

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY SERVICE

BOMB THREATS AGAINST U.S. AIRPORTS - 1974

SCOPE:

This report covers the period from January through December 1974 and consists of statistical data and analysis relating to reported bomb threats/bomb explosions at U.S. airports. For the purpose of this report, the term threat refers to bomb threats and devices or articles initially suspected of being or containing bombs, but upon investigation the suspicion was determined to be unfounded. All threats involve airport terminals and facilities and do not include bomb threats against aircraft.

NUMBERS:

From January through December 1974, there were 397 reported threats against U.S. airports. During the first six months of 1974, 133 threats were received while 264 threats were reported in the second half of the year. The 397 total for 1974 reflects a 66.1% increase over the 239 threats received during 1973. This increase in the number of threats received is believed due to the wide publicity given to the August 6, 1974, bomb explosion at Los Angeles International Airport, Los Angeles, California, in which three persons were killed. This widely publicized incident precipitated a dramatic increase in threats during the remainder of that month.

When compared to the 1972 and 1971 threats, the 1974 total of 397 threats reflects a 37.8% increase over the 288 threats received during 1972, and an 87.3% increase over the 212 threats received during 1971.

MODE:

The vast majority of the total threats, 355 or 89.4% were received via telephone from anonymous persons. Twenty-four or 6.1% were made directly to airport personnel, 8 or 2.0% were first detected by visual means (suspect device observed), and 10 or 2.5% were written.

DAY OF THE WEEK:

Tuesday reflected the highest number of threats for the year at 79 or 19.9% and Saturday had the lowest threat incidence at 42 or 10.6%. Of the 70 threats received on Tuesday, 24 were received on Tuesday August 6, the day of the widely publicized bomb explosion at Los Angeles International Airport. Excluding these 24 threats would bring the total of threats received on Tuesday very close to the number of threats received on other days of the week. The variances in threats received by day of the week are not considered statistically significant

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MONTH:

There was an average of 33.1 threats received each month during 1974. The highest number of threats were received in August with 127 threats or 32.0%. April was the lowest month with 10 threats or 2.5%.

LOCATION:

During the year 93 airports reportedly received threats. Of these, 9 airports or 9.7% accounted for 204 or 51.4% of the threats. Los Angeles, CA., heads the list of threat recipients with 71 threats or 17.9% of the total. Of these 71 threats received at Los Angeles, CA., 17 were received on August 6. The top nine recipient airports in descending order are:

Los Angeles, CA.	71	(17.9%)
New York, NY. (JFK)	49	(12.3%)
San Francisco, CA.	25	(6.3%)
Washington, D.C. (National)	12	(3.0%)
Denver, CO.	11	(2.8%)
Oakland, CA.	10	(2.5%)
San Diego	9	(2.3%)
Miami, FL.	9	(2.3%)
St. Louis, MO.	8	(2.0%)

Of the overall total of 93 airports, 44 received one threat, and 40 received 2 to 7 threats.

THREAT SPECIFICITY:

During 1974, threats involved a specific area of the airport in 186 cases or 46.9%. A specific area is defined as an identifiable section of the terminal or airport such as a men's room, a locker, or a specific airline area of the terminal. A non-specific area involves a general reference to the airport such as the building, the terminal, your place, and the airport.

EFFECTS:

The terminal was known to have been cleared in 66 instances or 16.6% of the 397 total, and not cleared in 214 instances or 53.9%. In 117 or 29.5% of the total threats, reports did not indicate whether evacuation procedures were implemented.

Flights were known to have been delayed in 19 instances or 4.8% of the yearly total, and no delays were reported in 213 instances or 53.6%. In 165 or 41.6% of 397 instances, reports did not indicate effect on air traffic.

Data derived from source reports does not permit accurate tabulation of the number of passengers affected, the passenger hours lost, or the costs involved due to threats against airports.

THREATENERS:

Disgruntled individuals, mentally deranged persons, inebriates, practical jokers, and juveniles make up the majority of the small

number of threateners apprehended. During the year, 42 individuals were known to be apprehended. The majority of those apprehended made threats directly to airport personnel at the airport. In many cases those apprehended were severely reprimanded but not prosecuted due to lack of criminal intent. In 23 or 5.8% of the cases the threateners were extortionists who warned that a bomb would explode at the airport unless certain demands were met.

EXPLOSIONS:

There were 4 explosions at U.S. airports. These explosions caused the death of three persons and injured thirty-eight. Only one of these cases involved an extortion attempt. The four explosions in 1974 represent a 33.3% increase over the two explosions and one incendiary ignition reported in 1973.

