



Demographic and Ideological Variations in Behavior Among American Terrorists

Brent Smith

Terrorism Research Center in Fulbright College

Geospatial and Temporal Patterns - Trial Outcomes and Sentencing - Prosecutorial and Defense Strategies - Terrorism Financing





Background and Prior Research

- **The American Terrorism Study (ATS)** – MIPT funded project tracked and recorded federal criminal cases resulting from FBI terrorism investigations. DOJ/NIJ/DHS/MIPT.
- **Pre-incident Indicators of Terrorist Activities (PITA)** – NIJ funded project involved geocoding 65 case studies of terrorists' residences, preparatory activities, and target locations (10/1/03 - 9/30/05). DOJ/NIJ.
- **Geospatial Analysis of Terrorist Activities (GATA)** – NIJ funded project involves coding of international and environmental cases (10/1/05 - 9/30/07). DOJ/NIJ.
- **Terrorism in Time and Space (TITAS)** – NIJ funded project began 1/1/06 to collect data on remaining ATS court cases that have been collected and compile all previous NIJ funded research into one Oracle Web Accessible database for analysis and dissemination.
- **Prosecutorial Strategies and Defense (PADS)** – NIJ funded project began 10/1/06. Involves examination of defense and prosecutorial strategies on case outcomes. DOJ/NIJ



American Terrorism Study (ATS)

The “American Terrorism Study” (ATS) was created in 1988 in cooperation with the FBI’s Terrorist Research and Analytical Center and is currently conducted by the Terrorism Research Center in Fulbright College (TRC), University of Arkansas.

The study utilizes “official” FBI measures of terrorism: focusing on only federally indicted terrorism court cases. Thereby, accepting the FBI “academic” definition of terrorism and the AG regulatory definition when applied.

Includes only cases resulting from federal indictment under the following:

For Domestic Terrorism:

The Attorney General Guidelines on General Crimes, Racketeering Enterprises, and Domestic Security/Terrorism Investigations and subsequent editions (1983, 1989, 2002).

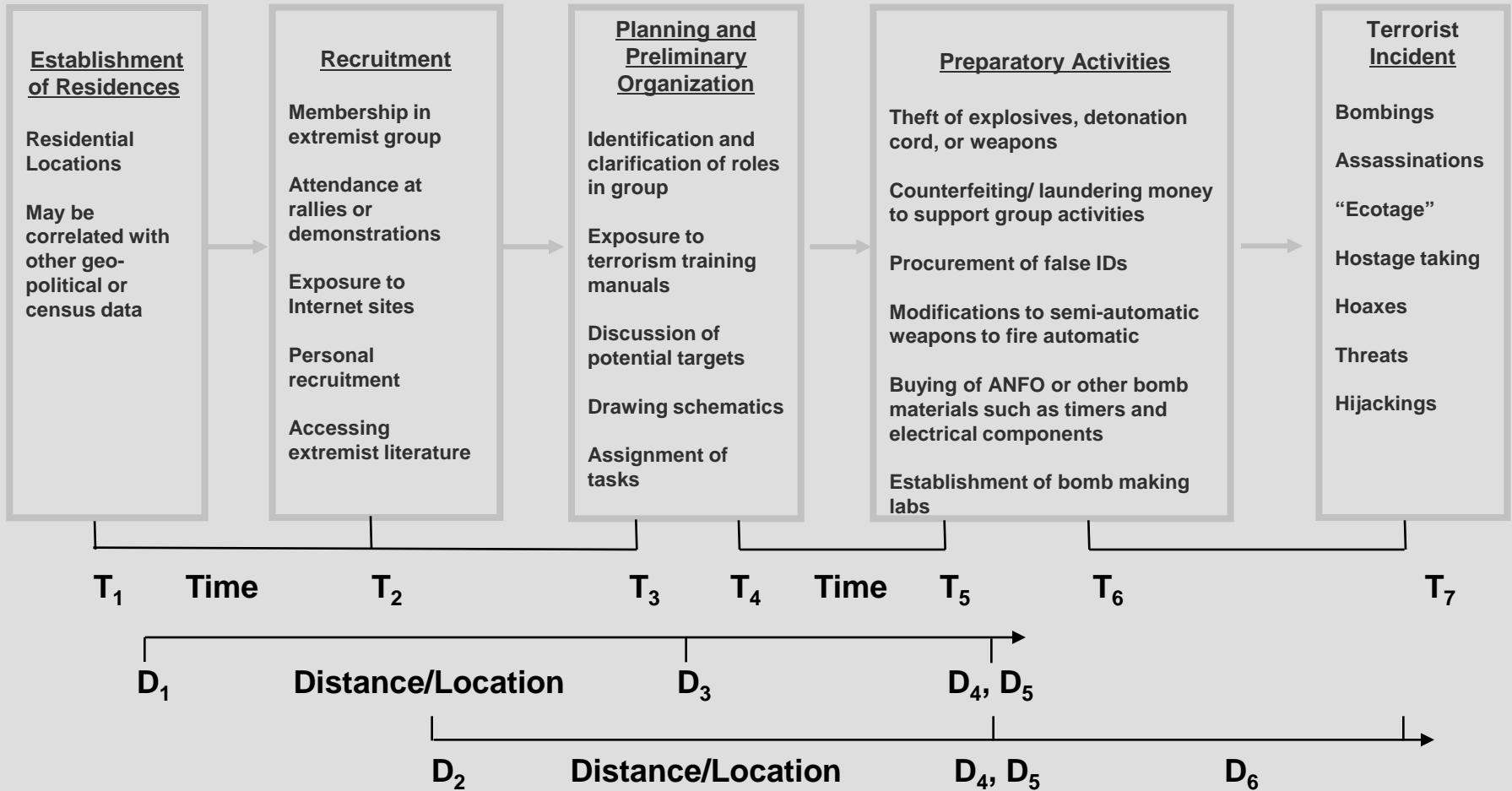
For International Terrorism:

The Attorney General Guidelines for FBI Foreign Intelligence Collection and Foreign Counterintelligence Investigations.

*New AG Guidelines were implemented in December 2008. No cases from these guidelines are included in the database.



Patterns of Terrorism in America





Web Based Data Entry System

EVENT

Main Menu | Person | Event | Organization | References | Save | Previous Event | Next Event

Event Details | **Spatial and Temporal Information** | Target Details | People Involved

Case Study: Category:

Event ID:

Event type:

Description:

Subtype:

Number of people involved:

Did the event actually occur: Did the event involve a crime:

Were the authorities aware of the event: Crime type:

Was the event prevented by law enforcement:

Were structures damaged in the event: Value in damages:

Were people injured in the event: How many:

Did people die in relation to the event: How many:

Was money stolen in the event: How much:

Add up the total monetary cost of the event:

Comments:
Peter George Schnell,20 and Matthew Robert Whyte, 18 where arrested on 23 January 2001 while attempting to use incendiary devices to bomb Capitola City Hall in Capitola, CA. They were using 11 one gallon jugs with gasoline and Magic re-Light candles as a fuse. They told police when questioned at the scene that they were working on a crafts project and upon further search they found five containers of gasoline in Whyte's car.

Delete event | Add event | Save changes

Record: 1/? | ... | List of Valu... | <OSC>





Data Collection Results

Data collection was performed by Mercyhurst College’s Intelligence Analyst Program and Sam Houston State University’s Institute for the Study of Violent Groups in conjunction with University of Arkansas’ TRC research staff.

Geocoding was performed on 2,364 records of data. Records were geocoded to the street address, zip codes, or city centroid level using the Yahoo! Geocoding API .

