1993 World Trade Center Bombing

Attack Summary: On 16 February 1993, terrorists attacked the World Trade Center with a ~1,500 lb improvised explosive device (IED) loaded into a Ryder rental truck parked and detonated below the north tower. The attack failed to achieve the terrorists' objective of toppling the north tower into the south tower and thereby killing thousands of people. The total casualties included six killed and 1,042 injured--with most injuries occurring from smoke inhalation. Ramzi Yousef planned the attack along with a group of conspirators, and they received financial support from Khaled Shaikh Mohammed.

Key Lessons:
- In February 1993, the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Data Center published an extensive lessons learned report titled "The World Trade Center Bombing: Report and Analysis."
- Assess the terrorist threat and vulnerability of high occupancy facilities and establish physical and procedural security measures to prevent terrorists' opportunity to plan and conduct an attack.
- Routinely practice evacuation drills to ensure tenants understand evacuation procedures, escape routes, and assembly areas.
- If a facility is attacked, immediately evacuate the site and move all personnel to a safe location.

AT Principles:
- Understand terrorist tactics and methods in order to implement counter-measures in AT plans.
- Terrorism Threat/Incident Response (TT/IR) plans should detail "actions on contact" in event of an attack and include mass warning notification procedures.
- Facility engineers, in collaboration with antiterrorism and physical security officers, should apply design basis threat (DBT) principles to align protection objectives against terrorist threat tactics for specific facilities (see UFC 4-010-01, DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings, JAN 07).
- Random Antiterrorism Measures (RAM) include both procedural and physical security protection activities that commanders should incorporate into mission essential or vulnerable areas to serve as a passive, nonintrusive shield against terrorist activities.

Notes for Commanders:
- Rehearse TT/IR and mass casualty plans annually to ensure that key personnel understand their roles and that supporting resources are available to execute plans.
- Plan, prepare, and employ an Incident Command System (ICS) for crisis response. The ICS facilitates command and control and the employment of scalable resources and allows for the flexible and adaptive use of emergency response capabilities.
- Develop close working relations with local civilian/host nation emergency response agencies.
- A command designated public information officer is essential to present updated factual information to the media.

Army Antiterrorism Principles: Assess, Detect, Defend, Warn, Recover

Always Ready. Always Alert.

Because someone is depending on you.