# Terrorism

**Byproduct of terror alert: Traffic entering Denver International Airport on Wednesday stretched into long lines because of the orange -- or high -- terror alert issued by the Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday. At DIA, security officials conducted random searches of vehicles entering the airport and searched all automobiles entering parking garages there. Intelligence reports suggest a terrorist attack against U.S. interests is imminent. *(Rocky Mountain News, May 22, 2003)***

Since 9/11, an average of nine Americans per year have been killed by Islamic terrorists on U.S. soil. That compares with 12,843 killed per year in gun homicides and 37,000 who die in auto accidents. *(CNN.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 10, 2017)*

**Terrorism: When increased body screening of airline passengers was implemented after 9/11, Richard Reid attempted to destroy an airliner with a bomb in his shoe; and when shoes began to be screened in response to Reid’s attack, al Qaida plotted to use a liquid explosive attack; and when liquids were banned, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab used a powdered incendiary hidden in his underwear in an attempted attack. (Rafe Sagarin, in Learning From the Octopus, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 23, 2012)**

**Concern over terrorism costs S&P 500 companies $107 billion a year in insurance, redundant capacity, lost revenues, and other expenses. *(BusinessWeek, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 10, 2006)***

**Terrorism was originally defined in the Oxford English Dictionary as "government by intimidation." *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 81)***

**The number of foreign fighters traveling to Iraq and Syria has more than doubled over the past 18 months, according to a new report by the Soufan Group, a private intelligence organization. There are now between 27,000 and 31,000 foreign fighters from 81 countries in the region -- including an influx of nearly 5,000 from Russia and former Soviet republics. *(Vox.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 25, 2015)***

**Global terrorist attacks have decreased for the first time since 2012, dropping 13 percent from 2014 despite high-profile attacks in Paris and Brussels. Fatalities from terrorist incidents decreased 14 percent over the same period. *(NBCNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 17, 2016)***

**Terrorism has grown since 9/11: Fourteen years after 9/11, we are losing the war on terrorism, said Max Boot. Our worst nightmares of another mass attack on the scale of 9/11 haven't come true, thanks largely to improved intelligence collection and shored-up homeland defenses. While that impressive achievement "should not be taken for granted," the bad news is that "a staggering array of terrorist groups are on the march" around the world. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria "controls an area the size of the United Kingdom," has spun off affiliates in Libya and Afghanistan, and is still "drawing in roughly 1,000 foreign recruits a month" -- some of whom will return to their homelands on terrorism missions. Hunkered down in hideouts in Pakistan, central al Qaida is much weaker now, but its branches and allies "are more powerful than ever," among them al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, Syria's Nusra Front, and Boko Haram in Nigeria. "And then we come to Shiite terrorism." Iran's proxies -- Hezbollah, the Badr Corps, and the rest -- control large swaths of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, "and will be straightened still more by the proceeds from the Iran nuclear deal." It all suggests that "what we are currently doing isn't working." *(The Week magazine, September 25, 2015)***

**U.S. homeland security officials say they respond to terrorism hoaxes virtually every single day. The false threats – such as claims that bombs have been planted aboard cruise ships and in football stadiums – cost millions of dollars in wasted resources, and distract officials from pursuing real threats. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, on February 2, 2007)***

**How to defeat terrorism? Don’t be terrorized. Don’t let fear rule your life. Even if you are scared. *(Salman Rushdie)***

**The terrorist lives for terror, not for the change he tells himself he wants. He masks his desire to kill and destroy behind the curtain of a cause. *(Louis L’Amour, in A Trail of Memories)***

**How ISIS replaced al Qaida: Finally, 14 years after 9/11, "al Qaida is being destroyed," said Jonah Goldberg. The bad news? It is being "replaced by something far worse" -- the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, which now offers "the best product" in the jihad market. For years, al Qaida leaders Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri ran their terrorist group like a genuine business. They offered jihadists the chance to set up franchises around the world, with perks that included paid vacations and 72 virgins in the afterlife. But then al Qaida's Iraq franchise went rogue and mutated into the more violent, bloodthirsty ISIS. Suddenly, would-be jihadists had a choice. They could sign up for al Qaida's "stodgy and abstract" version of terrorism. Or they could join ISIS, and become one of the militants they'd seen on YouTube "ransacking and pillaging, riding cars wherever they want, and buying sex slaves for as little as a pack of cigarettes." For disaffected young Muslim men, that's a no-brainer. Terrorism has become an industry like any other -- and ISIS has "a much more compelling marketing campaign than al Qaida." *(The Week magazine, June 26, 2015)***