Type of Data	Records Collected	Records Geocoded	% Records Geocoded
Residence Locations	692	624	90%
Preparatory Activity Locations	1532	1053	69%
Ancillary Activity Locations	599	340	58%
Incident Locations	405	347	86%
Totals	3228	2364	73%





ATS Demographic Characteristics of Terrorists

ATS Database- Demographic Characteristics 1980 - 2004
Avg. Age at Indictment

	Right Wing	Left Wing	International	Environmental	Single Issue- Other	Total
Male	40	37	36	36	50	38
Female	40	36	27	26	20	34
Total	40	37	35	27	44	37

n=550



ATS Demographic Characteristics of Terrorists

ATS Database- Demographic Characteristics 1980 - 2004 Gender

	Right Wing	Left Wing	International	Environmental	Single Issue- Other	Total
Male	89%	81%	95%	61%	83%	88%
Female	11%	19%	5%	39%	17%	12%
						n=562



**Richard
Snell**



**Marilyn
Buck**



**Omar
Rahman**



**Chelsea
Gerlach**



**Paul
Hill**



ATS Demographic Characteristics of Terrorists

ATS Database- Demographic Characteristics 1980 - 2004

Education Level

	Right Wing	Left Wing	International	Environmental	Single Issue-Other	Total
College Degree	10%	36%	31%	73%	25%	25%
Some College or Vocational	34%	30%	34%	9%	50%	33%
High School Diploma	26%	6%	23%	18%	25%	20%
GED or less	30%	28%	12%	0%	0%	22%

n=344



Glenn Miller

Joanne Chesimard



Jennifer Kolar





ATS Database- Demographic Characteristics 1980 – 2004

Group Roles by Gender and Group Type

Right-Wing Groups

	Leadership	Subordinate	All Roles
Male	93%	89%	90%
Female	7%	11%	10%
n=239			

Left-Wing Groups

	Leadership	Subordinate	All Roles
Male	71%	80%	78%
Female	29%	20%	22%
n=120			

International Groups

	Leadership	Subordinate	All Roles
Male	100%	95%	95%
Female	0%	5%	5%
n=226			

Environmental Groups

	Leadership	Subordinate	All Roles
Male	50%	77%	71%
Female	50%	23%	29%
n=36			



Percentage of Females in Leadership Roles

	Leadership	Subordinate
Right Wing	17%	83%
Left Wing	27%	73%
International	0%	100%
Environmental	40%	60%
All Groups	20%	80%



Chesimard



Buck

ELF/ALF The Family



Overaker



Kolar



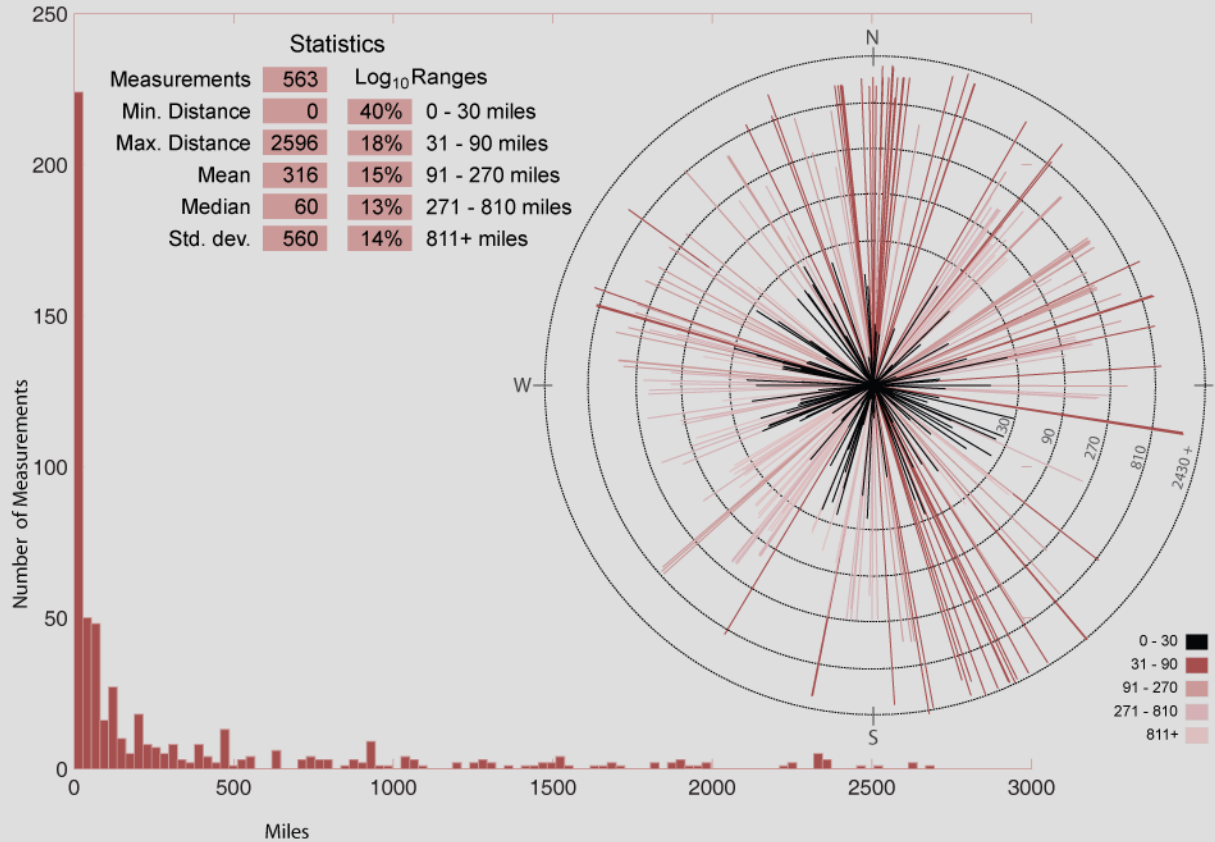
Rubin





Spatial Analysis- Linear Distance Analysis of All Categories

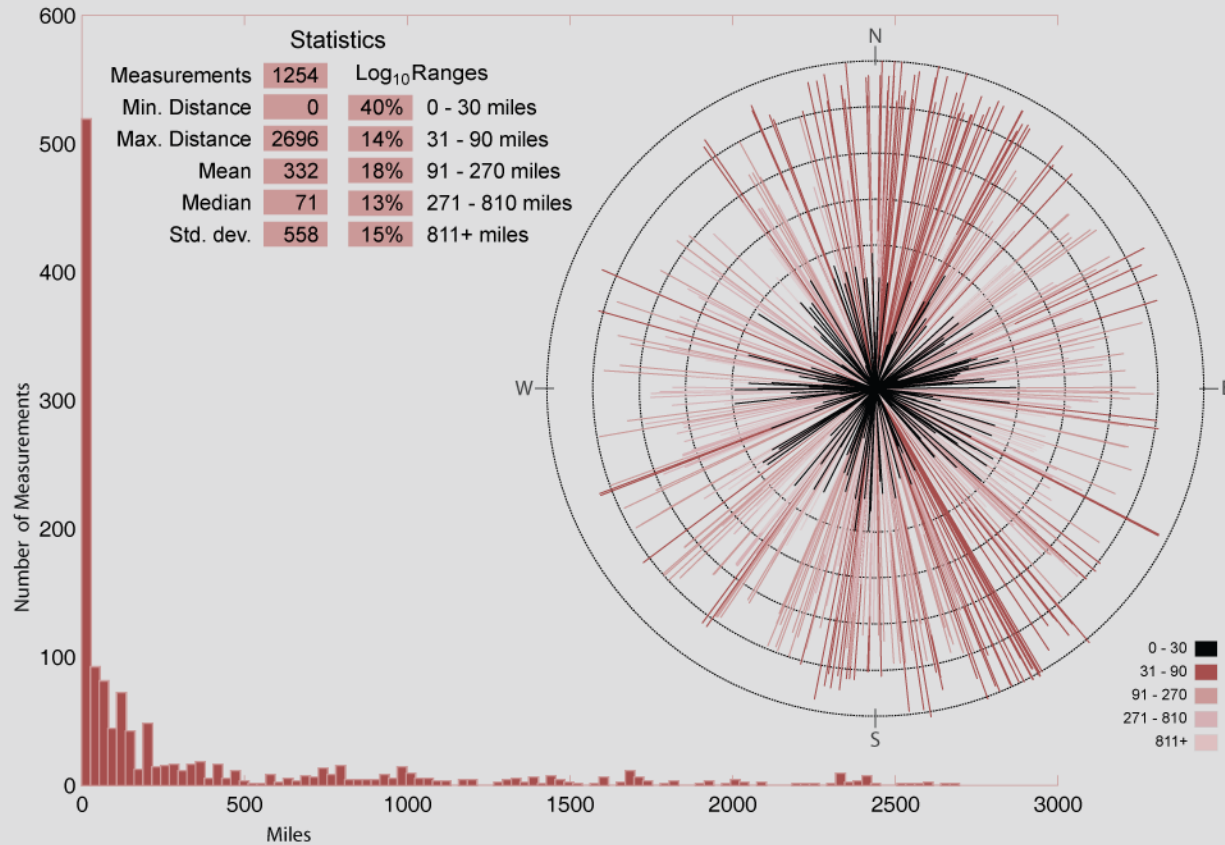
Terrorist Residences to Incident Locations





