

Department
of the
Treasury



MF-1

EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS 1981

6th Report by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms



83842

Foreword

NOV 9 1982

Today's news events are saturated with detailed accounts reflecting the worldwide use of explosives materials as a means of perpetrating such crimes as murder, intimidation, extortion or governmental disruption. Incidents range from a simple bomb constructed by an individual acting alone, to a series of bombings utilizing sophisticated devices as part of a complex scheme carried-out by terrorists.

Although America and her territories have not escaped the criminal acts caused by the misuse of explosives, and continues to be a high law enforcement priority, there were some significant decreases in certain categories as reflected in this 1981 Explosives Incidents Report.

For example, the total number of bombing incidents investigated by or reported to ATF decreased from 1521 in 1980 to 1385 in 1981 — a 8.9% decrease. The number of deaths remained constant at 41; however, injuries associated with these bombing incidents decreased 25.8%, from 217 in 1980 to 161 in 1981. It should be noted that the amount of property damage attributed to the bombings increased a dramatic 393% from \$13.4 million to \$66.1 million between 1980 and 1981 respectively. This increase was directly related to a terrorist attack in Puerto Rico that destroyed approximately \$50 million in aircraft and other equipment at a military installation.

Other highlights of this report disclose a drop of 30% in the number of explosives thefts coupled with a 70.2% decrease in the quantity of explosives that were reported as stolen.

The data included in this report is a compilation of information reported to ATF by our field offices and other public safety agencies, and therefore is not purported to represent the totality of explosive incidents that may have occurred in 1981.

ATF continues to direct its explosives enforcement efforts toward the active investigation of criminal bombings and the reported theft of explosives; investigative assistance and training to State and local agencies in support of enforcement efforts to curtail violent criminal activity; and the protection of public safety from potential injury, death or property damage resulting from the criminal misuse of explosives, as well as the unsafe or insecure storage of explosives materials.

ATF's continued participation in the investigation of certain types of arson crimes is predicated on the fact that explosive materials were used to effectuate the resulting fire and destruction of property associated with these incidents. Our response to such incidents is in fulfillment of a Congressional mandate to "protect interstate and foreign commerce against interference and interruption, by reducing the hazard to persons and property arising from the misuse and unsafe or insecure storage of explosives materials."

Consequently, ATF's efforts to combat the crime of arson at the Federal level is an integral aspect of our responsibility to investigate explosives-related crimes. A special section of this publication reports statistical information relating to arson incidents investigated by ATF in 1981.

We would like to take this opportunity to offer our thanks to all those responsible for the collection, compilation and graphic illustration of the information contained in this publication.

Stephen E. Higgins
Acting Director

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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THE COVER: An explosion that occurred at an illegal fireworks manufacturer in Newport, Kentucky, on April 2, 1981. The explosion killed 2 men, injured 26 and resulted in over \$4,000,000 in damages to surrounding buildings and property.

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Glossary of Terms

ACCELERANT—A chemical substance used to initiate or promote a fire. *Flammable liquids* are the most common types of accelerants.

ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSION—Unintentional detonation/ignition of explosive or suspected explosive materials not associated with criminal activity. Generally relates to some type of industrial or commercial activity.

ARSON—The deliberate damage/destruction of property involved in or affecting interstate commerce through the use of an incendiary device, destructive device, or "explosive" that falls within the purview of ATF's statutory jurisdiction. Generally relates to a "profit motivated" crime directed toward commercial/industrial activities. Includes only those incidents investigated by ATF.

ATTEMPTED BOMBING (Failure to Detonate)—An unsuccessful attempt to commit a bombing with high or low order explosives or blasting agents, due to the malfunction, recovery or disarmament of an explosive device.

ATTEMPTED INCENDIARY BOMBING (Failure to Ignite)—An unsuccessful attempt to commit an incendiary bombing due to the malfunction, recovery or disarmament of the device.

BLASTING AGENTS—Any material or mixture, consisting of fuel and oxidizer, intended for blasting, not otherwise defined as an explosive (e.g., ammonium nitrate and fuel oil); *provided* that the finished product, as mixed, cannot be detonated by a numbered 8 test blasting cap when unconfined. For the purpose of this report, blasting agents are placed in a separate category, rather than being defined as a high or low explosive.

BOMBING (Detonation)—A criminally perpetrated bombing incident utilizing high or low order explosives or blasting agents, including the premature detonation of a device during the illegal preparation, transportation or placement of the explosives.

CONTAINER—Type of article/material/substance in which explosive/incendiary/chemical elements are placed for the purpose of constituting a device (e.g., pipe, box, bottle, dynamite wrapper, etc.).

DEALER—Means any person engaged in the business of distributing explosives materials at wholesale or retail.

DELIVERY METHOD—The manner in which an explosives/incendiary device was transmitted or placed at

the target of an explosives incident (e.g., conveyed by perpetrator, mailed, etc.).

EXPLOSIVES INCIDENT—Any explosive-related situation investigated by or reported to ATF.

EXTORTION—The wrongful taking of a person's money or property by the use of threat or violence. The elimination of competition to better one's position or for one's monetary gain. Forced into some action by inducing fear.

FILLER—Type of explosive/incendiary/chemical material or substance placed inside an identified container for the purpose of constituting a device (e.g., dynamite, match heads, gasoline, etc.).

HOAX DEVICE—An inactive or "dummy" device designed as a bomb (or any item portrayed as an explosive to deceive, threaten or intimidate a victim.

HOMICIDE—The killing or the attempted killing of one human being by another.

INCENDIARY BOMBING (Ignited)—A criminally perpetrated bombing incident utilizing an incendiary/chemical device that induces a burning effect (e.g., Molotov cocktail). [Note: Arson motivated crimes may involve the use of "incendiary bombs," but such arson incidents *are not* included under this category.]

INSURANCE FRAUD—The destroying or damaging of one's property for the purpose of collecting the insurance money.

LABOR RELATED—Acts perpetrated by management, organized labor, or others attempting to discredit, intimidate or embarrass either group relating to labor issues such as strikes, job actions, lock outs, etc.

MANUFACTURER—Means any person engaged in the business of manufacturing explosive materials for purpose of sale and distribution or for his own use.

MOTIVE—The reason or emotion causing the perpetrator of an explosives/incendiary bombing, hoax, or threat incident to commit a violation of the Federal explosives laws (e.g., insurance fraud, homicide, revenge, etc.).

NONLICENSED USERS OF EXPLOSIVES—Individuals who acquire and use explosives for lawful purposes in the State in which they reside.

PERMITTEE—Means any person issued a Federal permit authorizing him to acquire for his own use explosive materials from a licensee and to transport ex-

Glossary of Terms—Continued

plosive materials so acquired in interstate or foreign commerce.

PROPERTY DAMAGE—Damages resulting from explosives/incendiary incidents listed herein are based upon estimates that are generally reported during the preliminary stages of the investigation and do not reflect the totality of property loss that might have occurred. Furthermore, in some instances, no reports of property damage are submitted.

PROTEST—An expression or declaration of objection, disapproval, or dissent. Political and terrorist type incidents also fall into this category.

RECOVERED EXPLOSIVES—All seized, abandoned and purchased (undercover) explosive materials re-

covered by ATF or other law enforcement agencies.

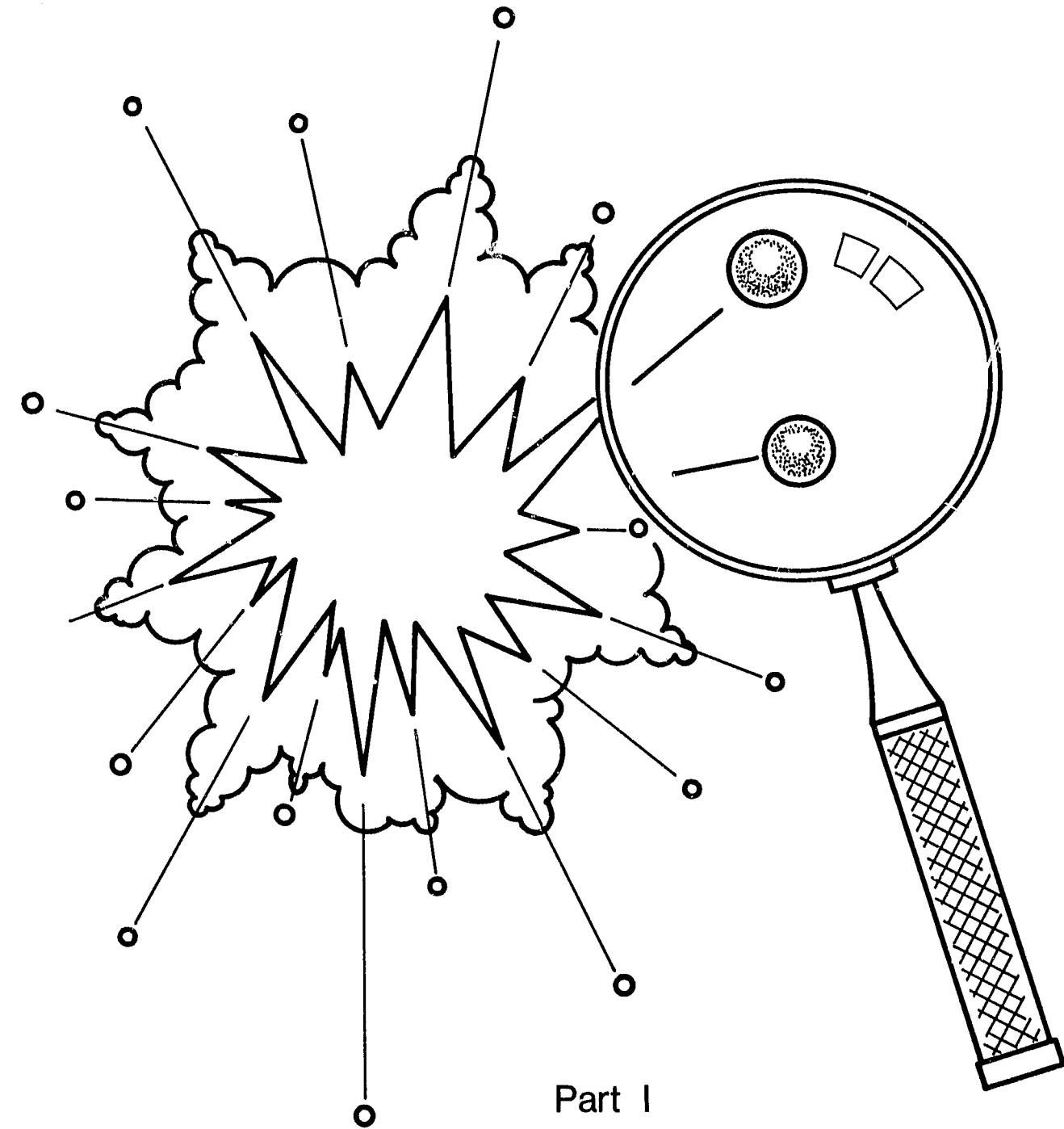
REVENGE—Retaliation, reprisal, malicious, spiteful and intimidation are all words that describe the motive revenge.

