

FBI



FBI

Study Guide

CRISIS COMMITTEE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMITTEE

(FBI) STUDY GUIDE

Agenda Item: Boston Marathon Bombing

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1. Opening Letters

1.1 Letter from Secretary-General

To Our Distinguished Participants and Esteemed Delegates,

It is my greatest honor to welcome you all to first ever LeadersMUN'26. On behalf of the entire Secretariat team, I am thrilled to invite you to join us for what promises to be an inspiring and incredible conference.

We find ourselves in an era where unprecedented global challenges face us. From the intricacies of climate change to the subtleties of international security, the world does not simply need conversation; it needs cooperation, it needs innovation. This conference is intended to be an environment in which your voices matter, your solutions weigh heavily, and your diplomacy creates the future.

Remember that diplomacy begins with the courage to speak, the patience to listen and the determination to seek solutions even when challenges seem impossible.

As the Secretary General it is my privilege to say that I have such amazing friends by my side. We went through the good and bad times together. I am excited to see the outcome of our effort.

I am looking forward to witnessing the spectacular debates and resolutions that will emerge from your committees.

Best Regards,
Elvin HANCI
Secretary-General of LeadersMUN'26
For contact, elvinhanci09@gmail.com

1.2 Letter from Under-Secretary-General

Dear FBI delegates,

First of all, welcome to LeadersMUN'26. As the Under Secretary General of the Federal Bureau of Investigation committee, I am very happy to spend three wonderful days with you, my valued delegates.

The committee actually addresses the tragic incident that occurred during a marathon in Boston, USA, in 2013. In this special committee, we will work together to answer questions such as: What would have happened if the perpetrators hadn't been apprehended as easily as they were in reality in 2013? Would they have been caught at all? And how should they have been tried after their arrest? In this committee, which follows a timeline slightly different from real time, you delegates will take on the roles of FBI agents with varying ranks and authorities. But be careful, every failed operation could increase your risk of being assassinated and your chances of dying. On top of all that, watch out for traitors among you!

As the USG, I urge you to prepare thoroughly for your committee and make full use of this study guide throughout the process. I hope this guide proves very helpful to you. I'm confident we'll have an amazing three days together. Best of luck with your work.

Also, if you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Best regards,

Eymen KÖSE

Under-Secretary General, Federal Bureau of Investigation Committee

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2. Introduction to the Committee

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is the domestic intelligence and security service of the United States and its principal federal law enforcement agency. An agency of the United States Department of Justice, the FBI is a member of the U.S. Intelligence Community and reports to both the attorney general and the director of national intelligence. A leading American counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and criminal investigative organization, the FBI has jurisdiction over violations of more than 200 categories of federal crimes. The FBI maintains a list of its top 10 most wanted fugitives.

The FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) committee is an unofficial, special model United Nations committee that drags delegates, each of whom is an FBI agent, into the committee's subject matter and drives them to catch criminals. Unlike General Assembly committees, the FBI can make decisions internally and implement them without restriction.

Delegates, who have their own ranking system, will develop strategies together in a fast-paced environment, working in harmony to corner the criminals. It is up to the delegates' free will to capture the criminals alive or dead, arrest them, or release them. At the end of the committee, the delegates will decide on all of this together. While any wrong strategy could escalate the situation, well-planned strategies could be sufficient to capture the criminals. At this stage, all delegates must act cautiously and take care not to leak information.

Delegates, it is in your hands to manage the committee and crises correctly. Please work properly.

3. Introduction to the Agenda

The Boston Marathon Bombing occurred on 15 April 2013 during the 117th Boston Marathon, when two civilian Muslim brothers detonated homemade pressure cooker bombs.

Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev planted two homemade pressure cooker bombs near the finish line, which exploded 14 seconds and 210 yards (190 m) apart. Three people were killed and hundreds were injured, including a dozen victims who lost limbs.