Spatial Analysis- Linear Distance Analysis of All Categories

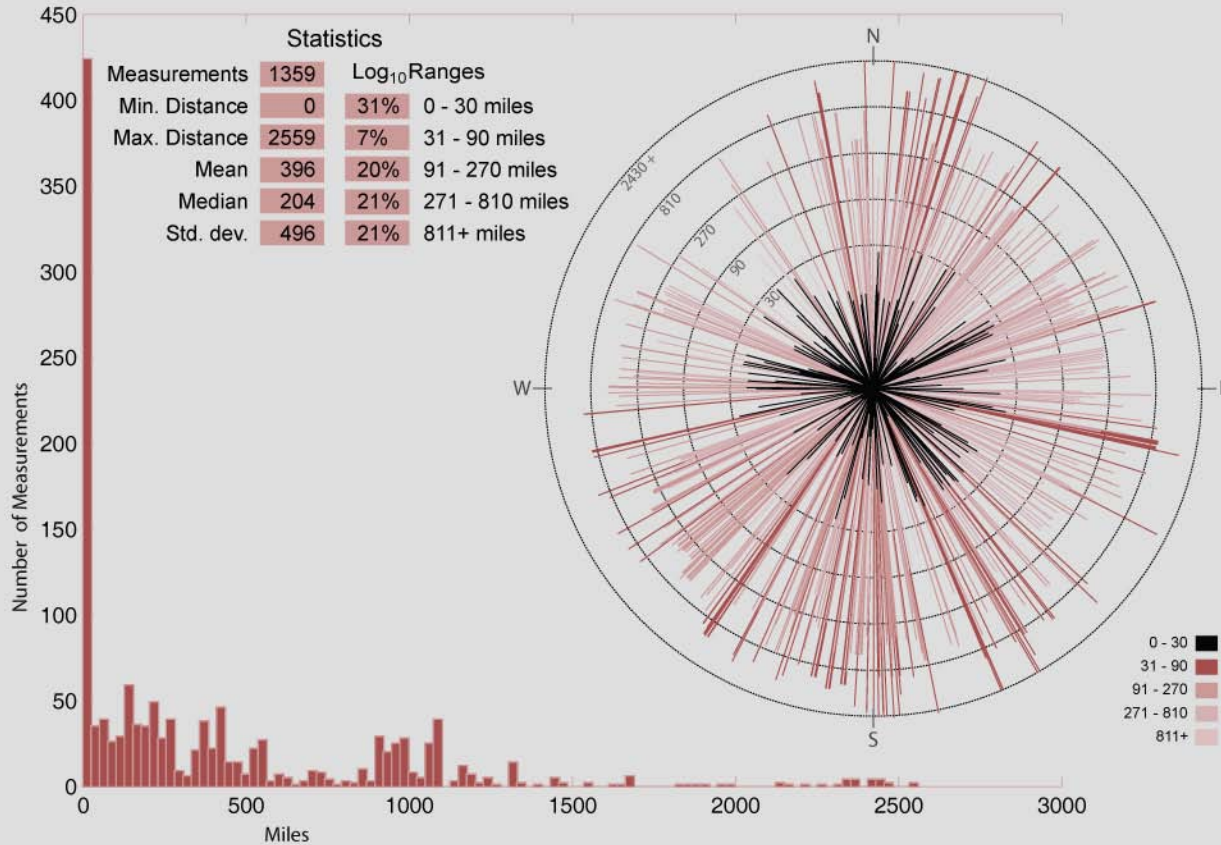
Terrorist Residences to Antecedent Activities





Spatial Analysis- Linear Distance Analysis of All Categories

Terrorist Antecedent Activities to Incident Locations





Spatial Analysis- Linear Distance Analysis of All Categories

Category Breakdown – Residences to Incidents Spatial Analysis

Type:	Right Wing	Left Wing	International	Environmental	Single Issue-Other	All
0 - 30 miles:	27%	39%	59%	44%	21%	40%
31 - 90 miles:	15%	29%	2%	14%	0%	18%
91 - 270 miles:	24%	16%	7%	13%	12%	15%
271 - 810 miles:	19%	14%	0%	11%	33%	13%
811 + miles:	15%	2%	32%	18%	33%	14%
Minimum Distance:	0 mi	0 mi	0 mi	0 mi	2 mi	0 mi
Maximum Distance:	2360 mi	1706 mi	1419 mi	2696 mi	1993 mi	2696 mi
Mean:	314	140	359	407	739	316
Median:	208	50	14	47	731	60
Std dev:	449	273	498	704	632	560
Unique Persons:	45	21	36	66	5	173
Unique Events:	42	76	12	93	22	245
Measurements:	71	191	41	236	24	563





Spatial Analysis- Linear Distance Analysis by Age

Breakdown by Age of Individuals– Residences to Incidents Spatial Analysis

Type:	17-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51+	All
0 - 30 miles:	79%	18%	26%	30%	77%	46%
31 - 90 miles:	14%	18%	19%	39%	6%	14%
91 - 270 miles:	0%	24%	26%	18%	6%	16%
271 - 810 miles:	0%	8%	4%	6%	10%	10%
811 + miles:	7%	32%	26%	6%	0%	15%
Minimum Distance:	0 mi	1 mi	0 mi	0 mi	.5 mi	0 mi
Maximum Distance:	2250 mi	2696 mi	2522 mi	1675 mi	627 mi	2696 mi
Mean:	125	609	474	169	79	312
Median:	9	129	209	59	9	39
Std dev:	452	802	607	333	176	577
Unique Persons:	14	25	23	15	11	88
Unique Events:	19	40	34	28	46	126
Measurements:	28	66	53	33	78	258



Spatial Analysis- Linear Distance Analysis by Gender

Breakdown by Category for Males– Residences to Incidents Spatial Analysis

Type:	Right Wing	Left Wing	International	Environmental	Single Issue-Other	All
0 - 30 miles:	25%	42%	57%	51%	21%	43%
31 - 90 miles:	16%	21%	3%	10%	0%	13%
91 - 270 miles:	25%	18%	7%	10%	12%	14%
271 - 810 miles:	18%	16%	0%	8%	33%	13%
811 + miles:	16%	3%	33%	20%	33%	17%
Minimum Distance:	0 mi	0 mi	0 mi	0 mi	2 mi	0 mi
Maximum Distance:	2360 mi	1706 mi	1419 mi	2696 mi	1993 mi	2696 mi
Mean:	323	163	368	428	739	356
Median:	214	60	15	26	731	60
Std dev:	452	307	501	750	632	604
Unique Persons:	43	13	35	50	5	146
Unique Events:	42	71	12	90	22	237
Measurements:	69	106	40	184	24	423