STOLEN EXPLOSIVES—Explosive materials, including detonating cord/safety fuse and blasting caps, reported to be stolen.

SUICIDE—Self inflicted death.

THREATS—The intimidation of persons or property through the implied use of explosive materials, directed toward U.S. Treasury buildings or facilities.

VANDALISM—The mischievous or malicious destruction or damage of property.



**EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS
ANALYSIS**

Highlights

During 1981, there were 2,338 explosives related incidents reported to ATF. This represents an 18.6% decrease from 2,875 incidents reported in 1980.

In 1981, the number of fatalities resulting from explosive incidents decreased to 75, representing a 17.5% decrease over the 91 fatalities reported in 1980. Injuries took a sharp decrease from 483 in 1980 to 262 in 1981, a decrease of 45.7%.

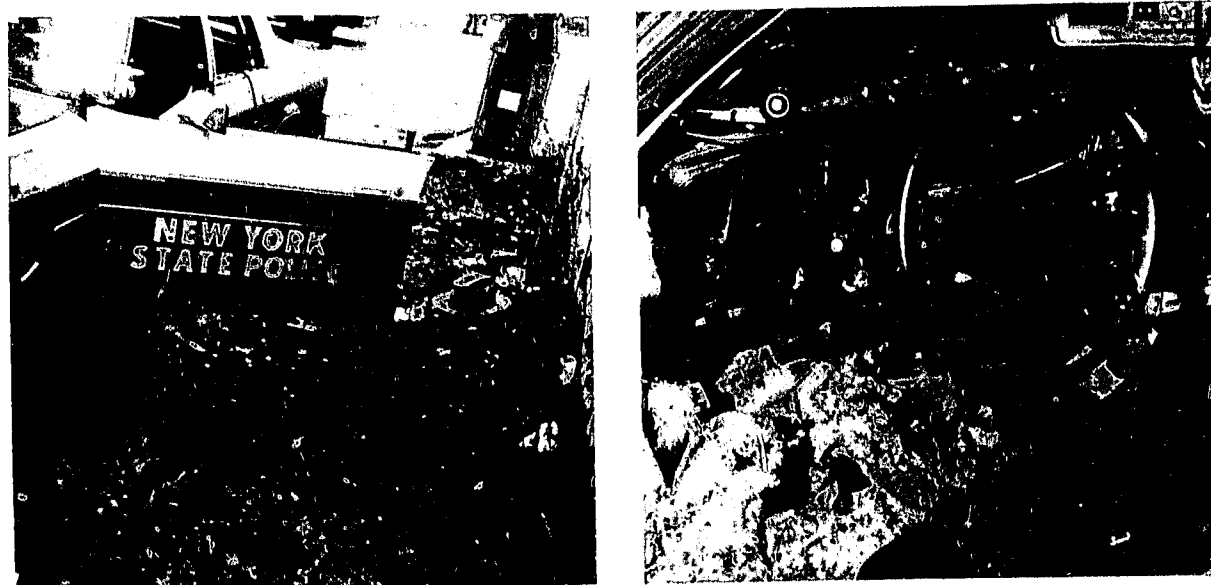
The total number of criminal bombings reported in 1981 decreased to 1,385, a decrease of 8.9%. Deaths remained the same for both years, 41, and injuries dropped from 217 to 161, a 25.8% decrease. Property damage in-

creased significantly in 1981 due to a bombing attack at a United States military facility.

The top three targets for 1981 are residential, commercial property and vehicles. California led the nation in bombing incidents for 1981. Vandalism and revenge are the main motives behind bombing incidents. Pipe bombs and bottles are the favored containers used in explosive and incendiary bombings. Flammable liquid, dynamite and black powder were the top three fillers used in destructive devices. Commercial property accounted for the most incidents, deaths, injuries and property damage in accidental explosions.

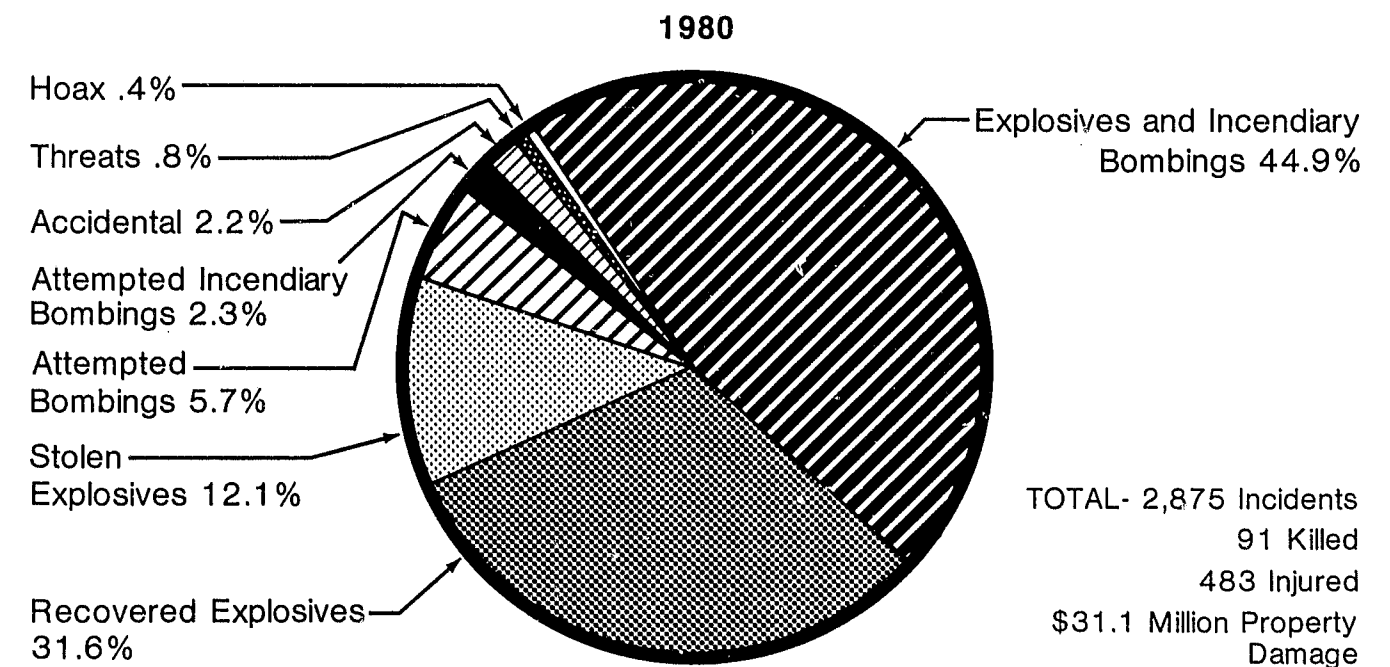
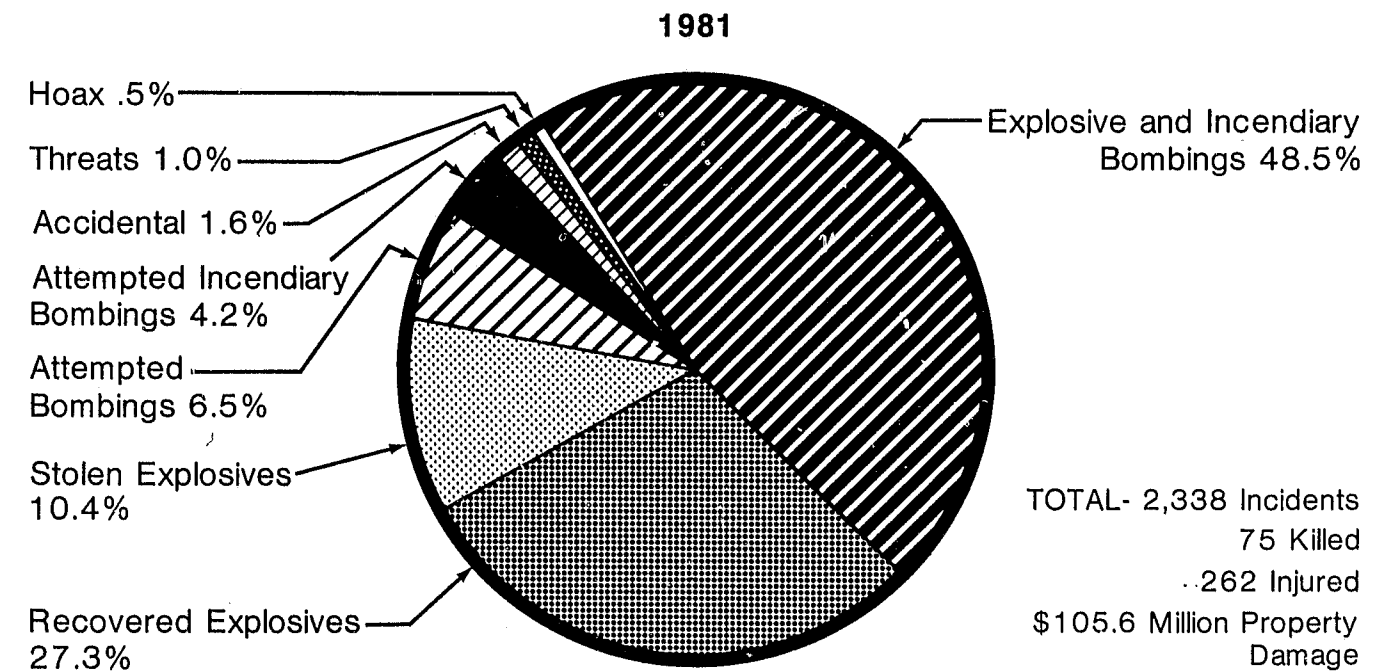
TABLE 1.—Types of Explosives Incidents by Number and Percentages for 1980-1981