After five days of extensive investigation and work, the FBI managed to capture one of the perpetrators alive. An unprecedented search was launched for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, with thousands of law enforcement officers conducting door-to-door searches in a 20-block area of Watertown using Tactical Armoured Vehicles.

3.1 Traditional Boston Marathon

The Boston Marathon is an annual marathon race hosted by eight cities and towns in greater Boston in eastern Massachusetts, United States. It is traditionally held on Patriots' Day, the third Monday of April. Begun in 1897, the event was inspired by the success of the first marathon competition in the 1896 Summer Olympics. The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest annual marathon and ranks as one of the world's best-known road racing events. It is one of seven World Marathon Majors. Its course runs from Hopkinton in southern Middlesex County to Boylston Street, near Copley Square, in Boston. Unlike the Boston Marathon, which is run primarily through countryside and small towns, the New York City Marathon is an urban course that runs through all five boroughs of New York City.

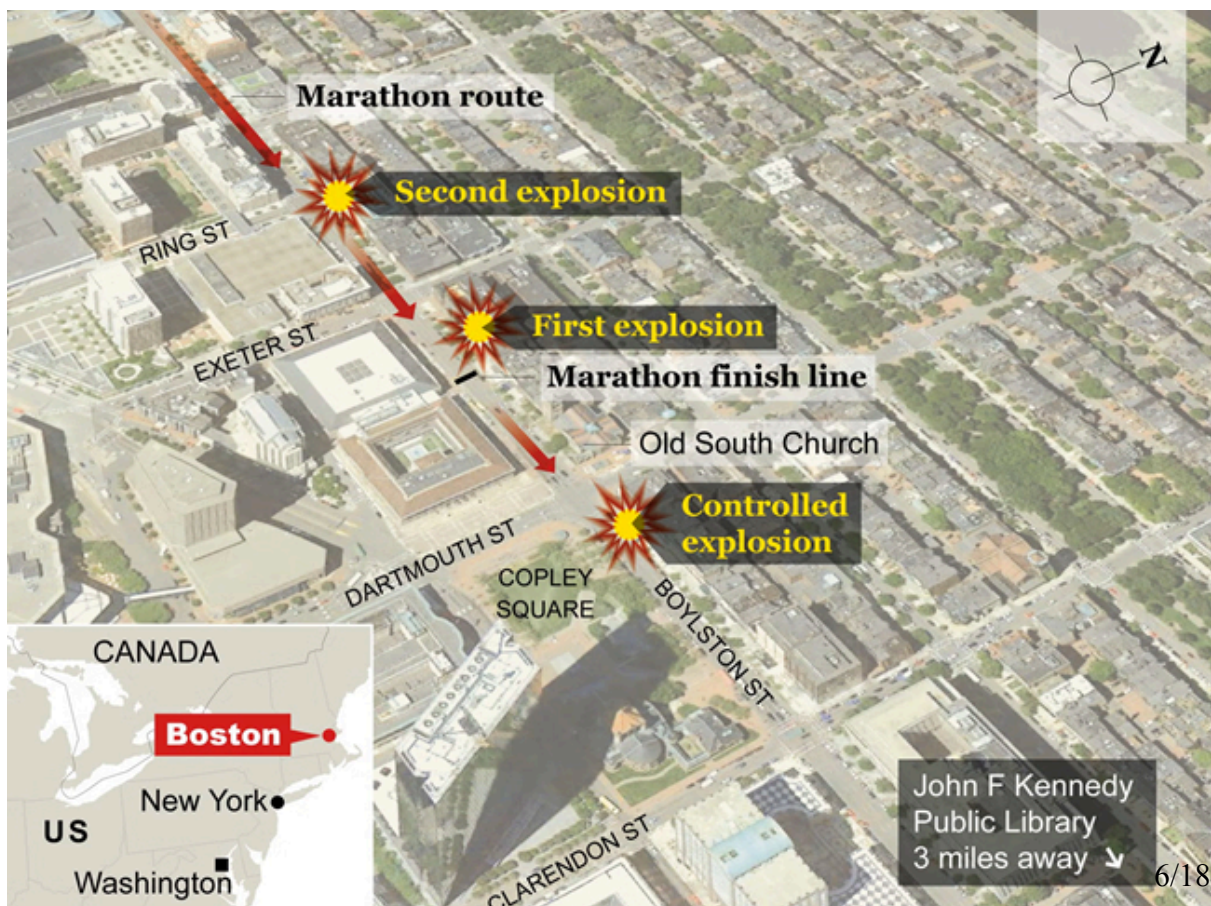
This marathon, which brings the entire community together, is quite wonderful. However, only until 15 April 2013. On that day, the joy of many people turned to sorrow.