Breakdown by Category for Females– Residences to Incidents Spatial Analysis

Type:	Right Wing	Left Wing	International	Environmental	Single Issue-Other	All
0 - 30 miles:	100%	35%	100%	17%		30%
31 - 90 miles:	0%	39%	0%	29%		34%
91 - 270 miles:	0%	14%	0%	25%		18%
271 - 810 miles:	0%	11%	0%	19%		14%
811 + miles:	0%	1%	0%	10%		4%
Minimum Distance:	1 mi	3 mi	2 mi	0 mi		0 mi
Maximum Distance:	26 mi	1677 mi	2 mi	2663 mi		2363
Mean:	13	112	2	335		193
Median:	13	41	2	103		63
Std dev:	18	224	0	513		373
Unique Persons:	2	8	1	16	0	27
Unique Events:	2	56	1	33	0	92
Measurements:	2	85	1	52	0	140





Residences to Incidents Spatial Analysis: Right-Wing

Distribution of Distances for Males and Females Residences to Incidents for Right-Wing Groups

Type:	Males	Females	All Males	All Females
0 - 30 miles:	25%	100%	43%	30%
31 - 90 miles:	16%	0%	13%	34%
91 - 270 miles:	25%	0%	14%	18%
271 - 810 miles:	18%	0%	13%	14%
811 + miles:	16%	0%	17%	4%
Minimum Distance:	0 mi	1 mi	0 mi	0 mi
Maximum Distance:	2360 mi	26 mi	2696 mi	2363 mi
Mean:	323	13	356	193
Median:	214	13	60	63
Std dev:	452	18	604	373
Unique Persons:	43	2	146	27
Unique Events:	42	2	237	92
Measurements:	69	2	423	140



Residences to Incidents Spatial Analysis: Left-Wing

Distribution of Distances for Males and Females Residences to Incidents for Left-Wing Groups

Type:	Males	Females	All Males	All Females
0 - 30 miles:	42%	35%	43%	30%
31 - 90 miles:	21%	39%	13%	34%
91 - 270 miles:	18%	14%	14%	18%
271 - 810 miles:	16%	11%	13%	14%
811 + miles:	3%	1%	17%	4%
Minimum Distance:	0 mi	3 mi	0 mi	0 mi
Maximum Distance:	1706 mi	1677 mi	2696 mi	2363 mi
Mean:	163	112	356	193
Median:	60	41	60	63
Std dev:	307	224	604	373
Unique Persons:	13	8	146	27
Unique Events:	71	56	237	92
Measurements:	106	85	423	140



Residences to Incidents Spatial Analysis: International

Distribution of Distances for Males and Females Residences to Incidents for International Groups

Type:	Males	Females	All Males	All Females
0 - 30 miles:	57%	100%	43%	30%
31 - 90 miles:	3%	0%	13%	34%
91 - 270 miles:	7%	0	14%	18%
271 - 810 miles:	0%	0	13%	14%
811 + miles:	33%	0	17%	4%
Minimum Distance:	0 mi	2 mi	0 mi	0 mi
Maximum Distance:	1419 mi	2 mi	2696 mi	2363 mi
Mean:	368	2	356	193
Median:	15	2	60	63
Std dev:	501	0	604	373
Unique Persons:	35	1	146	27
Unique Events:	12	1	237	92
Measurements:	40	1	423	140



Residences to Incidents Spatial Analysis: Environmental

Distribution of Distances for Males and Females Residences to Incidents for Environmental Groups

Type:	Males	Females	All Males	All Females
0 - 30 miles:	51%	17%	43%	30%
31 - 90 miles:	10%	29%	13%	34%
91 - 270 miles:	10%	25%	14%	18%
271 - 810 miles:	8%	19%	13%	14%
811 + miles:	20%	10%	17%	4%
Minimum Distance:	0 mi	0 mi	0 mi	0 mi
Maximum Distance:	2696 mi	2363 mi	2696 mi	2363 mi
Mean:	428	335	356	193
Median:	26	103	60	63
Std dev:	750	513	604	373
Unique Persons:	50	16	146	27
Unique Events:	90	33	237	92
Measurements:	184	52	423	140





Antecedent Activity for All Categories

Category	Number of Ancillary	Number of Preparatory	Number of Antecedent	Number of Incidents	Antecedent Acts Per Incident	Preparatory Acts Per Incident
Right Wing	111	386	497	50	9.9	7.7
Left Wing	110	172	282	53	5.3	3.2
International	83	280	363	23	15.8	12.2
Environmental	28	104	132	76	1.7	1.4
Single Issue- Other	0	26	26	11	2.4	2.4
Totals	332	968	1300	213	6.1	4.5



Antecedent Activity by Crime/Non-Crime

Category	Crimes	Non-Crimes
Right Wing	247 (53%)	218 (47%)
Left Wing	159 (57%)	120 (43%)
International	116 (34%)	228 (66%)
Environmental	52 (41%)	74 (59%)
Single Issue- Other	8 (31%)	18 (69%)
Totals	582 (47%)	658 (53%)

*Excludes 60 acts where crime/non-crime could not be coded



Antecedent Activity Breakdown by All Categories

Antecedent Type	Right Wing	Left Wing	International	Environmental	SI- Other	Total
Meeting	123	64	45	24	8	264
Travel- Car	19	12	29	7		67
Phone Call	16	18	25	3		62
Travel- Air	1	18	42			61
Purchase- Bomb Materials	16	1	12	13	1	43
Surveillance	13	6	8	13		40
Fraud- Bank	34					34
Manufacture- Bomb	14		5	12		31
Establish- Residence	13	5	9	1		28
Transfer- Money	4	2	19			25
Smuggling		25				25
Reconnaissance	10	2	7	5		24
Robbery- Bank	13	11				24
Purchase- Weapons	10	5	7			22
Rental- Hotel / Motel	5	3	12	1		21
Threat	17		1		3	21
Possession- Weapons	16					16
Fraud- Identification	1	9	6			16
Training	2		12	1		15
Procurement- Equipment	1	4	8	1		14
Purchase- Transportation	9	2	2	1		14
Rental- Storage Unit	5	7	1	1		14
Transport- Bomb Materials		9	3	1		13
Communication- Letter	5	2	2		4	13
Rental- Transportation	2		8	1		11
Attend- Convention	3		1	6		10
Communication- Email	5		3	1		9
Purchase- Airplane Tickets			9			9
Murder	3	6				9
Visit- Family/ Friends	6		2			8
Issue Fatwah	2	4	2			8
U.S. Entry- Legal			8			8
Acquire- Bomb Materials	1	1	6			8
Smuggling- Drugs		8				8
Research	1	1	2	4		8
Theft- Bomb Materials	3	1	1	2		7
Totals	373	226	297	98	16	1010

* There were a total of 1300 recorded acts tied to incidents. The other 290 not shown each occurred less than 8 times.