Type of Incident	1980		1981	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Bombings	922	32.1	805	34.4
Attempted Bombings	163	5.7	152	6.5
Incendiary Bombings	368	12.8	329	14.1
Attempted Incendiary Bombings	25	2.3	99	4.2
Stolen Explosives	349	12.1	243	10.4
Recovered Explosives	908	31.6	637	27.3
Threats (Treasury Facilities)	22	.8	24	1.0
Hoax Devices	11	.4	12	.5
Accident-Noncriminal	64	2.2	37	1.6
Total	2,875	100.0	2,338	100.0
	Total Killed	Total Injured	Estimated Property Damage	
1980	91	483	\$ 31,190,000	
1981	75	262	\$105,595,478	



On October 16, 1981, in Wolcott, New York, an explosive device detonated under a New York State Police vehicle, severely injuring a state trooper.

Table 1A
GRAPH OF EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS
BY PERCENTAGE FOR 1980-1981





The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has expanded its assistance to State and local authorities through the training and implementation of four National Response Teams, located in the Midwest, Northeast, Southeast and Western regions of the United States. These teams, consisting of highly qualified investigators, laboratory/technical support personnel, and State and local cause and origin experts, have the capability of providing a 24-hour

response to any location in the country to assist in the investigation of arson or other explosives-related incidents of extreme, major proportions. This specialized response concept is the only one of its kind offered by a Federal enforcement agency. These teams are continually activated to respond to significant explosives-related incidents throughout the United States.

TABLE 2.—Total Criminal Bombing Incidents Defined as Either Explosive or Incendiary for 1980-1981

Explosives Incidents ¹	1980		1981	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Bombings	922	85.0	805	84.1
Attempted Bombings	163	15.0	152	15.9
Total	1,085	100.0	957	100.0

Incendiary Incidents ²	1980		1981	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Incendiary Bombings	368	84.0	329	76.9
Attempted Incendiary Bombings	68	16.0	99	23.1
Total	463	100.0	428	100.0

Total Bombing Incidents	1,521		1,385	
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¹Explosive devices consisted of an explosive filler and firing/fuse mechanism.

²Incendiary devices contained flammable liquid or chemicals and ignitor.



A police vehicle bombing in Wenatchee, Washington, on August 13, 1981. There were no deaths or injuries and 8 defendants were prosecuted.

TABLE 3.—1980 Bombing Incidents by Target

Rank	Target	Total	Percentage of Total
1.	Residential	371	24.4
2.	Vehicles	321	21.1
3.	Commercial	313	20.6
4.	Education	106	6.9
5.	Mail Boxes	101	6.6
6.	Open Areas	73	4.8
7.	Utilities	40	2.6
8.	Police Facilities/Vehicles	29	1.9
9.	Government (Federal)	19	1.2
10.	Government (State-local)	16	1.1
11.	Banks	14	.9
12.	Military	8	.5
13.	Airports/Aircraft	3	.2
	Other ¹	107	7.0
	Total	1,521	99.8²

¹This category includes those incidents which could not be placed in one of the categories provided above.

²Percentages do not total 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 3A
**GRAPH OF 1980
 BOMBING INCIDENTS BY TARGET**

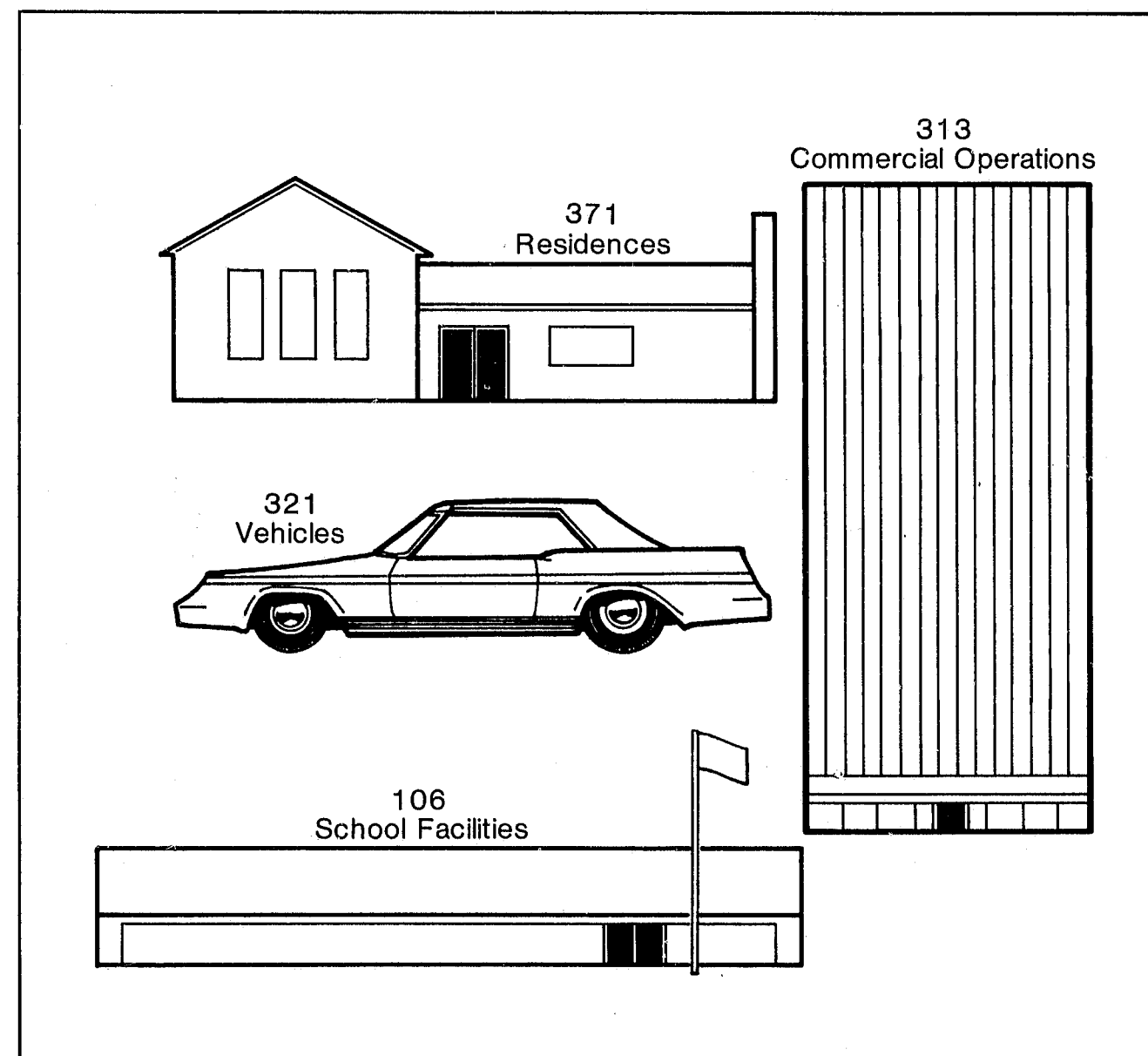
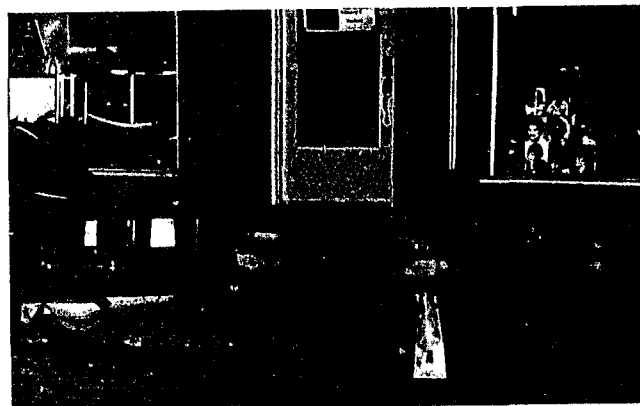


TABLE 4.—1981 Bombing Incidents by Target

Rank	Target	Total	Percentage of Total
1.	Residential	303	26.7
2.	Commercial	244	21.5
3.	Vehicles	184	16.2
4.	Open Areas	80	7.1
5.	Educational	65	5.7
6.	Mail Boxes	55	4.9
7.	Utilities	28	2.5
8.	Government (State-local)	24	2.1
9.	Police Facilities/Vehicles	18	1.6
10.	Banks	15	1.3
11.	Airports/Aircraft	15	1.3
12.	Government (Federal)	11	.9
13.	Military	3	.3
	Other ¹	89	7.8
	Total	1,134	99.9²

¹This category includes those incidents which could not be placed in one of the categories provided above.