3.2 Boston Marathon Bombing

On 15 April 2013, as runners from around the world were enthusiastically welcomed by thousands of spectators lining the streets for the 117th Boston Marathon, two self-radicalised brothers, Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, carried out the largest terrorist attack on US soil since 11 September. They detonated two powerful explosives near the finish line, killing three people and injuring more than 500.

The 2013 race, with over 26,000 runners participating, was the 117th running of the world's oldest annual marathon. Approximately five hours after the race began, the first bomb exploded less than half a block from the finish line, on the north side. Boylston Street.

Approximately 12 seconds later, a second bomb exploded about 180 metres (600 feet) from the first bomb. This bomb was also placed on the north side of Boylston Street, in the middle of a large crowd of spectators. First responders immediately sprang into action, and a medical tent set up to treat runners was converted into an emergency medical centre. Three of the bombing victims died from their injuries, and more than 100 seriously injured people were transported to hospitals in the area. Local police and federal investigators examined the scene, covering an area of 15 blocks.



4. Research Process

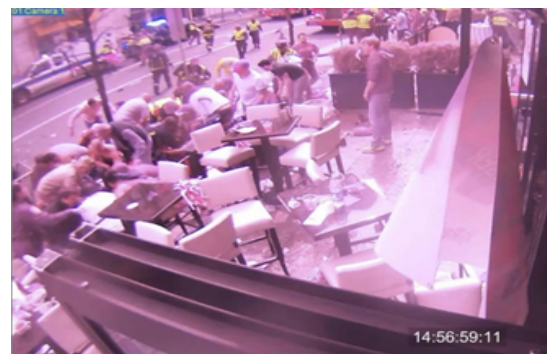
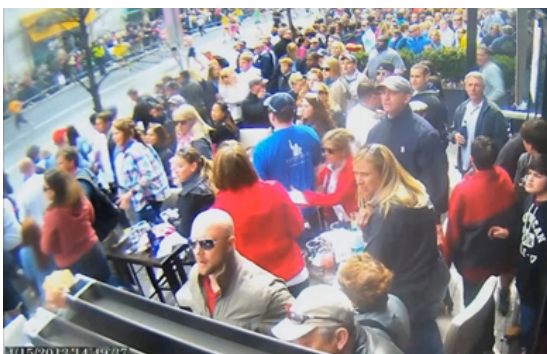
4.1 Day 1

15 April 2013 was marathon day. Footage taken from Forum, one of the restaurants along the race route, showed that there was no apparent threat of attack that day, and two men carrying rucksacks did not appear suspicious as they passed through the crowd. All attention was focused on the runners.

At 2:49 pm, the first bomb in the marathon exploded near the finish line. Boston residents, unaccustomed to such attacks and chaos, did not understand what was happening at first. Everyone turned their heads from about 200 metres away at the sound of the first explosion. Within the next 12 seconds, some people tried to leave the scene, but most spectators, including the Richard family, remained unaware of the second bomb. There was a rucksack at their feet. Among the dead was 8-year-old Martin Richard. In addition to those killed, many people lost limbs. The FBI appeared to be facing a major act of domestic terrorism. Moreover, there was no one who appeared suspicious. Twenty-three minutes after the bombs exploded, the brothers Tamerlan and Dzhokhar entered the Whole Foods store in Cambridge for a job. However, neither of them exhibited any suspicious behaviour or concern. Their cool demeanour made solving the case difficult.