Antecedent Activity by Crime Type for All Categories

Crime	Right Wing	Left Wing	International	Environmental	SI- Other	Total
Meeting	64	44	26	20	1	155
Fraud- Bank	34					34
Manufacture- Bomb	14		5	12		31
Smuggling		25				25
Robbery- Bank	13	11				24
Transfer- Money	2	2	19			23
Threat	17		1		3	21
Possession- Weapons	16					16
Fraud- Identification	1	9	6			16
Purchase- Weapons	8	5	2			15
Training	2		11	1		14
Transport- Bomb Materials		7	3	1		11
Murder	3	6				9
Issue Fatwah	2	4	2			8
Smuggling- Drugs		8				8
Theft- Bomb Materials	3	1	1	2		7
Testing Bomb	6	1				7
Acquire- Bomb Materials	1	1	5			7
Declaration of War	3		3			6
Transport- Weapons	6					6
Procure- False Identification		5				5
U.S. Entry- Illegal			4	1		5
Training- Weapons	2		3			5
Robbery- Armored Car	4	1				5
Totals	201	130	91	37	4	463

* There were a total of 582 recorded crimes tied to incidents. The other 119 not shown each occurred less than 4 or less times..





Spatial Distribution of Antecedent Acts

Distribution of Distance from Terrorists' Residences to Major Types of Antecedent Activities

Type:	Intelligence Gathering	Bomb Procurement and Manufacture	Other Thefts and Robberies	All Antecedents
0 - 30 miles:	35%	47%	14%	40%
31 - 90 miles:	17%	11%	10%	14%
91 - 270 miles:	22%	14%	21%	18%
271 - 810 miles:	15%	14%	34%	13%
811 + miles:	11%	13%	21%	15%
Minimum Distance:	0 mi	0 mi	0 mi	0 mi
Maximum Distance:	2696 mi	2380 mi	2598 mi	2696 mi
Mean:	325	311	518	332
Median:	82	44	326	71
Std dev:	584	580	572	558
Unique Persons:	42	45	34	212
Unique Events:	49	60	35	723
Measurements:	81	91	87	1254



Thefts and Robberies Spatial Analysis

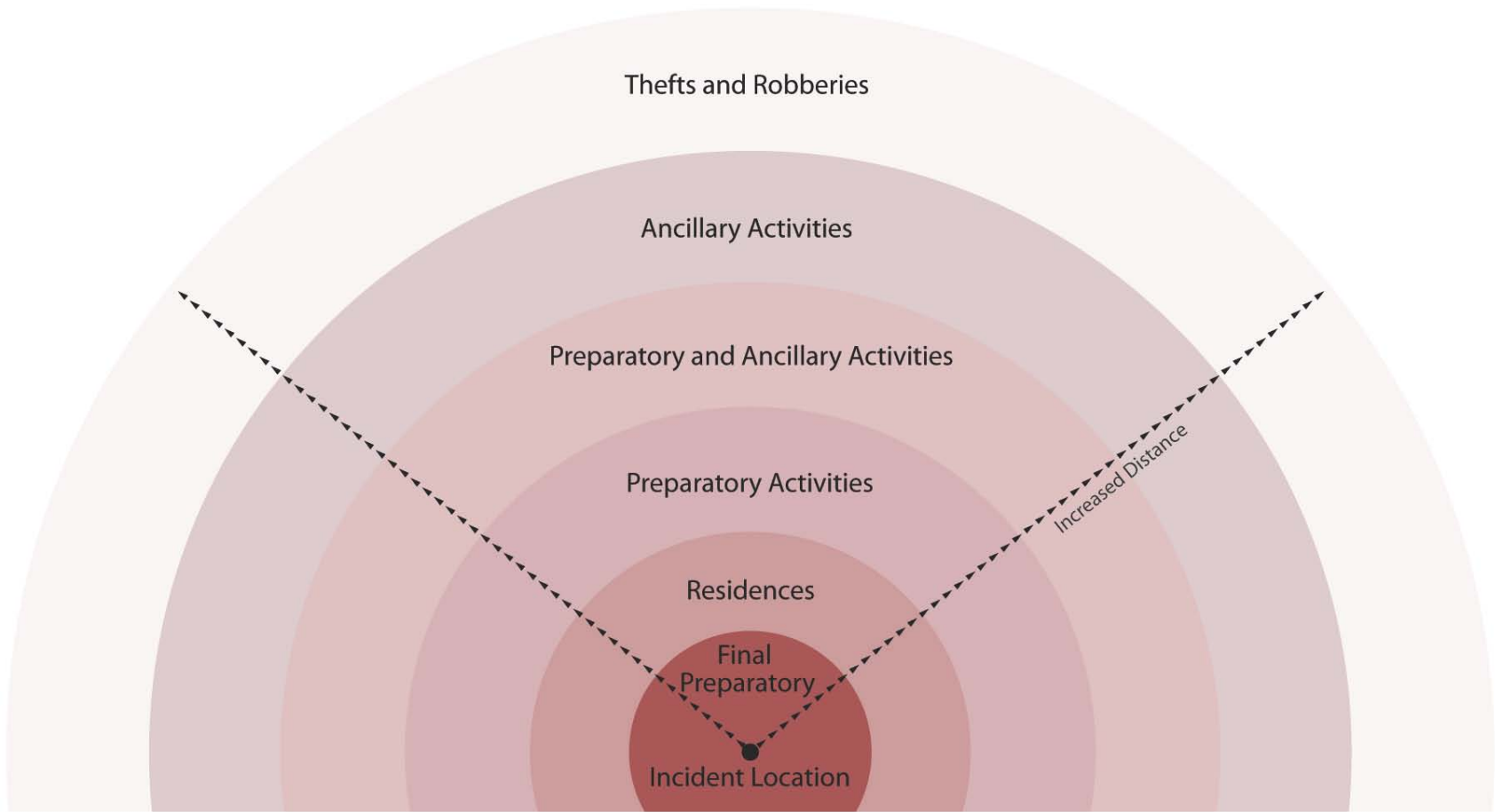
Linear Distance from Residences to Thefts and Robberies



Measurements		Log ₁₀ Ranges	
Min. Distance	0	14%	0 - 30 miles
Max. Distance	2598	9%	31 - 90 miles
Mean	568	18%	91 - 270 miles
Median	356	34%	271 - 810 miles
Std. dev.	613	25%	811 + miles