²Percentages do not total 100 percent due to rounding.



Photos by Jim Lavrakas - Anchorage Daily News

On March 1, 1981, at approximately 5:45 P.M. the manager of a topless bar in Anchorage, Alaska observed a suspicious brown paper bag outside of the premises. At 6:00 P.M. Anchorage Police Officer/Bomb Disposal Officer Bill Felker arrived and initiated disposal procedures. Inside he observed three bottles wrapped in styrofoam, a clock, batteries, and wire. As Officer Felker was lowering the device into the disposal bucket it detonated. He sustained burns to his hands, arms, chest, and face, plus numerous lacerations. These photos vividly depict the hazards and dangers faced daily by law enforcement personnel involved in render safe procedures.

Table 4A
**GRAPH OF 1981
 BOMBING INCIDENTS BY TARGET**

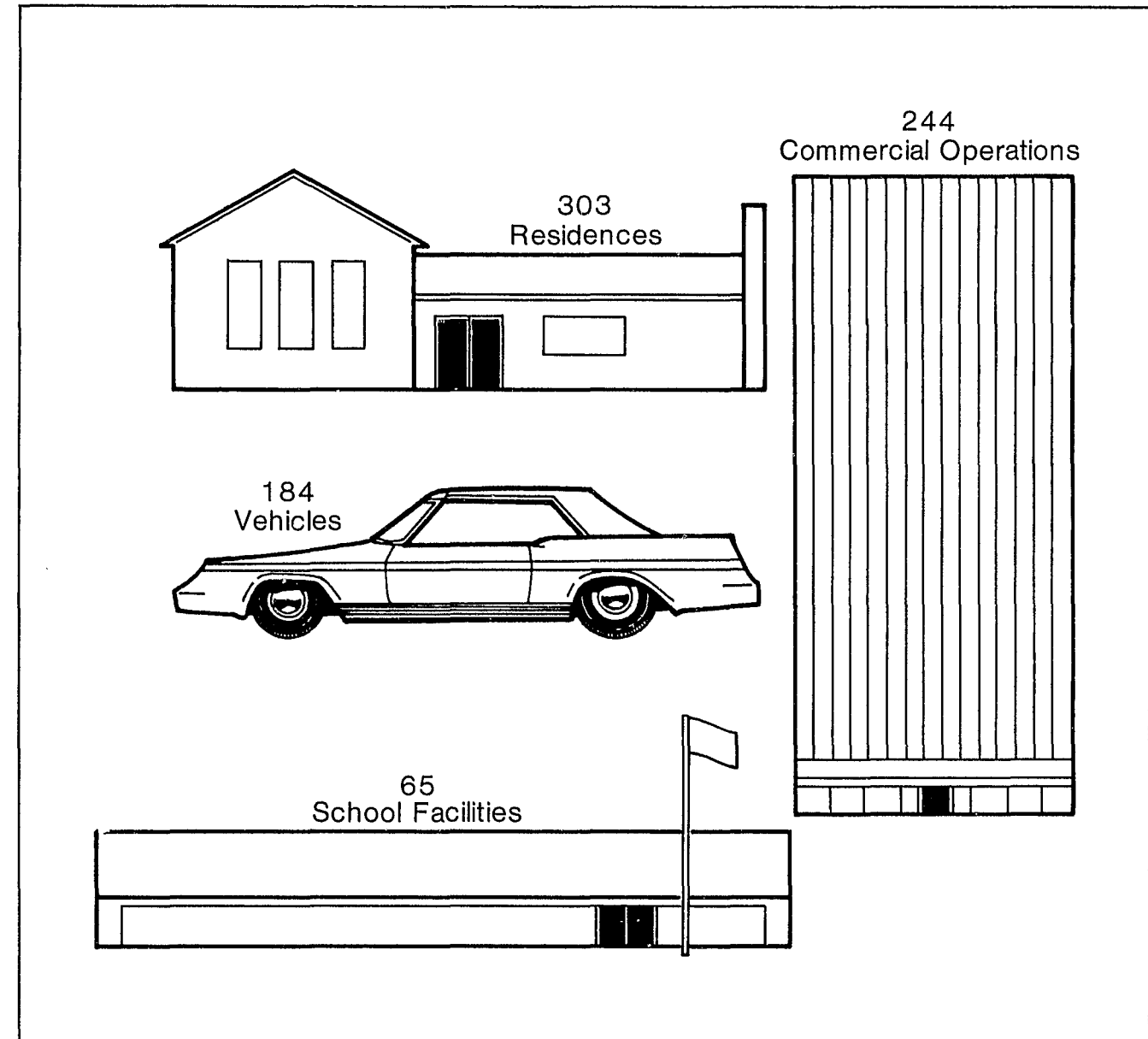


TABLE 5.—Explosives Incidents by State for 1980-1981

State	Bombings ¹		Incendiarities ²		Other ³		Total Incidents	
	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981
Alabama	13	11	7	5	48	37	68	53
Alaska	4	0	0	2	3	5	7	7
Arizona	27	16	20	4	19	11	66	31
Arkansas	5	7	3	1	26	21	34	29
California	162	124	105	149	68	49	335	322
Colorado	28	27	25	40	22	14	75	81
Connecticut	7	13	5	2	10	13	22	28
Delaware	2	2	0	0	1	0	3	2
District of Columbia	7	2	1	2	4	2	12	6
Florida	25	27	17	8	18	27	60	62
Georgia	17	15	5	6	35	31	57	52
Hawaii	8	1	1	0	4	3	13	4
Idaho	15	8	0	0	5	3	20	11
Illinois	97	102	19	16	70	26	186	144
Indiana	16	12	15	2	19	9	50	23
Iowa	11	8	1	1	7	8	19	17
Kansas	10	10	2	2	16	15	28	27
Kentucky	27	32	12	8	114	82	153	122
Louisiana	4	4	2	0	23	26	29	30
Maine	0	2	1	0	2	1	3	3
Maryland	28	24	14	33	13	9	55	66
Massachusetts	15	13	4	2	14	11	33	26
Michigan	29	28	4	7	11	12	44	47
Minnesota	23	23	1	5	10	4	34	32
Mississippi	4	5	1	2	23	20	28	27
Missouri	41	34	15	8	42	27	98	69
Montana	2	7	0	0	11	16	13	23
Nebraska	4	4	1	0	11	3	16	7
Nevada	19	6	0	2	18	13	37	21
New Hampshire	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
New Jersey	29	15	6	6	32	22	67	43
New Mexico	9	18	11	3	15	13	35	34
New York	57	52	11	12	28	24	96	88
North Carolina	22	8	3	2	60	45	85	55
North Dakota	2	5	0	0	6	0	8	5
Ohio	50	45	43	33	51	28	144	106
Oklahoma	10	11	2	6	17	25	29	42
Oregon	14	15	1	5	16	4	31	24
Pennsylvania	34	14	4	2	55	26	93	42
Rhode Island	4	1	1	0	1	3	6	4
South Carolina	14	10	5	2	21	16	40	28
South Dakota	1	3	0	0	2	2	3	5
Tennessee	31	32	20	26	50	30	101	88
Texas	43	19	30	4	83	68	156	91
Utah	11	15	0	0	36	19	47	34
Vermont	0	1	1	0	4	1	5	2
Virginia	19	20	6	8	62	34	87	62
Washington	27	44	2	4	43	34	72	82
West Virginia	31	7	7	3	74	30	102	40
Wisconsin	12	15	0	2	7	14	19	31
Wyoming	6	6	2	0	22	14	30	20

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 5.—Explosives Incidents by State for 1980-1981—Continued

State	Bombings ¹		Incendiarities ²		Other ³		Total Incidents	
	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981
Guam	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Puerto Rico	18	33	0	3	1	3	19	39
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,085	957	436	428	1,354	953	2,875	2,338

¹Bombing incidents include: Bombings and Attempted Bombings.
²Incendiarities include: Actual and Attempted Incendiarities.
³Other incidents include: Accidental, Hoax, Threat, Recovered, and Stolen Explosives.

TABLE 6.—Bombing Incidents Ranked by State for 1980-1981¹

1980			1981		
Rank	State	Number of Incidents	Rank	State	Number of Incidents
1.	California	162	1.	California	124
2.	Illinois	97	2.	Illinois	102
3.	New York	57	3.	New York	52
4.	Ohio	50	4.	Ohio	45
5.	Texas	43	5.	Washington	44
6.	Missouri	41	6.	Missouri	34
7.	Pennsylvania	34	7.	Puerto Rico	33
8.	Tennessee	31	8.	Kentucky	32
9.	New Jersey	29	9.	Tennessee	32
10.	Michigan	29	10.	Michigan	28
	Colorado	28		Colorado	27
	Maryland	28		Florida	27

¹Bombing incidents include: Bombings and Attempted Bombings.