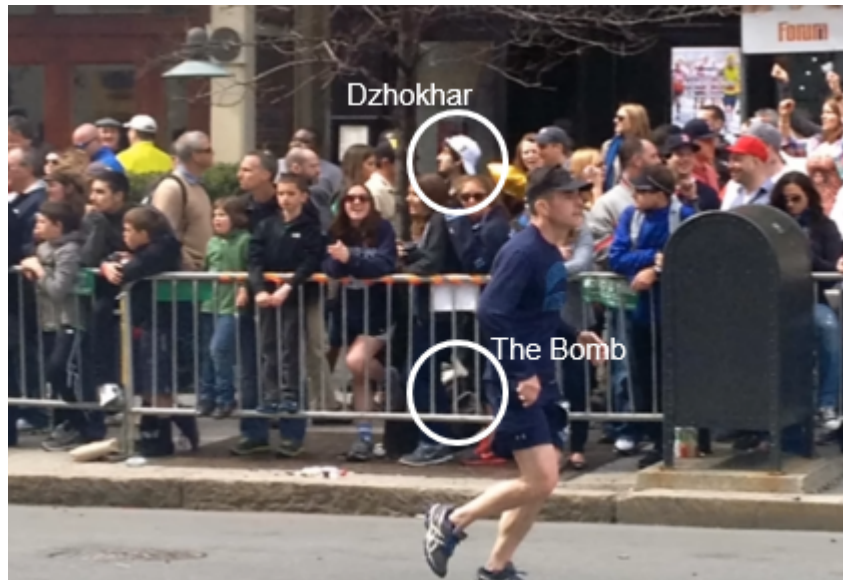
The most important evidence came from the Cart Laboratory at FBI Headquarters in Boston. Over 10,000 videos and photographs were analysed here. The initial evidence was video footage taken from a camera at the front of the Forum. In part of this video footage, one of the 147 people was the bomber, but the FBI could not identify this person.

On the first day, the FBI had not obtained any information about the identities or locations of the perpetrators.



4.2 Day 2

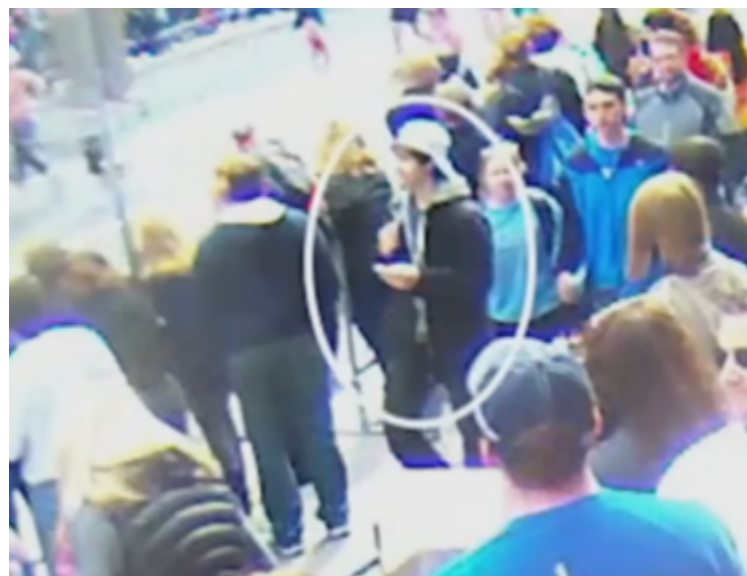
The date was Tuesday, 16 April 2013. Agents at the FBI's Cart Laboratory in Boston headquarters watched the footage repeatedly throughout the night. Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis said in a speech that they needed all the evidence they could get and asked the public to forward any footage they had that could be considered evidence to the FBI.