Most Common Spatial Pattern





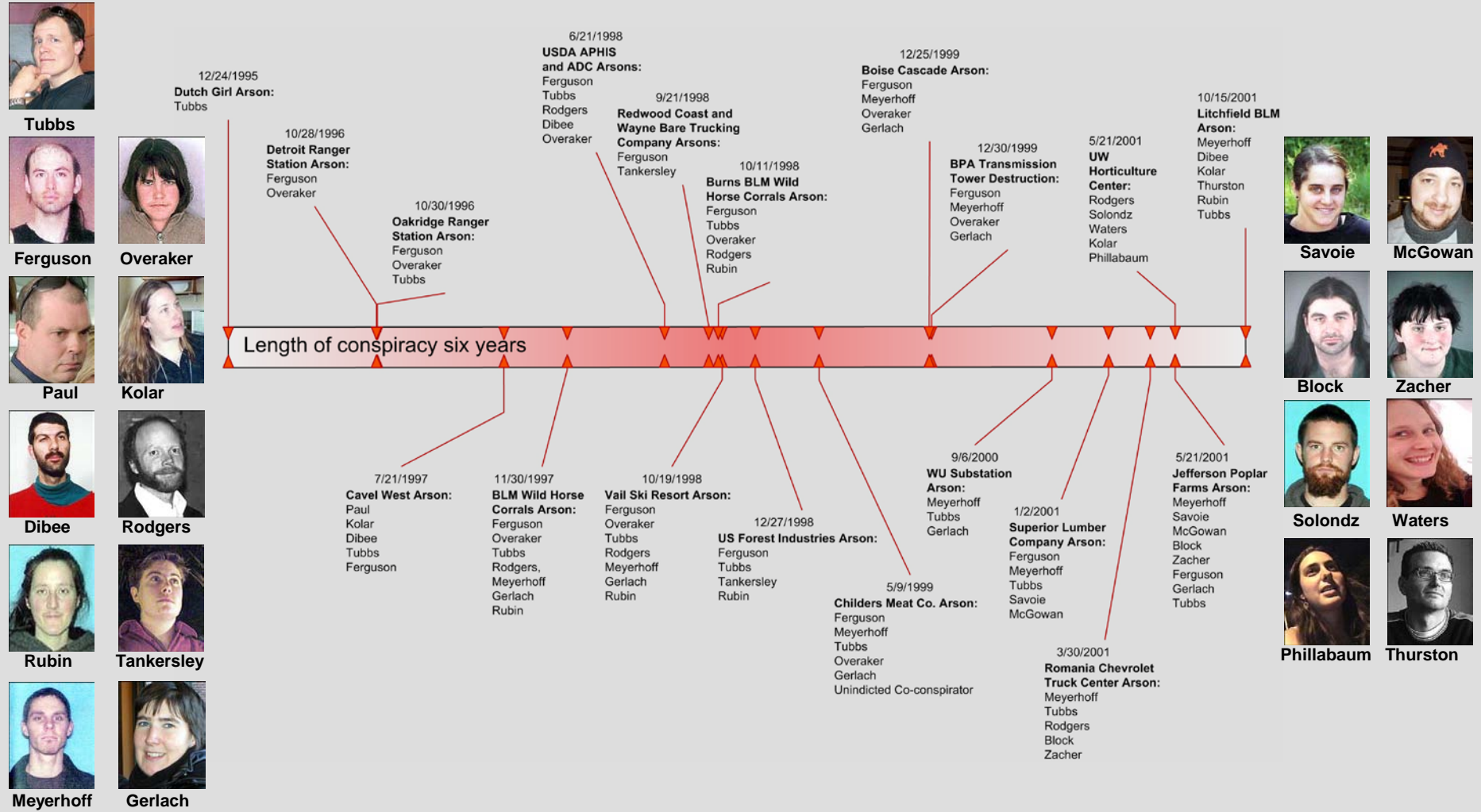
Single Issue- Environmental Case Study: ELF/ALF “The Family”

Rather than individual “direct actions” as commonly believed, these individuals are alleged to have conspired in most of the major acts of eco-terrorism in the U.S. over the past nine years.





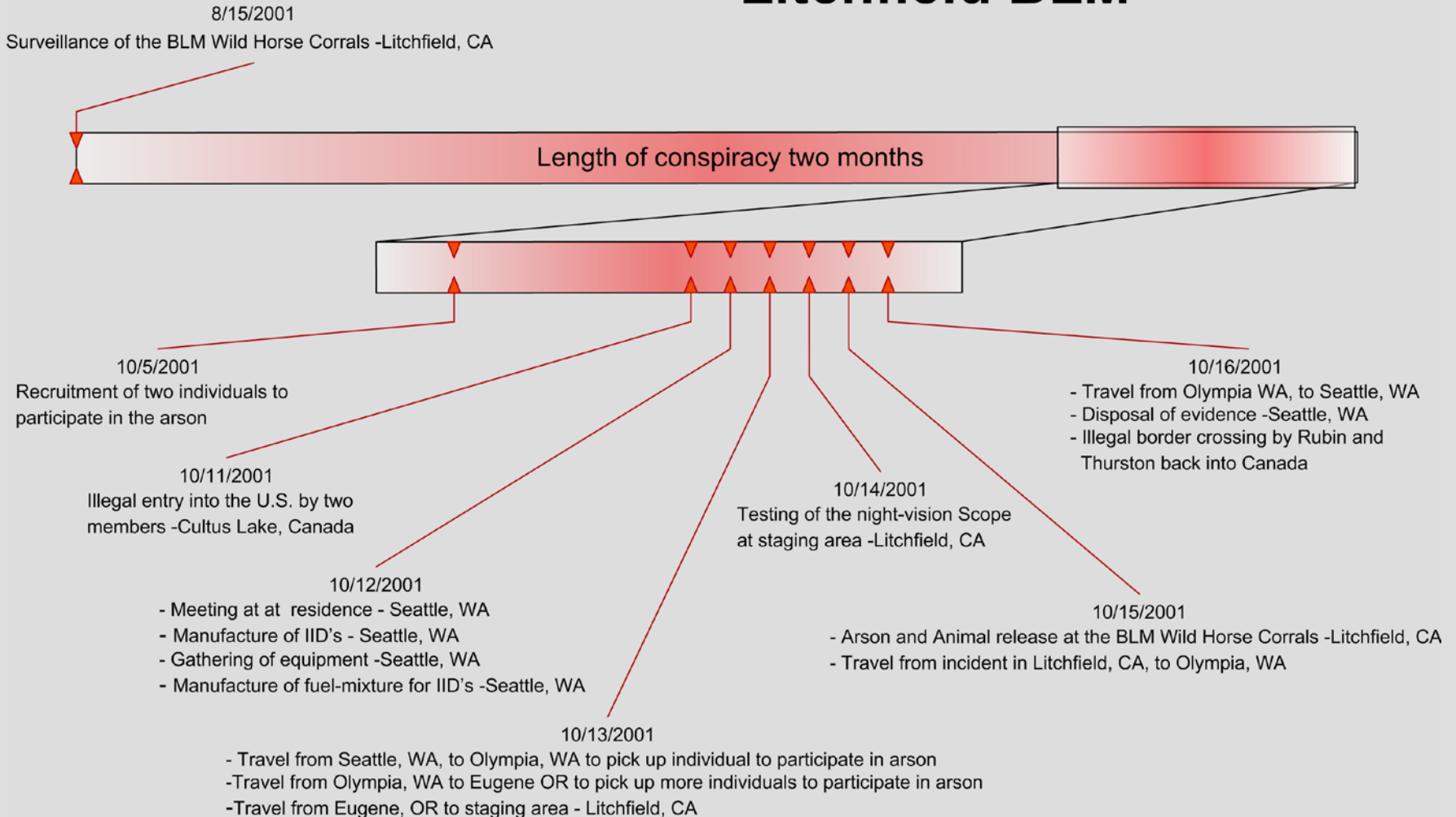
Timeline of ELF/ALF "The Family" Incidents