Figure I
 MAP OF 1981 BOMBING
 INCIDENTS BY STATE

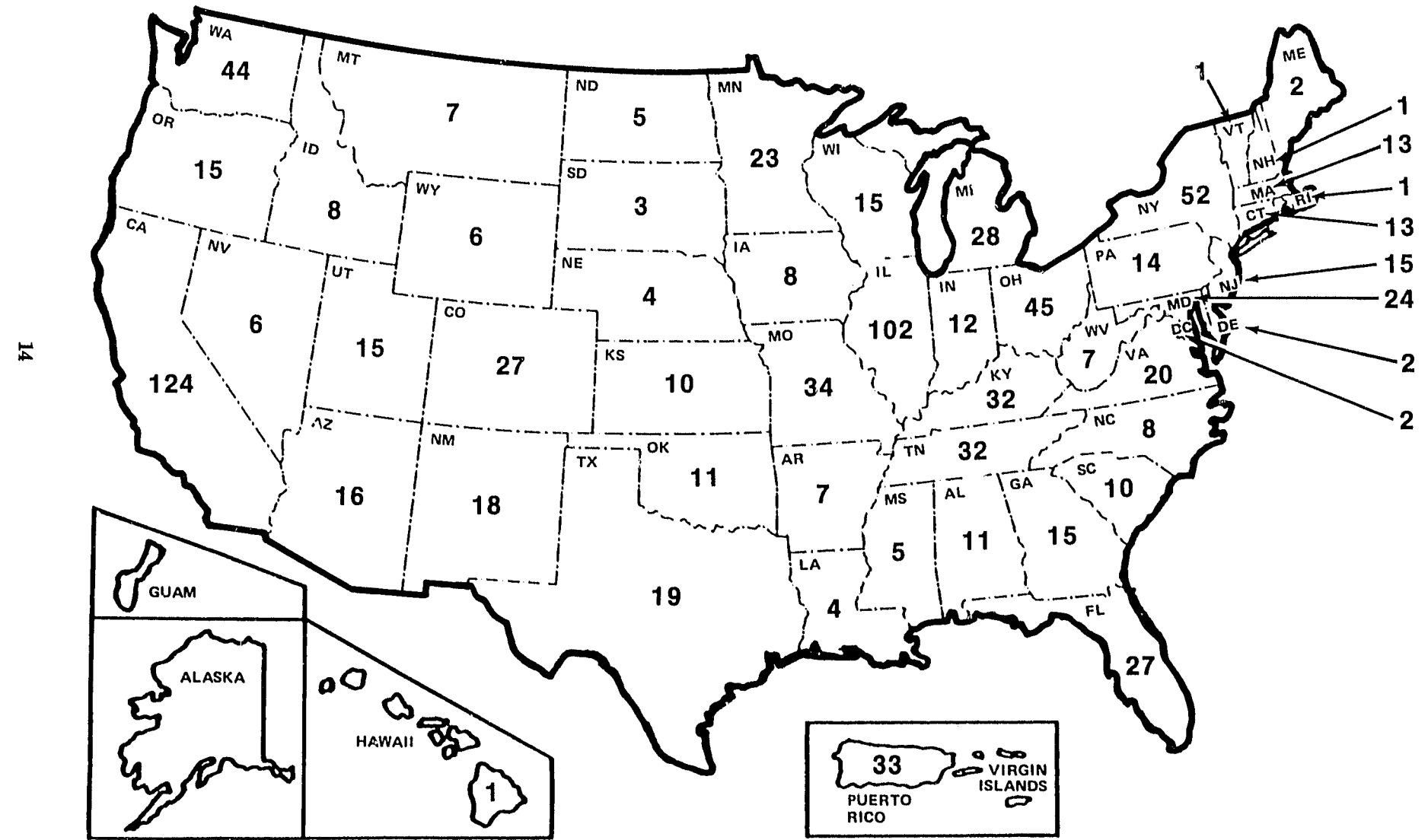


Figure 1
MAP OF 1981 BOMBING
INCIDENTS BY STATE

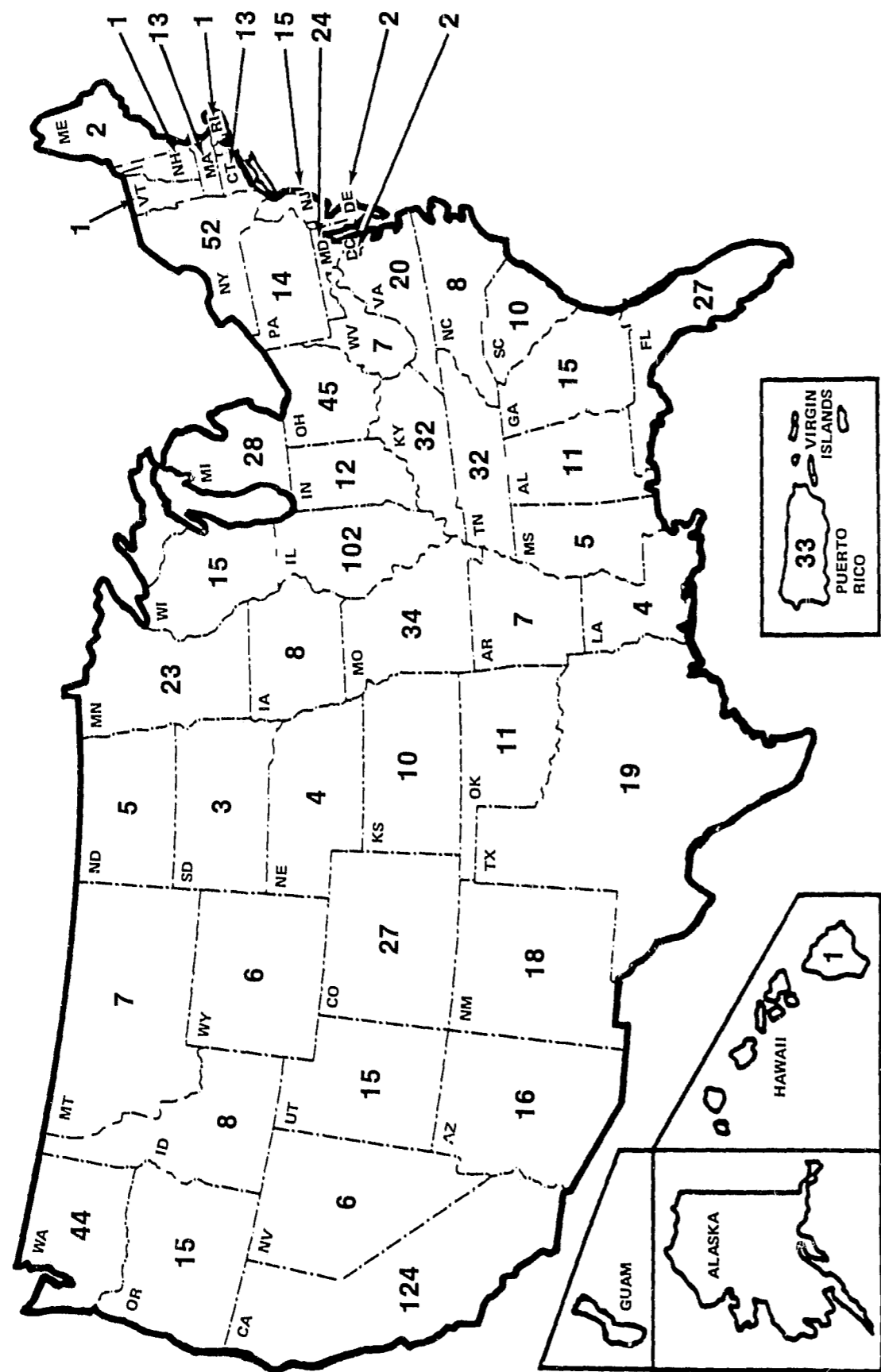


TABLE 7.—Incendiary Incidents Ranked by State for 1980-1981¹

1980			1981		
Rank	State	Number of Incidents	Rank	State	Number of Incidents
1.	California	105	1.	California	149
2.	Ohio	43	2.	Colorado	40
3.	Texas	30	3.	Ohio	33
4.	Colorado	25	4.	Maryland	33
5.	Arizona	20	5.	Tennessee	26
	Tennessee	20	6.	Illinois	16
6.	Illinois	19	7.	New York	12
7.	Florida	17	8.	Florida	8
8.	Indiana	15	9.	Kentucky	8
	Missouri	15		Virginia	8
9.	Maryland	14	10.	Michigan	7
10.	Kentucky	12		Georgia	6
				New Jersey	6
				Oklahoma	6
				Alabama	5
				Minnesota	5
				Oregon	5

¹Bombing incidents include: Actual and Attempted Incendiary Bombings.