Then someone from the public called and said they had taken a photograph of their friend running just before the explosion on the opposite side of the street and that it could be examined. The FBI's examination revealed a black rucksack in the frame and determined it to be a bomb.

After identifying the backpack, they eventually discovered that the person carrying it was Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

Approximately 4.5 minutes before the explosion, he entered the scene, carrying the rucksack, talking on the phone, arriving at that spot and slowly placing the bag at the scene. After the first explosion, he calmly left the frame, and then the second explosion occurred. There were a total of two bombs and two bombers, but the FBI had only been able to identify one of them, which was the second explosion.





Dzhokhar and Tamerlan

The FBI then traced the bomber's movements backwards and saw that he and the other bomber, Tamerlan, had first appeared together in front of Whiskey's Restaurant. As a result, approximately 3,000 federal agents and police officers were on the hunt. The FBI ran the photo they had through a facial recognition system, but this did not work. The FBI was still unsure what they were dealing with.

4.3 Day 3

Wednesday, 17 April 2013 was the third day of the investigation. Police officers were meticulously continuing to collect all clues and remains at the scene. All the parts of a bomb could be found and pieced together, and it would be possible to determine who had purchased these components. Upon this, the FBI set up a huge warehouse where all the evidence was collected.

Over 160 mobile phones were also seized at the scene. It was not even known whether the bomb could be remotely detonated or was time-activated. As the phones could constitute evidence, the FBI had to examine all of them.

One of the most significant pieces of evidence found regarding the bomb was the parts of a pressure cooker that had been converted into a bomb. The bottom part of the pressure cooker fell onto the roof of a nearby hotel during the explosion. The name of the manufacturer and the serial number were on this part. The FBI then determined where this cooker had been purchased. One person had purchased five such cookers in the months prior to the bombing. It was also learned that Al-Qaeda had published



detailed instructions on the internet on how to make pressure cooker bombs. The bombs were very similar to devices used against the US in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, as the FBI had not yet shared any information about the ongoing investigation, numerous conspiracy theories and false reports were circulating on the internet. Several of these false reports attracted considerable attention. One such report was that journalists had published photographs of two individuals. However, these individuals had already been cleared by the FBI. Subsequently, false reports began circulating that the perpetrators had been apprehended. Even police officers could have believed these reports. However, the FBI clarified that these images were inaccurate, that the individuals in the footage were innocent, and that all police officers should return to duty.

Neither Tamerlan's family nor anyone in Dzhokhar's circle knew that they were responsible for what had happened. Dzhokhar returned to his school at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Security cameras showed him at the university gym one day after the incident, appearing to be with friends. The FBI had still not apprehended the perpetrators, and the brothers could have been involved in another incident at any moment. However, another incident occurred before the FBI could apprehend them.

4.4 Day 4

Thursday, 18 April 2013 was the fourth day of the investigation. The FBI was constantly having to deal with false reports. It also needed to alert the public to the criminals and convey the message that the FBI was pursuing them. In response, the FBI made a one-hour special broadcast on a television channel, and Rick Delorier, head of the FBI's Boston office, explained that they needed the public's help before releasing photos of the criminals, whose identities they had not yet determined, and that they were waiting for reports of sightings of the criminals. The photos spread to media outlets around the world within minutes. However, not a single tip came in from the criminals' surroundings that day.



That night, the radios were silent until a report came in that MIT officer Sean Ker had been shot. The two brothers seen on camera approached Officer Ker's patrol car and shot him in order to take his gun. When they couldn't get the gun, they fled, and things got even worse.