Temporal Analysis- Incident Timeline

Litchfield BLM



Litchfield BLM ELF/ALF “The Family” Incident



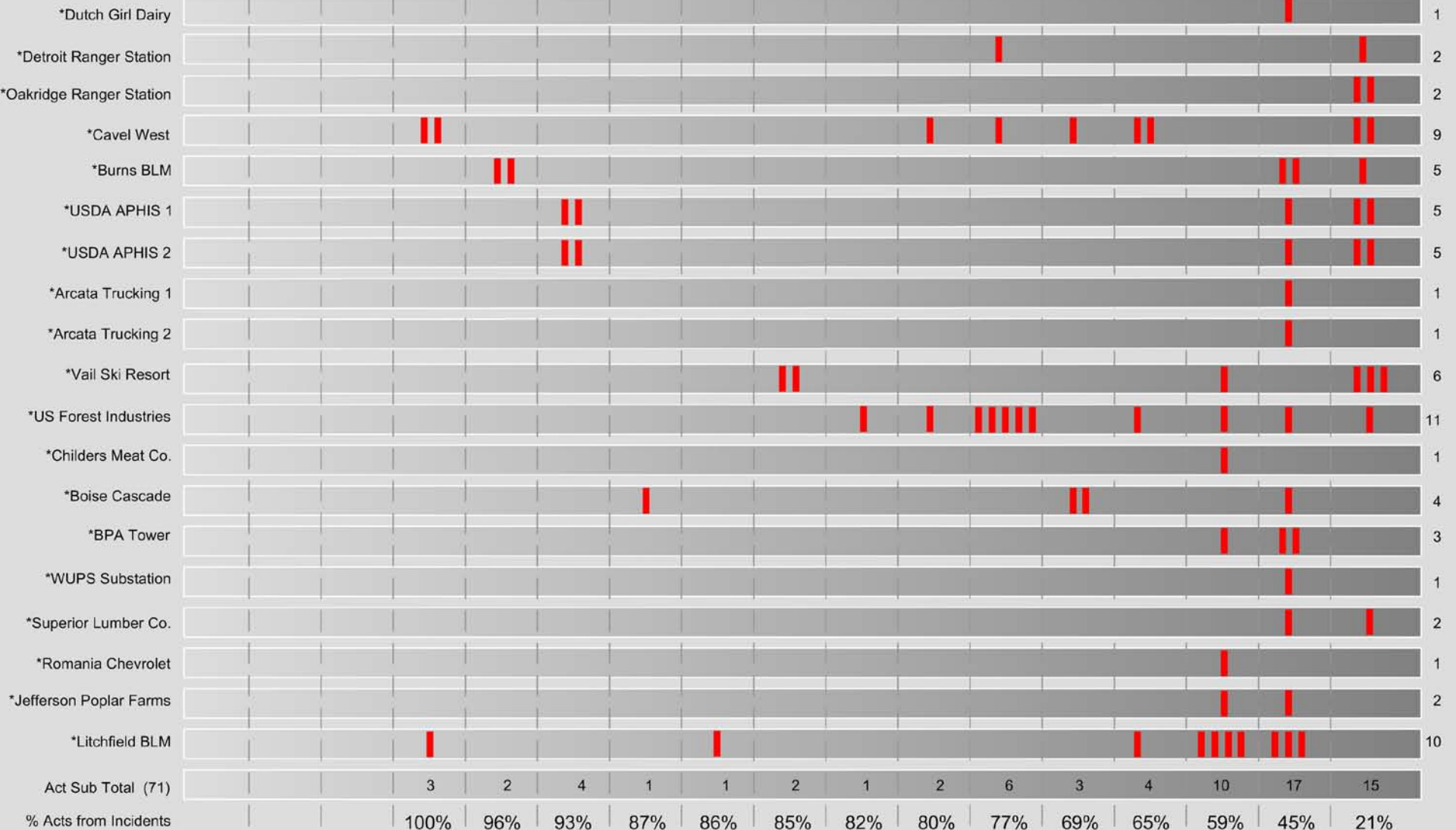
Environmental Temporal Measurement Results- ELF/ALF "The Family"

Number of days before incident or planned incident that preparatory activity took place

Preparatory Activity

Incidents (19/64)

*ATS Court Case





Preparatory Temporal Analysis- All Groups

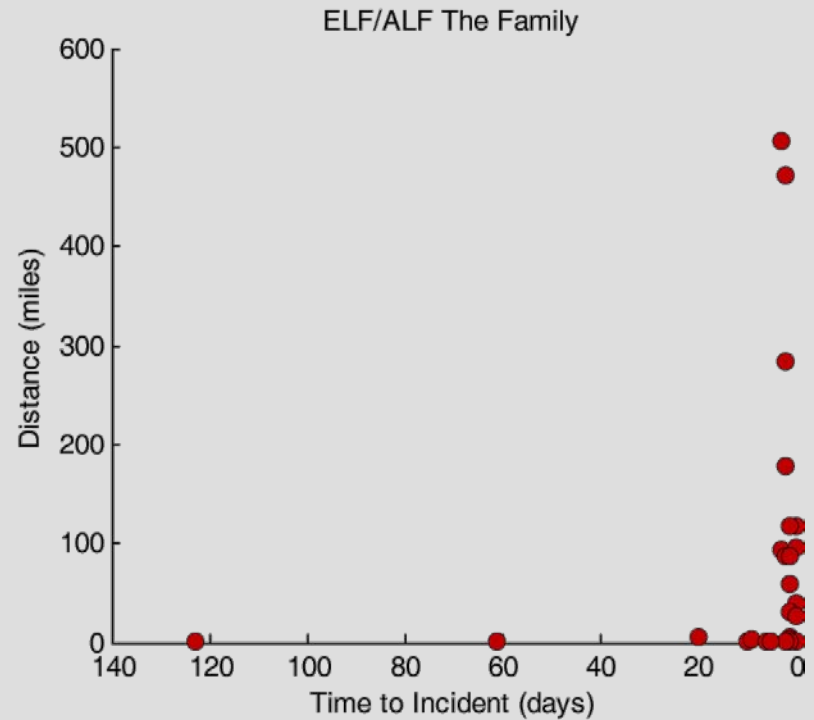
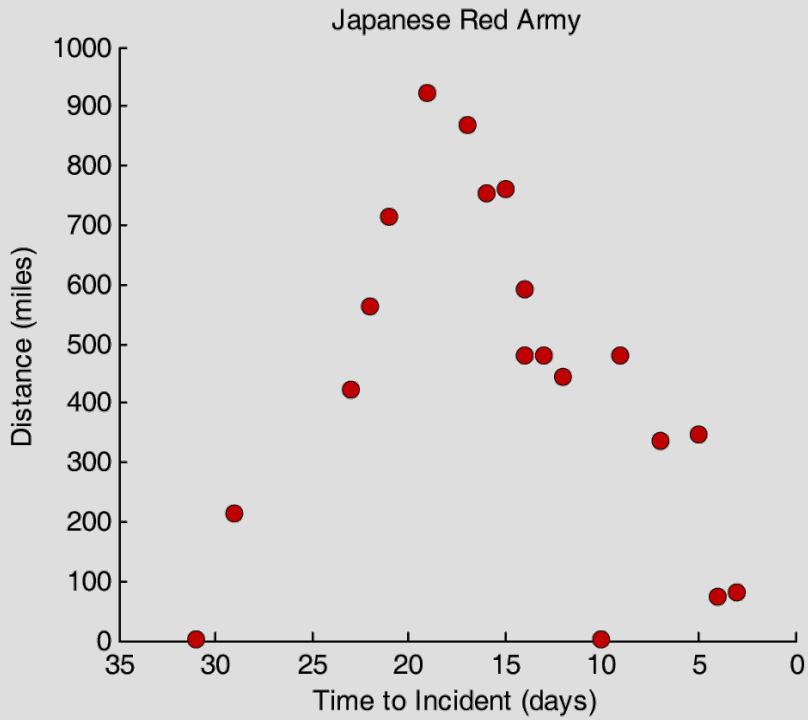
Running Cumulative % of Preparatory Acts by Time Range

Category (Incidents)	3 + years	1 to 3 years	6 to 12 months	1 to 6 months	21-30 days	11-20 days	6-10 days	2-5 days	Day Before	Incident Day	Total Acts
Left Wing (45)	100%	97%	65%	49%	16%	13%	11%	8%	3%	1%	153
Right Wing (40)	100%	96%	76%	60%	32%	25%	17%	15%	7%	5%	285
International (13)	100%	97%	87%	77%	50%	43%	25%	22%	6%	5%	380
Single Issue- Other (11)	100%	100%	100%	100%	62%	48%	48%	32%	8%	4%	26
Environmental (38)	100%	100%	100%	97%	88%	85%	63%	54%	33%	16%	118
All Categories (147)	100%	97%	82%	70%	44%	38%	26%	22%	10%	6%	962