Figure 2
MAP OF 1981 INCENDIARY
INCIDENTS BY STATE

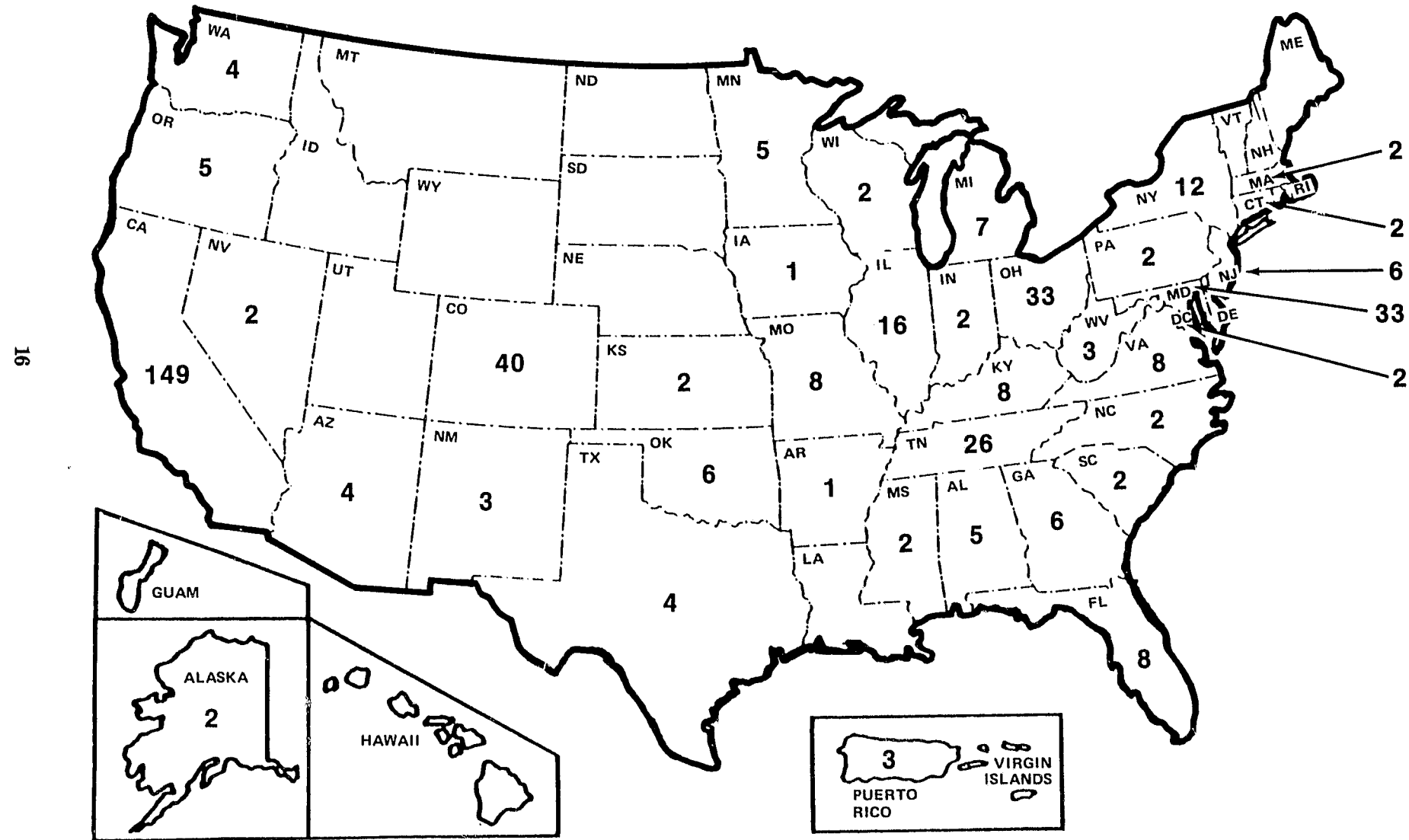


Figure 2
MAP OF 1981 INCENDIARY
INCIDENTS BY STATE

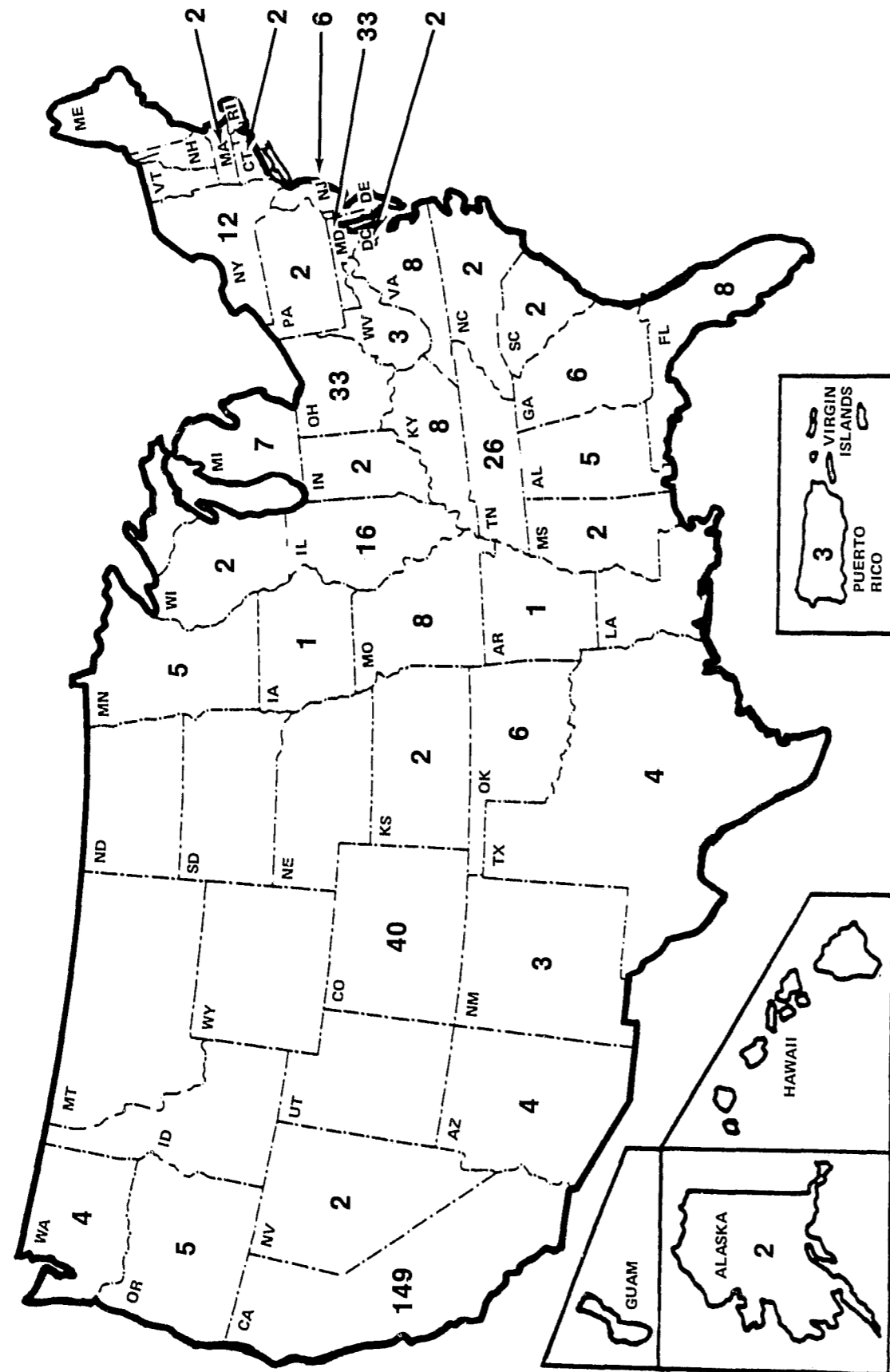


TABLE 8.—Bombings by Specific Targets for 1980-1981

Type Target	[Actual Detonations or Ignitions]						Property Damage ¹	
	Total Incidents		No. Killed		No. Injured		1980	1981
	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981
Residential	308	303	15	13	52	25	\$ 759.2	\$ 819.8
Commercial	269	244	3	8	37	60	5,174.8	10,273.8
Vehicles	268	184	13	10	35	22	1,426.2	445.3
Police Facilities/Vehicles	10	18	—	—	—	2	829.9	65.0
Educational	92	65	—	—	35	5	2,450.5	35.8
Government (State/local)	24	24	—	1	—	4	60.3	107.0
Government (Federal)	13	11	—	—	1	1	16.2	6.7
Military Installations	6	3	—	—	—	—	5.0	5.4
Utilities	36	28	—	—	—	—	1,384.3	4,101.2
Banks	12	15	—	—	2	—	212.0	294.0
Airports/Aircraft	3	15	—	1	2	—	122.7	49,500.0
Open Areas	62	80	5	8	24	31	54.2	7.4
Mail Boxes	91	55	—	—	1	—	2.8	1.8
Other	96	89	5	—	28	11	936.0	472.8
Total	1,290	1,134	41	41	217	161	13,434.1	66,136.0

¹Estimated dollar losses are listed in thousands and are not reported in all incidents.

TABLE 9.—Bombing Incidents by Motive, Including Property Damage for 1980-1981

Motive	Incidents		Property Damage ¹		Percentage ²	
	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981
Vandalism	174	124	\$ 590.0	\$ 64.3	41.0	36.9
Revenge	147	95	472.2	400.9	34.7	28.3
Protest	38	40	670.7	53,686.5	8.9	11.9
Extortion	23	32	3,098.9	379.4	5.4	9.5
Labor Related	18	21	1,156.2	228.7	4.3	6.2
Homicide	11	12	108.6	334.7	2.6	3.6
Insurance Fraud	6	8	312.0	1,139.5	1.4	2.4
Suicide	7	4	1.4	1.0	1.7	1.2
Unknown ³	498	469	3,522.4	7,423.1	—	—
Total	922	805	9,932.4	63,658.1	100.0	100.0

¹Estimated dollar losses are listed in thousands. Amount of property damage was not reported in all incidents.