Blood is seen in a police car on a street where Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev engaged in a gunfight with police. REUTERS/U.S. Attorney's Office

Later, another report came in; the brothers had hijacked a black Mercedes SUV, forced the owner into the car, stolen his money, withdrawn cash from an ATM, and stopped at a petrol station to buy supplies for their journey. Their plan was to go to New York and detonate more bombs in Times Square. However, the owner of the hijacked vehicle escaped to the petrol station across the street and reported the criminals. The criminals were armed. Later, the older brother, Tamerlan, informed his

brother that the man had escaped, and they sped away from the petrol station. Watertown police pursued the vehicle, and a shootout began in a street. The criminals were firing at the

police. A major confrontation ensued, with the criminals using numerous dynamite-type explosives. Two police officers engaged Tamerlan in close combat, hitting him with more than eight bullets and striking him hard, but Tamerlan was still not knocked out.

The younger brother, Dzhokhar, fled the scene in a Mercedes, running over his brother Tamerlan. Many police officers were injured that night, but Dzhokhar managed to escape the scene.

4.5 Day 5

Friday, 19 April 2013, was the fifth and final day of the investigation. Following the events, a curfew was imposed in Watertown and Boston. People were instructed to open their doors only to law enforcement officers whose identities had been verified. The FBI was going door to door checking on people.

At around 1:35 a.m., Tamerlan, who had been resuscitated for several minutes, was pronounced dead. The identities of the perpetrators had now been revealed. For the first time, the FBI knew who the perpetrators were.

After a six-hour search while the city was under lockdown, nothing was found.

Consequently, the lockdown was lifted.

In the evening, a report came in from the home of 66-year-old David. He said that the inside of the boat in his garden was smashed to pieces, the tarpaulin was