BOMB THREATS AGAINST U.S. AIRPORTS BY MONTH-1971 - 1974

MONTH	1971	1972	1973	1974	TOTAL
January	13	26	17	27	83
February	13	28	14	24	79
March	12	87	31	23	153
April	16	32	13	10	71
May	19	22	13	26	80
June	27	22	14	23	86
July	16	13	25	23	77
August	13	10	19	127	169
September	10	19	37	34	100
October	15	7	16	30	68
November	33	9	19	24	85
December	25	13	21	26	85
TOTAL	212	288	239	397	1136

BOMB THREATS AGAINST U.S. AIRPORTS BY DAY OF THE WEEK -1971 - 1974

DAY	1971	1972	1973	1974	TOTAL
Sunday	36	35	40	53	164
Monday	29	53	29	52	163
Tuesday	36	38	43	79	196
Wednesday	43	42	34	53	172
Thursday	22	37	30	63	152
Friday	22	48	36	55	161
Saturday	24	35	27	42	128
TOTAL	212	288	239	397	1136

BOMB THREATS AGAINST U.S. AIRPORTS-BY AIRPORT - 1974

AIRPORT	TOTAL
Anchorage, Alaska	2
Aspen, Colorado	1
Bangor, Maine	1
Baltimore, Maryland	6
Billings, Montana	3
Boston, Massachusetts	3
Buffalo, New York	3
Burbank, California	3
Charleston, South Carolina	1
Chattanooga, Tennessee	2
Chicago, Illinois	7
Cincinnati, Ohio	3
Cleveland, Ohio	6
Colorado Springs, Colorado	1
Columbia, South Carolina	1
Columbus, Ohio	1
Dallas, Texas (Dallas-Fort Worth)	5
Dallas, Texas (Love Field)	1
Dayton, Ohio	1
Denver, Colorado	11
Detroit, Michigan	5
Duluth, Minnesota	4
Elmira, New York	1
El Paso, Texas	2
Eugene, Oregon	1
Flint, Michigan	4
Fort Lauderdale, Florida	2
Fort Lewis, Washington	1
Fort Wayne, Indiana	2
Fresno, California	2
Honolulu, Hawaii	3
Houston, Texas (Hobby Airport)	2
Houston, Texas (Intercontinental)	1
Indianapolis, Indiana	1
Jackson, Mississippi	2
Jacksonville, Florida	4
Kansas City, Missouri	4
Kenner, Louisiana	1
Knoxville, Tennessee	1
La Crosse, Wisconsin	1
Las Vegas, Nevada	6
Lexington, Kentucky	1
Long Beach, California	1
Los Angeles, California	71
Louisville, Kentucky	1
Lubbock, Texas	1
Memphis, Tennessee	1
Miami, Florida	9

BOMB THREATS AGAINST U.S. AIRPORTS-BY AIRPORT - 1974

AIRPORT	TOTAL
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	5
Minneapolis, Minnesota	4
Modesto, California	1
Moline, Illinois	1
Nashville, Tennessee	1
New Orleans, Louisiana (International Airport)	2
New York, New York (JFK International Airport)	49
New York, New York (La Guardia Airport)	5
Newark, New Jersey	3
Norfolk, Virginia	5
Oakland, California	10
Pasco, Washington	1
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	6
Phoenix, Arizona	2
Port Columbus, Ohio	1
Portland, Oregon	7
Providence, Rhode Island	1
Provincetown, Massachusetts	1
Pueblo, Colorado	1
Raleigh, North Carolina	3
Sacramento, California	1
Saginaw, Michigan	1
St. Louis, Missouri	8
Salt Lake City, Utah	3
San Diego, California	9
San Francisco, California	25
San Jose, California	7
San Juan, Puerto Rico	1
Santa Ana, California	1
Santa Maria, California	1
Seattle, Washington	2
Shreveport, Louisiana	1
Springfield, Missouri	1
Stockton, California	2
Tampa, Florida	6
Texarkana, Arkansas	1
Tucson, Arizona	1
Tulsa, Oklahoma	1
Vienna, Ohio	1
Walla Walla, Washington	1
Washington, D.C. (Dulles International Airport)	1
Washington, D.C. (National Airport)	12
West Palm Beach, Florida	1
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania	1
Windsor Locks, Connecticut	2

TOTAL 397

(Of the 93 reporting airports, 9 had 8 or more threats,
40 had 2 to 7 threats and 44 had 1 threat)

DATA CONCERNING BOMB THREATS AGAINST U.S. AIRPORTS - 1974

Specific Area Indicated (e.g., Men's room, a locker, American Airlines)	186
No Specific Area Indicated	211
Mode - Telephone	355
Direct	24
Visual	8
Written	10
Terminal Cleared	
Yes	66
No	214
Not Reported	117
Flights Delayed	
Yes	19
No	213
Not Reported	165
Extortion	23
Explosions	4
Individuals Apprehended	42
Total Incidents*	<u>397</u>

*Includes 25 against FAA facilities.