²These percentages do not reflect 498 incidents in 1980 and

469 incidents in 1981 for which the motive was undetermined. ³This category reflects those incidents where the motive was undetermined.

TABLE 10.—Incendiary Bombing Incidents by Motive, Including Property Damage for 1980-1981

Motive	Number of Incidents		Property Damage ¹		Percentage ²	
	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981
Revenge	117	81	\$ 99.6	\$ 146.3	63.2	58.7
Vandalism	34	29	2,420.1	6.1	18.4	21.0
Labor Related	10	15	45.6	63.5	5.4	10.9
Protest	10	8	21.9	11.2	5.4	5.8
Insurance Fraud	8	2	171.0	45.0	4.3	1.4
Extortion	4	2	2.7	—	2.2	1.4
Homicide	2	—	30.0	—	1.1	—
Suicide	—	1	—	—	—	.7
Unknown ³	183	191	711.6	2,205.7	—	—
Total	368	329	3,502.5	2,477.8	100.0	100.0

¹Estimated dollar losses are listed in thousands. Amount of property damage was not reported in all incidents.

191 incidents in 1981 for which the motive was undetermined.

²These percentages do not reflect 183 incidents in 1980 and

286 incidents in 1981 for which the type of container was undetermined.

TABLE 11.—Types of Containers Used as Destructive Devices for 1980-1981

Type of Container	Number		Percentage ¹	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
Pipe	427	352	34.6	33.3
Bottle	414	460	33.5	43.6
Dynamite Sticks	161	112	13.0	10.6
Can	50	33	4.0	3.1
Cardboard/Metal Boxes	29	35	2.4	3.3
Other	154	64	12.5	6.1
Unknown	286	329	—	—
Total Containers	1,521	1,385	100.0	100.0

¹These percentages do not include 286 incidents in 1980 and 329 incidents in 1981 for which the type of container was undetermined.

Table 11A
GRAPH OF CONTAINERS USED AS DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES BY PERCENTAGES FOR 1980-1981

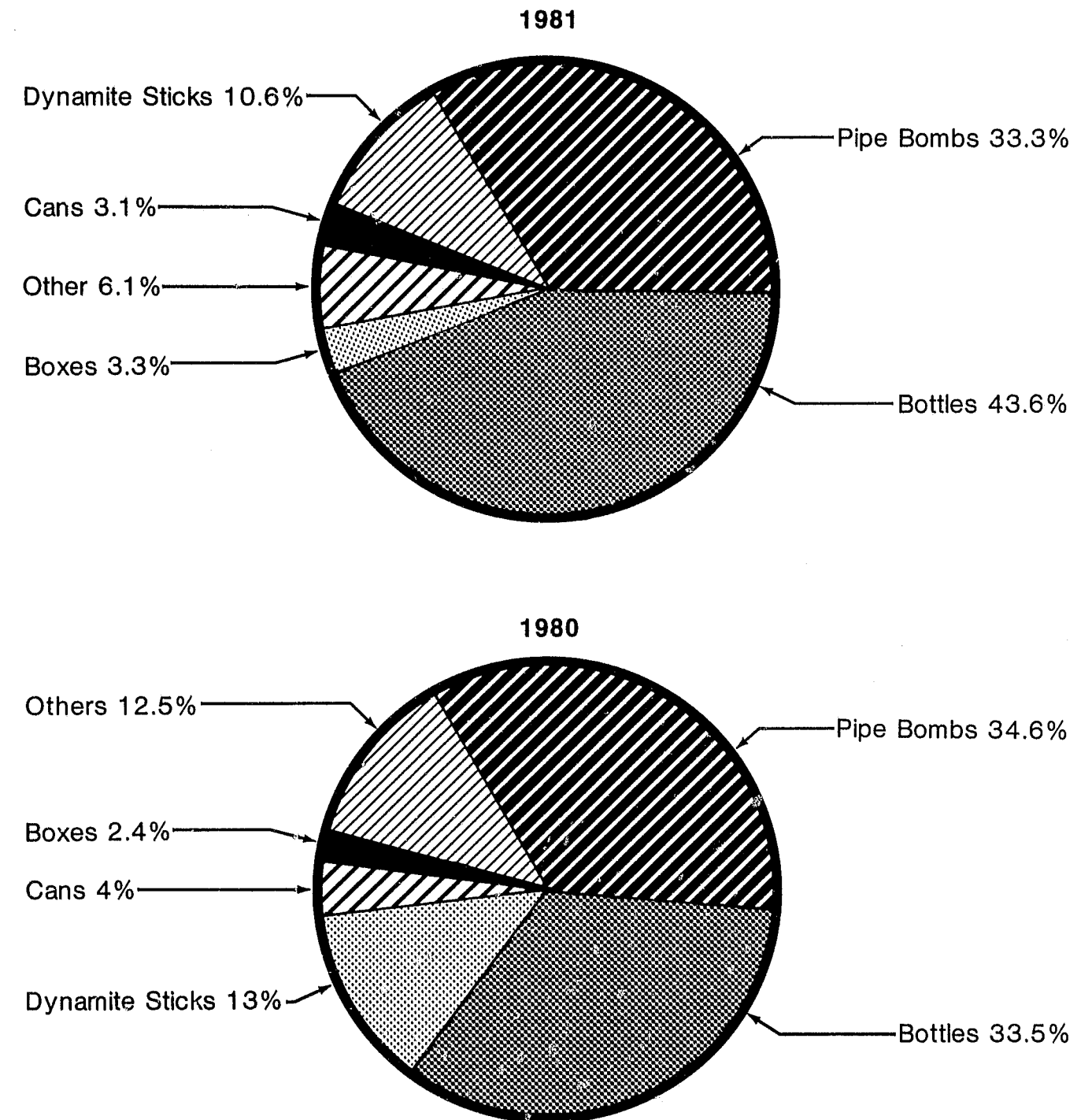


TABLE 12.—Types of Explosive Filler Contained Within Destructive Devices for 1980-1981

Type of Filler	Number		Percentage ¹	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
Flammable Liquid	423	331	36.8	35.9
Dynamite	197	168	17.1	18.2
Black Powder	163	129	14.1	14.0
Smokeless Powder	152	125	13.2	13.6
Photoflash Powder and/or Fireworks	71	64	6.2	6.9
Military Explosives	57	40	4.9	4.3
Match Heads	28	19	2.4	2.1
Chemical	13	5	1.1	.5
TNT	1	3	.1	.3
C4	—	6	—	.6
Blasting Agent	6	5	.5	.5
Other	42	26	3.6	2.8
Unknown	368	464	—	—
Total Filler	1,521	1,385	100.0	99.7²

¹These percentages do not include 368 incidents in 1980 and 464 incidents in 1981 for which the type of filler was

undetermined.

²Percentages do not total 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 12A
GRAPH OF EXPLOSIVE FILLER CONTAINED WITHIN
DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES BY PERCENTAGES FOR 1980-1981