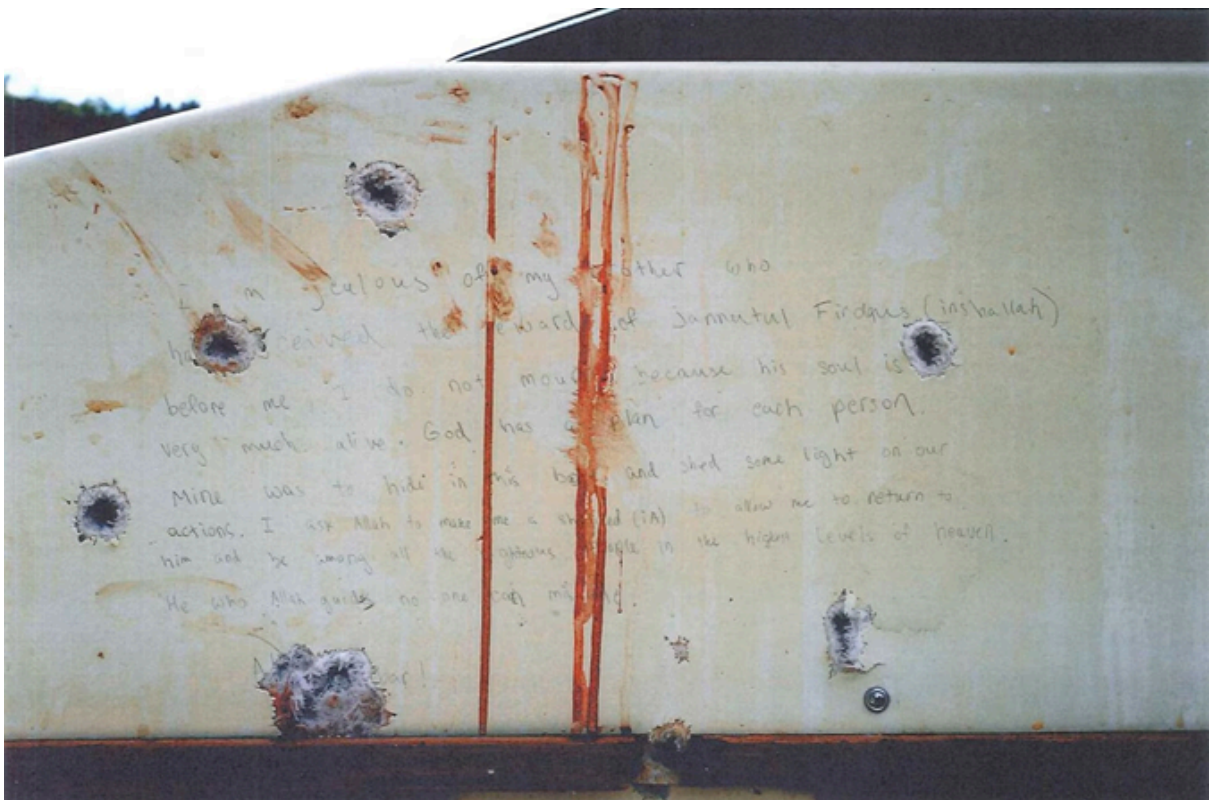


loose, and there was someone inside. Then hundreds of agents drew their weapons on their own and rushed to the scene, and shooting began without orders. Over 250 shots were fired at the boat, and dozens more at nearby houses. Then the order to cease fire came immediately, and the shooting stopped. The FBI could not kill him because of the potential information they could obtain from the suspect. It was then discovered that the man in the boat had no weapon. The boat's tarpaulin was opened remotely, and the seriously injured suspect survived and was taken into custody.

The Boston Marathon bombing injured 265 people, resulted in 17 amputations, and killed 4 people.



A bloody message written by prosecutors inside a boat where Czhokhar Tsarnaev hid before his violent capture, explaining his justification for killing innocent people. The message states, 'We Muslims are one body; if you harm one of us, you harm us all,' and refers to aggression in Muslim lands. The message also states, 'I do not like killing innocent people; it is forbidden in Islam, but it is permitted due to (the aforementioned reason)'; however, one word is missing due to a bullet hole.



5. The Arrest of the Perpetrator

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was arrested at 8:42 p.m. and taken to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where he was listed in critical condition^[130] with gunshot wounds to the head, neck, legs, and hand. Initial reports that the neck wound represented a suicide attempt were contradicted by Tsarnaev's being found unarmed.^[132] The situation was chaotic, according to a police source quoted by The Washington Post, and the firing of weapons occurred during "the fog of war". A subsequent review by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts provided this more specific summary: "One officer fired his weapon without appropriate authority in response to perceived movement in the boat, and surrounding officers followed suit in a round of 'contagious fire', assuming Tsarnaev was firing on them. Weapons continued to be fired for several seconds until on-scene supervisors ordered a ceasefire and regained control of the scene. The unauthorized shots created another dangerous crossfire situation". The confusion was caused in part by a lack of clearly identified and coordinated law enforcement command of the thousands of officers from surrounding communities who self-deployed into the Watertown area during the events.

After Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was taken into custody, the FBI revealed that it had investigated Tamerlan Tsarnaev in 2011 after the FSB, the Russian intelligence agency, had expressed concern about his potential radicalization. That investigation included an interview with Tamerlan Tsarnaev. At that time, the FBI found no evidence of terrorist involvement by Tamerlan Tsarnaev.

On April 24, investigators reported that they had reconstructed the bombs, and believed that they had been triggered by remote controls used for toy cars.

On April 22, 2013, formal criminal charges were brought against Tsarnaev in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts during a bedside hearing while he was hospitalized. He was charged with use of a weapon of mass destruction and with malicious destruction of property resulting in death. Some of the charges carried potential sentences of life imprisonment or the death penalty. Tsarnaev was judged to be awake, mentally competent, and lucid, and he responded to most questions by nodding. The judge asked him whether he was able to afford an attorney and he said no; he was represented by the Federal Public Defender's office. On April 26, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was moved from Beth Israel

Deaconess Medical Center to the Federal Medical Center at Fort Devens, about 40 miles (64 km) from Boston. FMC Devens is a federal prison medical facility at a former Army base where he was held in solitary confinement at a segregated housing unit with 23-hour-per-day lockdown.