BOMB EXPLOSIONS AT AIRPORTS - 1974

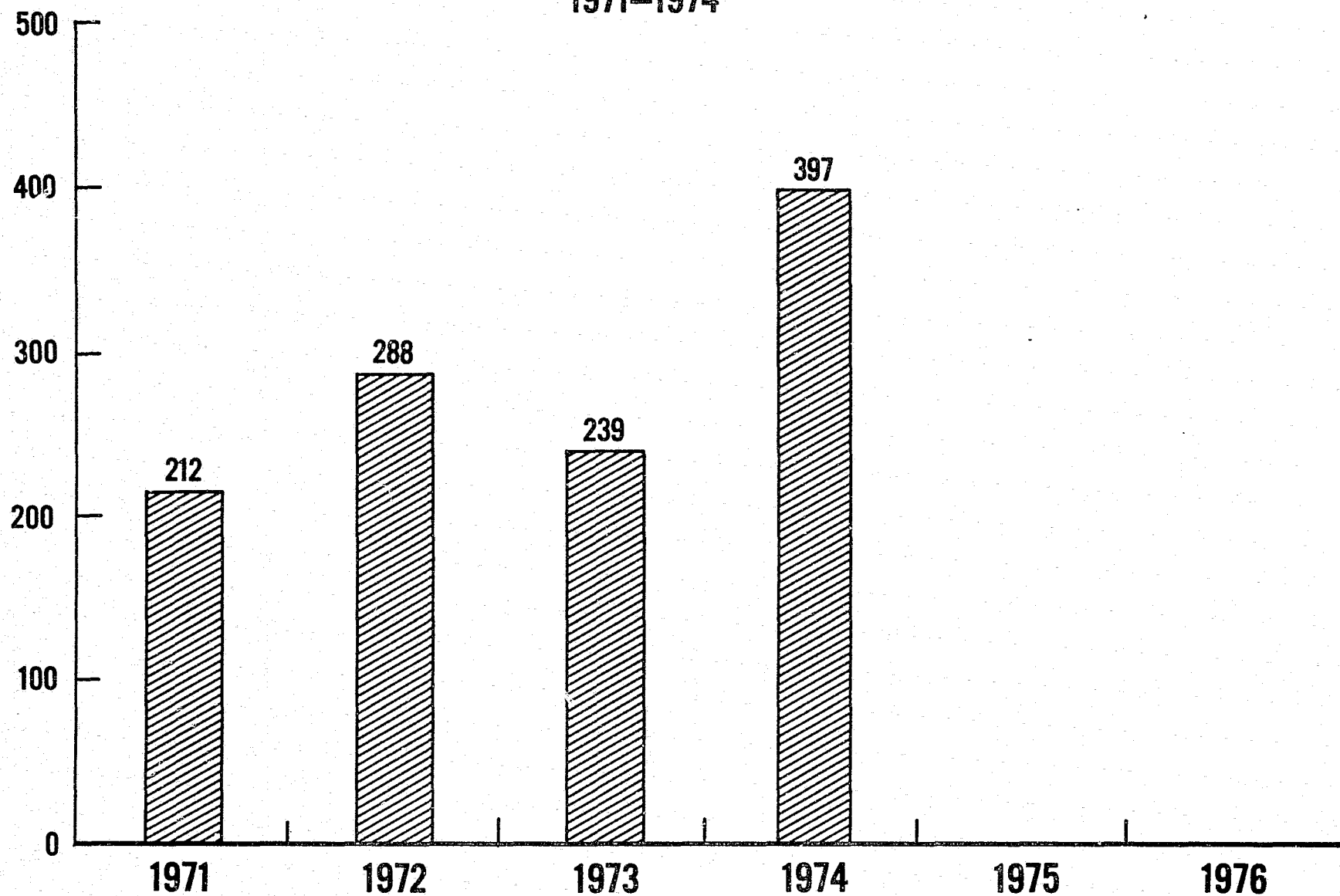
AIRPORT	DATE	LOCATION	CASUALTIES	FLIGHTS DELAYED	EXTORTION	REMARKS
New York, NY. (JFK)	5/1/74	Public locker #0163 near SAS Departure Terminal	Three injured	Unknown	No	At 1705 hrs. without prior warning, a bomb exploded in a public locker causing injuries to three persons and damage to glass doors and a window wall. The device was contained in a suitcase in the locker.
Los Angeles, CA.	8/8/74	Public locker	Three dead 35 injured	Yes	Yes	Without prior warning, a bomb exploded in a public locker in the International Carrier Building. Perpetrator was subsequently arrested and charged with the crime.
Chicago, IL.	8/26/74	Men's room	None	No	No	One or more U.S. Army firecrackers were placed on a restroom floor under a commode. Subsequent explosion caused damage to the commode.

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REPORTED BOMB THREATS AGAINST U.S. AIRPORTS

1971-1974



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