership that an organization's security should never be placed at the bottom of the priority chart.

1700s

1776-Congress ratifies the Declaration of Independence

1776-Loyalists plot to kidnap George Washington and assassinate his chief officers

1800s

1814-British forces capture and burn Washington, DC

1832-Indiana militiamen attack a Sauk and Fox village, massacring 850 Native Americans at Bad Ax, Wis.

1863-Confederate guerrillas led by William C. Quantrill kill 150 civilians during a raid on Lawrence, Kansas

1863-California volunteers massacre a Shoshoni village, killing 250 Native Americans in Bear River, Montana

1864-Colonel John Chivington and his cavalry slaughter 150 unarmed Cheyenne and Arapaho at Sand Creek

1865-Abraham Lincoln assassinated by John Wilkes Booth

1866-Ku Klux Klan founded in Pulaski, Tenn (known as a terrorist group)

1866-White civilians and police kill 46 African Americans, and burn 106 buildings in Memphis, Tenn.

1890-Soldiers of the Seventh Cavalry massacre 300 Sioux at Wounded Knee, S. Dak.

1886-Chicago Haymarket Square bombing kills seven policemen and injures many

1892-Anarchist Alexander Berkman attempts to assassinate industrialist Henry Clay Frick in Pittsburgh, Pa.

1900s

1901-Anarchist Leon Czolgosz mortally wounds President McKinley

1908-Two Anarchists killed in New York City's Union Square when a bomb meant for police explodes

1910-Labor union radicals bomb *Los Angeles Times* printing plant, killing 27

1914-German agent Paul Keonig organizes saboteur ring to bomb ships in New York Harbor

1915-German professor Erich Muentzer bombs U.S. capital
1916-Bomb explodes during large pro-war parade in San Francisco, killing 10 and injuring 40
1916-German saboteurs blow up ammunition depot on Black Tom Island in New York Harbor
1917-German saboteurs blow up ammunition factory in Kingsland, NJ
1918-Bomb planted by German saboteur Kurt Jahnke sinks USS *San Diego*, killing six soldiers
1919-Mail bombs sent to 34 business and political leaders
1919-Bombs simultaneously explode at homes of prominent Americans in eight cities
1919-1920-Palmer Raids net over 6000 suspected Anarchists and Communists, mostly who are immigrants
1920-Anarchists detonate massive bomb on Wall Street, killing 40 and wounding hundreds
1950-Senator Joseph McCarthy announces he has the names of 205 Communist agents working at State Department
1970-Weather Underground Organization (WUO) bombs a judge's house and the National Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC
1971-WUO bombs Capitol building
1972-WUO bombs Pentagon
1972-WUO bombs ITT Latin American Offices
1975-WUO bombs State Department building in Washington, DC and Department of Defense office in Oakland, CA, and bombs Fraunces Tavern in New York
1983-Suicide bombers kill 63 civilians and 241 soldiers in attacks on US Embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut
1984-Robert Mathews of The Order is killed following a 36-hour machine gun battle with federal agents on Whidbey Island, WA
1988-Libyan terrorists kill 270 in bombing of Pan Am flight
1988-Al Qaeda terrorists kill 224 and injure 4,500 in bombing of US Embassies in Tanzania and Kenya
1992-Standoff at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, in which a US marshal and Randy Weaver's wife and son are killed
1993-Truck bombing of World Trade Center in New York City by Islamic extremists kills six, injures over 1000
1993-Siege at Waco, Texas leaves four agents and 76 Branch Dividians dead
1995-Bombing of Alfred P. Murrah Federal Office Building, Oklahoma City kills 168
1999-Aryan Nations member Buford Furrow Jr. open fires on Jewish Community Center in LA

2000s

2000-Al Qaeda bombs the *USS Cole* in Yemen, killing 17 crewmen and wounding 40
2001-Al Qaeda terrorists kill over 2,900 in attacks in New York City, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania
2001-Hate crimes against Muslims increase twenty-fold
2001-Gas pump of Tahir Mahmood, a Pakistani citizen, set ablaze in Kountze, TX

Information and dates collected from the Spy Museum, Washington DC, 2005