On July 10, 2013, Tsarnaev pleaded not guilty to 30 charges in his first public court appearance, including a murder charge for MIT police officer Sean Collier. He was back in court for a status hearing on September 23, and his lawyers requested more time to prepare their defense. On October 2, Tsarnaev's attorneys asked the court to lift the special administrative measures (SAMs) imposed by Attorney General Holder in August, saying that the measures had left Tsarnaev unduly isolated from communication with his family and lawyers, and that no evidence suggested that he posed a future threat. Tsarnaev was found guilty on all 30 counts on April 8.

6. Information About Criminals

In the weeks and months that followed the bombing, investigators attempted to understand the two brothers' motives and determine whether they had ties to larger organized terrorist networks. Many also posed a question that was articulated by Pres. Barack Obama during an address to the nation; "Why did young men who grew up and studied here, as part of our communities and our country, resort to such violence?"

Tamerlan Tsarnaev was born in 1986 in the North Caucasus, in the Kalmyk Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, which is now part of Russia. Dzhokhar was born in 1993 in Kyrgyzstan, although some sources claim that his family asserts he was born in Russia's Dagestan region. The family spent time in the city of Tokmok in Kyrgyzstan and the city of Makhachkala in Dagestan. They are half Chechen through their father Anzor and half Avar through their mother Zubeidat. They never lived in Chechnya, but the brothers identified themselves as Chechens.



Dzhokhar Tsarnaev came to the United States with his family in 2002, and Tamerlan joined them a year later. Before emigrating to the US, the Chechen family had lived in Kyrgyzstan and Russia's Republic of Dagestan. The elder Tsarnaev was an enthusiastic boxer and had achieved some success at an amateur level, but in 2009 he began to show signs of Islamic radicalisation. In 2011, at the request of the Russian government, the FBI launched an investigation into Tamerlan but found no evidence of terrorist activity. The following year, Tamerlan spent six months in Dagestan. Upon his return, he created a channel on YouTube linking to a series of extremist videos and applied for US citizenship.

Meanwhile, Dzhokhar was a popular student at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. When three of his friends learned of his role in the bombing, they gathered in his dorm room and found a rucksack containing several fireworks with the gunpowder removed. The trio discarded the rucksack and its contents (later recovered), leading to accusations that they had attempted to obstruct or mislead investigators. One of the three, Azamat Tazhayakov, was found guilty in July 2014 of obstructing a terrorism investigation and sentenced to three and a half years in prison.



Although there appeared to be no concrete link between the Tsarnaev brothers and larger conspiracies or terrorist groups, Dzhokhar told investigators that he and his brother had obtained the plans for the bombs from Inspire, an online newsletter published by

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). This led analysts following the investigation to conclude that the Tsarnaev brothers were ‘self-radicalised,’ developing a personal militant ideology fed by different sources without being directly affiliated with any of them. Investigators uncovered horrific evidence of the violent nature of this ideology through Tamerlan's involvement in a triple homicide in Waltham, Massachusetts, in September 2011. Tamerlan's partner, Ibragim Todashev, also confessed to his role in the Waltham murders before being shot dead by the FBI during questioning in May 2013.

7. Conclusion

The Boston Marathon Bombing was one of the major terrorist attacks in US history. Many people were injured, lost limbs, and experienced great fear.

The FBI committee will begin with the Boston Marathon Bombing, and unlike the historical process, the capture and fate of the perpetrators will be in your hands, the delegates. While pursuing the perpetrators, it is up to you to keep civilians safe, prevent similar attacks from occurring, keep information about the process secure, and decide how the perpetrators will be tried after their capture. At this point, it is extremely important that you, the delegates, make careful decisions and act prudently at every step.

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