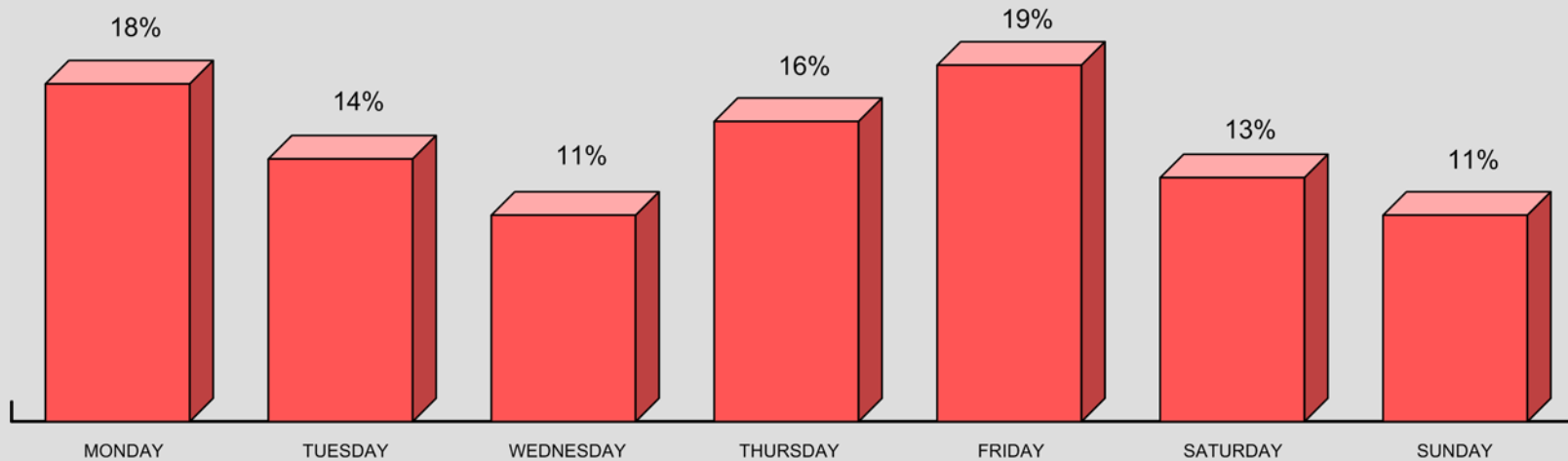


Time and Space Interaction





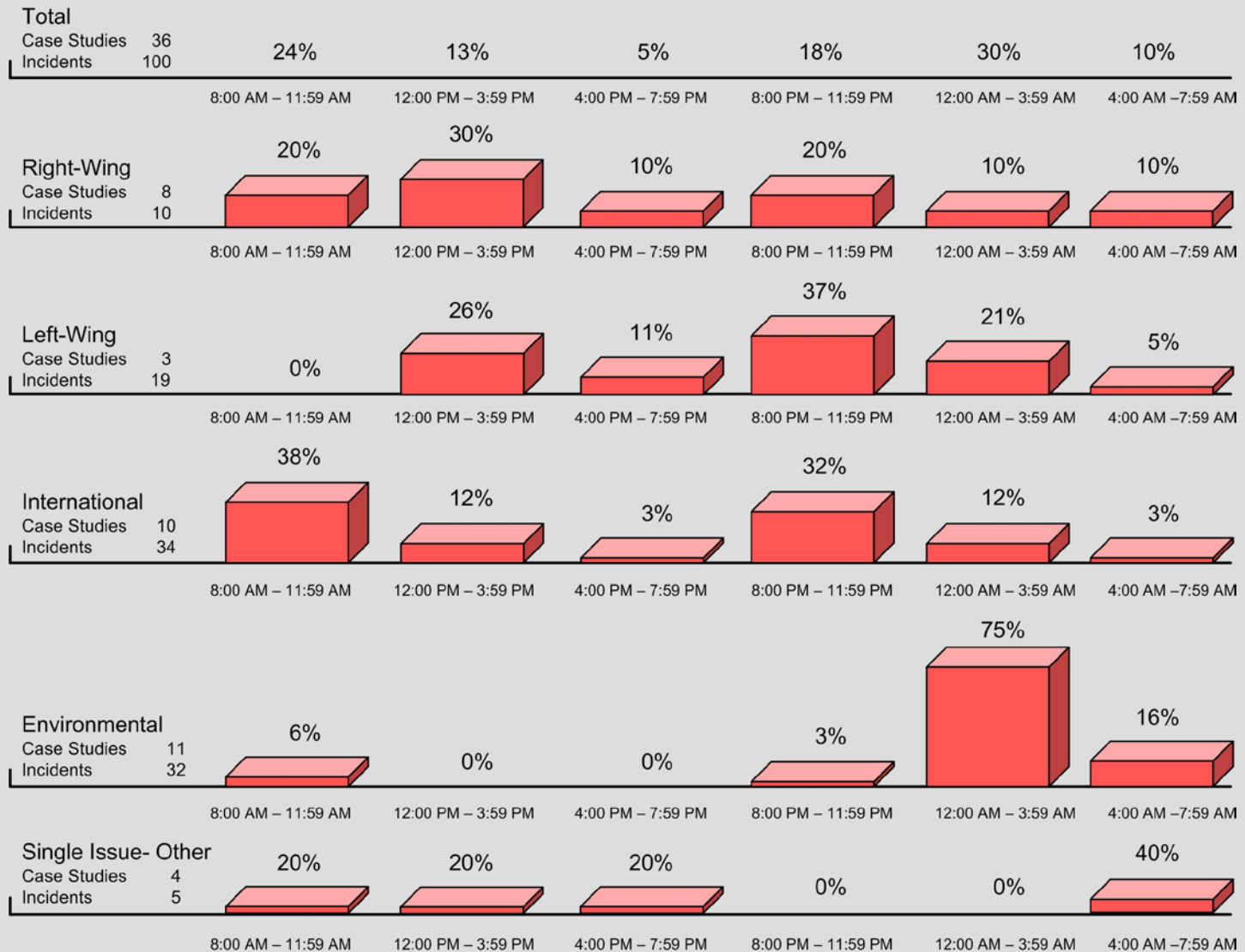
Incident Acts by Day of Week



Day of Week that Incident Occurred or was Planned
Total Incidents 318



Incident Acts by Time of Day





Contact Information

Brent Smith

Chair- Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Director- Terrorism Research Center in Fulbright College

211 Old Main
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701
479-575-3206

bls@uark.edu
<http://trc.uark.edu>

Kelly R. Damphousse

Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
President's Associates Presidential Professor - Sociology

633 Elm Avenue, 323 Ellison Hall
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019
(405) 325-2077
kdamp@ou.edu

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Terrorism Research Center

Fulbright College, University of Arkansas

Research Areas:

- Geospatial and Temporal Patterns
- Sentencing
- Terrorism Financing
- Prosecutorial and Defense Strategies

NEWS

Tue, April 22nd
UofA Terrorism Research Center in the News

Thu, April 10th
[China's Murky Olympic Terror Threats](#)

Thu, April 3rd
['Terror Plot' to Blow Up Transatlantic Flights out of London](#)

Tue, March 18th
[U.S. Adapts Cold-War Idea to Fight Terrorists](#)
[more news...](#)

EVENTS

[more events](#)

TERRORISM RESEARCH CENTER

The Terrorism Research Center in Fulbright College (TRC) was created in 2003 to facilitate research on terrorism, extremist violence, and the effectiveness of intervention strategies. The TRC plays an integral role in ongoing research to better understand the spatial and temporal patterns of terrorist activities.



The Center plays host to the American Terrorism Study (ATS), the nation's longest running research project on terrorism in the United States. The project provides a comprehensive record of persons indicted in federal courts as a result of FBI "terrorism enterprise" investigations. Current research projects including [TITAS](#) (Terrorism in Time and Space) build upon the ATS refining and providing additional insights into the behavior of terrorist groups.

Terrorism Research Center • Old Main 211 • University of Arkansas • Fayetteville, AR 72701
Phone 479-575-3205 • Fax 479-575-7981 • bls@uark.edu
director