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**The number of people killed in terrorist attacks spiked 81 percent in 2014. Nearly 33,000 people died in almost 13,500 attacks; 24 were Americans. More than 60 percent of the attacks occurred in Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, and Nigeria. *(FoxNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 3, 2015)***

**In 2012, 11,098 people were killed by terrorism globally, according to a new report by the U.S. State Department. Ten were Americans. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 14, 2013)***

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**In a speech to the nation on Iraq, President Bush said he was asking Congress for $87 billion to fight terrorism and cautioned Americans that the struggle would “take time and require sacrifice.” *(Rocky Mountain News, September 7, 2003)***

**President Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft have stated that government “suspension" of our fundamental rights that have been protected by the Bill of Rights for over 200 years are required to protect America from its enemies. Ashcroft has also stated that the war on terrorism is not a temporary engagement, but that it is a permanent battle that the president and the government, must wage indefinitely. “We must forever change the way we think about national security," he has stated. You do not have to be a constitutional scholar to see where we are headed. The Supreme Court refuses to keep a check on the government that has suspended the Bill of Rights in the name of national security. It appears that the balance of powers, and the checks and balances of American democracy, along with individual rights, have not only been eroded but are in danger of demise. *(Benjamin Silva, in Rocky Mountain News, June 4, 2003)***

**The Taliban now holds more ground in Afghanistan than at any point since 2001, when their regime was overthrown by a U.S.-led invasion prompted by the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Afghan troops battling the Taliban have suffered a 28 percent increase in fatalities over the past year, when 5,000 Afghans were killed. *(MilitaryTimes.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 1 / July 8, 2016)***

**President Bush raised the nation's threat level Tuesday to orange, or “high.” But the heightened terror alerts cost U.S. cities millions of dollars. Some examples: $5 million - The amount of money New York City alone spends in a week on additional homeland measures. $2.6 million - The tab San Francisco spends a week on heightened security. $70 million - The amount cities spend a week nationwide during periods of high alerts. *(CNN.com, printed in Rocky Mountain News, May 22, 2003)***

**How much terrorism can we tolerate? It’s a question that’s not often asked in such frank terms, though the answer has profound consequences. Since 9/11, the presumption has been that Americans will tolerate no successful acts of terrorism, and no deaths. The zero standard was understandable when terrorism took the form of hijacked airplanes, bombings, and other attacks designed to cause mass casualties. But the pursuit of zero had a steep cost: two, decade-long foreign wars in which more than 100,000 people died; the official use of torture for the first time in U.S. history; and our collective acceptance of airport crotch probing and heightened surveillance in everyday life. But after 12 years of war, al Qaida is a fragmented bunch of amateurs serving mostly as a tool of inspiration rather than grand plots, and terrorism has taken the form of crazed individuals wielding pressure cookers and meat cleavers. So how do we get back to zero? Last year, more than 30,000 Americans died in car crashes, and roughly another 30,000 were killed with firearms. That’s the equivalent of twenty 9/11s every year. As grim as all that carnage may be, our society tolerates a fair amount of death as the price of freedom. We may seek ways to reduce the death totals, but no one presumes any law can bring them to zero. “You people will never be safe,” self-proclaimed terrorist Michael Adebolajo said last week, after hacking to death a British soldier on a London Street. If the standard is zero, the barbarian is right – no matter how much power terrorized people grant their governments. The sooner we accept our ultimate vulnerability, the more realistic – and less terrorized – we’ll be. *(William Falk, in The Week magazine, June 7, 2013)***

**The war against terrorism will not be won as long as there are people desperate with disease and living in poverty and squalor. Sharing our prosperity is the best weapon against terrorism. *(Desmond Tutu)***

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**If “the war on terror” began on September 11, 2001, the U.S. now has been fighting that conflict longer than it did the entirety of World War II. *(National Review, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 27, 2005)***

**September 11, 2001, was a “shock to the American psyche,” said Fareed Zakaria, and to ensure we’d never be attacked again, we overreacted. In the nine years since, al Qaida has not mounted a single major attack in the U.S., and now relies on poorly trained lone wolves who consistently botch poorly conceived plots. Yet to fight al Qaida, the government has created or recognized at least 263 anti-terror organizations, and tripled the intelligence budget to $75 billion. Several hundred thousand bureaucrats now wage the “war on terror” from 33 gleaming new office complexes that, together, are triple the size of the Pentagon. Some 30,000 people get paid simply to listen in on phone calls. This “national-security state” effectively has carte blanche to read your e-mails, screen your phone calls, and tread on Americans’ constitutional rights. In the past, the U.S. government has abused its authority during wartime, but then “demobilized.” But “this is a war without end,” so the abuses can continue indefinitely. “When do we declare victory? When do the emergency powers cease?” *(The Week magazine, September 17, 2010)***

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