

When bombings strike our national events, we can only become more vigilant in order to protect ourselves from future terrorist activities. In mid-April of this year, 2013, terrorist bombers struck the Boston Marathon. Held every year on Patriot Day (a federal holiday in Massachusetts), The Boston Marathon attracts thousand of international competitors and serves as a family outing for those living around the area and marathon route. Yet, amid this good-natured celebration of athleticism, two young brothers, who had come to the United States from Chechnya, a region with a history of violent extremism, had decided to bring chaos and mourning to a day normally filled with laughter and cheering.



The two bombers had come to the United States to attend school and gain a foothold for their education, according to news sources reporting just a few days after they had been confirmed as the only suspects in the bombing that claimed three lives, and injured 176 people. Amid the terror that followed the initial two blasts, there were also credible acts of heroism as people gave belts and ripped their clothes so as to give truncates and makeshift bandages for the now injured runners and spectators. Four days after the bombing, the first brother suspected of planting the explosives was dead, after encountering police and exchanging shots. Including standard handguns, the suspects also used improvised explosives thrown from their car as they were first fleeing a police dragnet.

Boston was then locked down on the Friday following Monday's Marathon bloodshed, with police advising the public to stay in their homes and to only open the door for a verified member of law enforcement. Swat teams patrolled the streets, going door to door. The Department of Homeland Security, The FBI, and The Boston Police were all called in to assist. With the help of a phone tip, police were led to a parked boat in the backyard of a residence, where neighbors had spotted fresh blood on the tarp that was covering it. Thermal imaging of the boat revealed to detectives that there was indeed an individual who was hiding in the vessel. Police initially were concerned if the suspect possessed additional IED's that might be armed in the event of his capture.



After the Bomb Squad and Tactical departments had assessed the situation, officers deployed stun grenades, and were able to subdue the suspect amid a scuffle. Because of the bravery of the public and the law enforcement community a terrorist was now in custody. In the search for this bomber, as with the search for most criminals, the public's reporting of suspicious persons and activity are vital, and often provide the crucial piece of information that can lead to an arrest, and in the end, a safer community to raise our families.