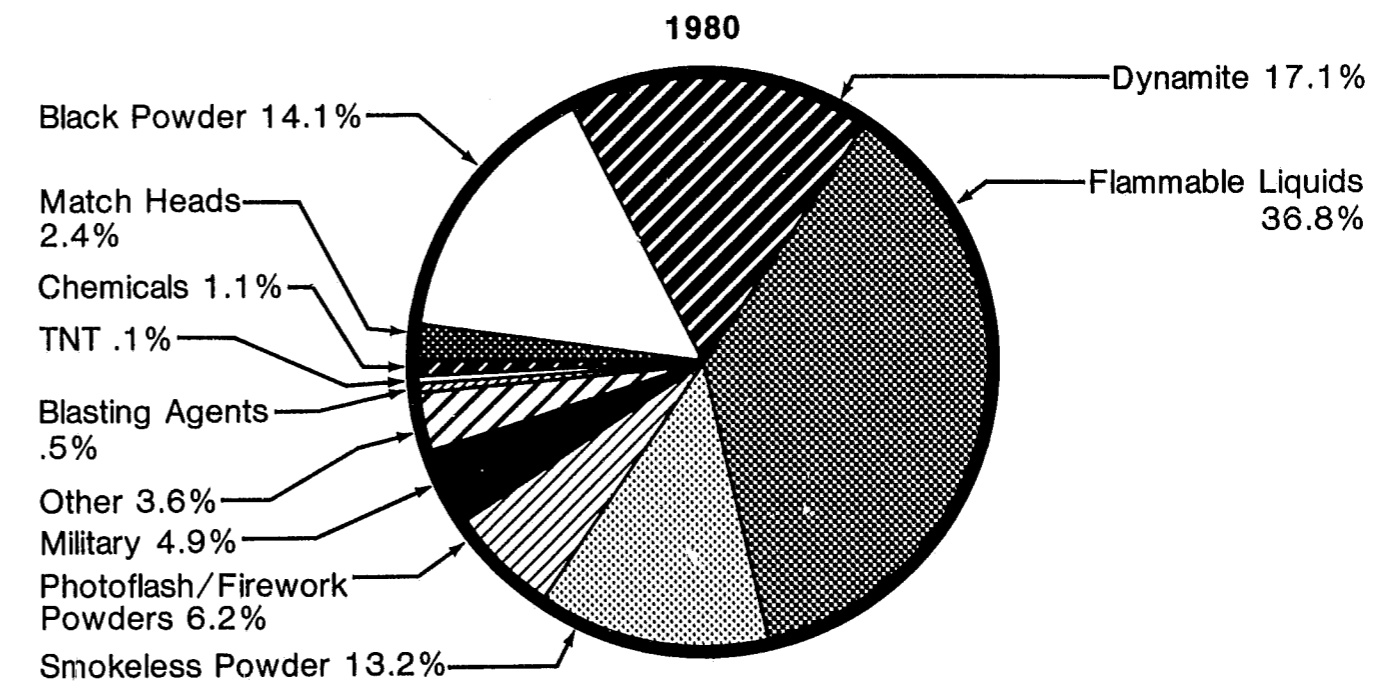
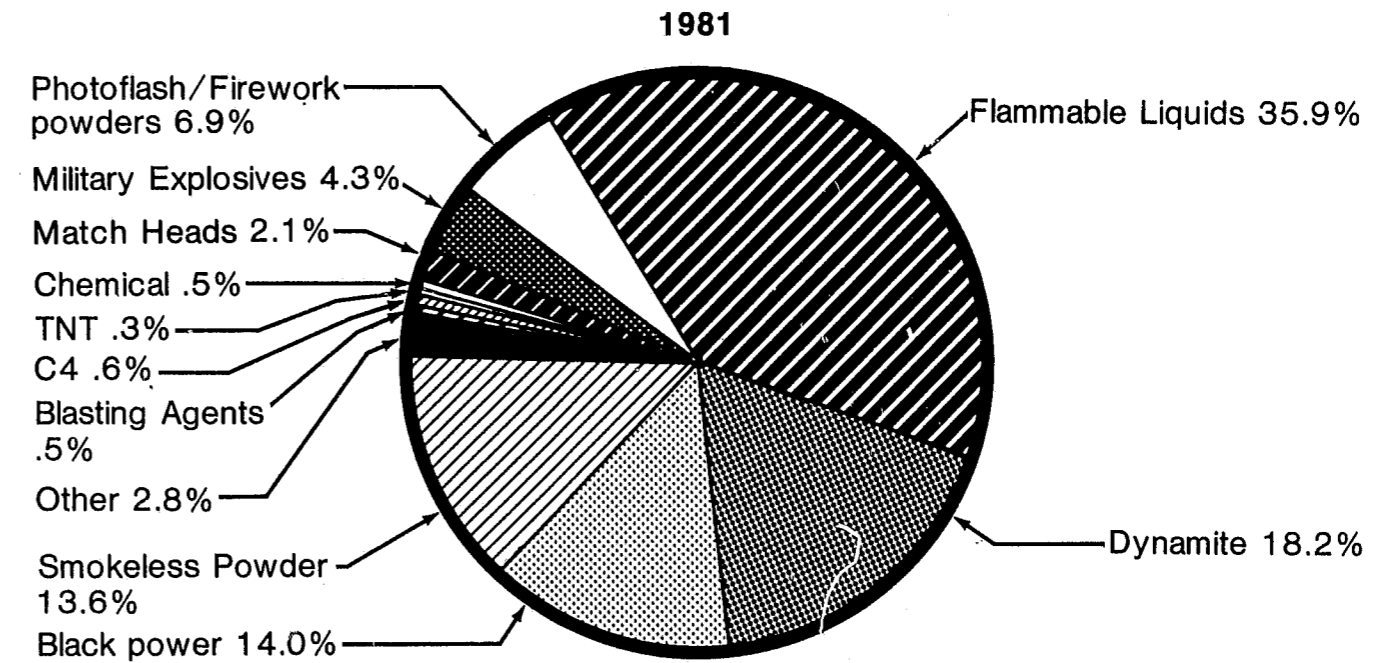


TABLE 13.—Number of Bombing Incidents by Month for 1980-1981

Month	[Actual Detonations]					
	Bombings		Incendiary		Total	
	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981
January	105	84	32	27	137	111
February	75	67	30	26	105	93
March	64	63	32	23	96	86
April	75	74	20	36	105	110
May	89	76	36	29	125	105
June	99	72	30	24	129	96
July	105	82	43	26	148	108
August	60	75	28	32	88	107
September	70	57	31	32	101	89
October	63	64	26	27	89	91
November	59	38	29	29	88	67
December	58	53	21	18	79	71
Totals	922	805	368	329	1,290	1,134

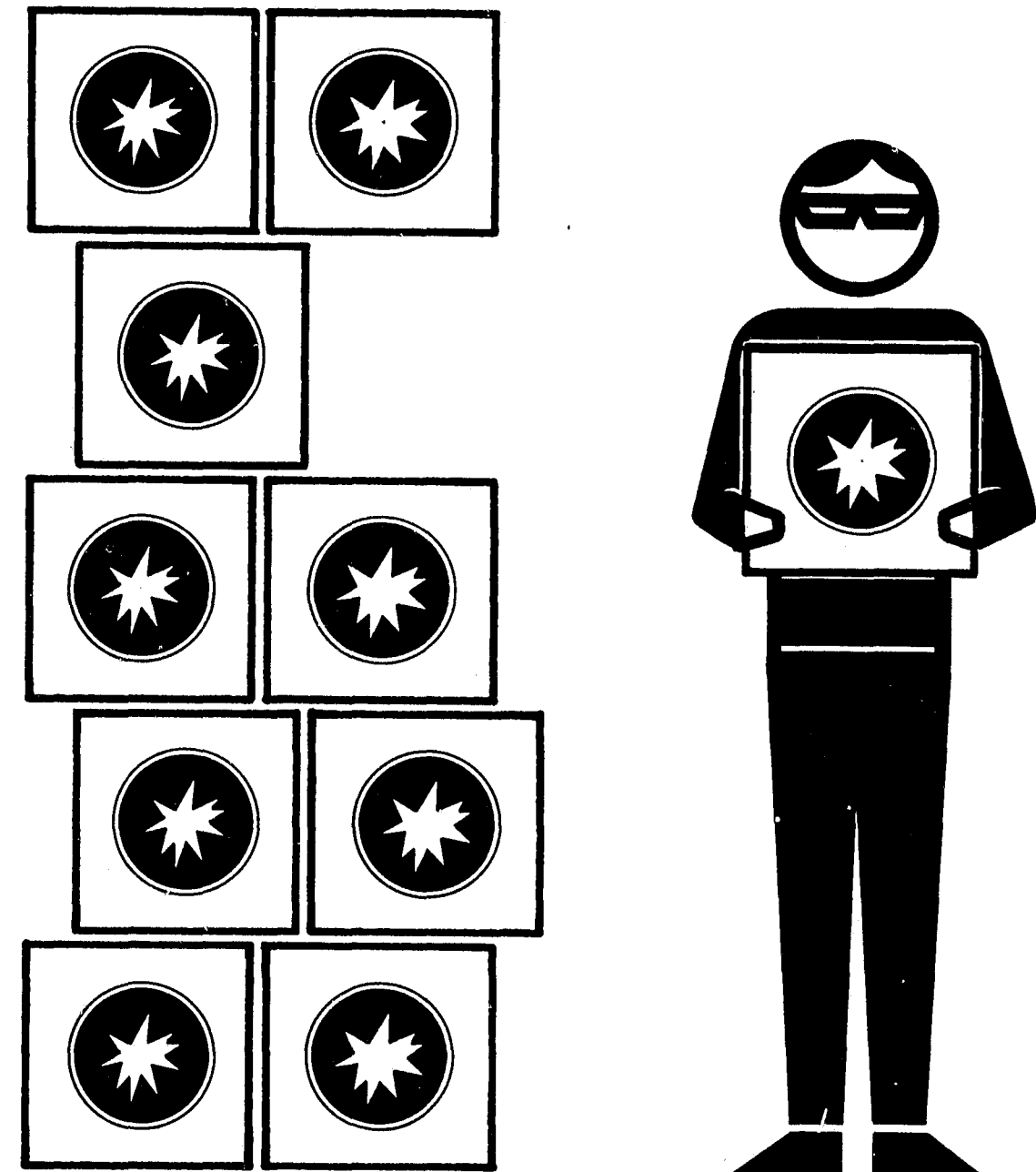
TABLE 14.—Accidental Explosions by Specific Targets for 1980-1981

Type Target	Total Incidents		No. Killed		No. Injured		Property Damage ¹	
	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981
	Commercial	30	20	34	27	160	65	\$13,935.2
Vehicles	6	3	3	4	2	10	—	505.3
Residential	8	9	4	—	5	17	20.0	379.0
Educational	1	1	1	2	33	2	3,000.0	—
Utilities	1	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
Open Area	8	2	2	—	7	4	—	—
Government (State/local)	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	50.0
Military Installations	1	—	3	—	1	—	—	—
Other	9	1	3	1	51	—	800.0	500.0
Total	64	37	50	34	266	101	17,755.2	39,459.5

¹Estimated dollar losses are listed in thousands. Amount of property damaged was not reported in all incidents.

Part II

STOLEN EXPLOSIVES AND RECOVERIES





WARNING:

**THEFTS OF EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS
MUST BE REPORTED TO THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT.* ANYONE POSSESSING
STOLEN EXPLOSIVES IS SUBJECT TO
IMPRISONMENT AND/OR FINE
UNDER FEDERAL LAW.**

***Report all thefts to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
toll free 800-424-9555. From Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico,
and the Virgin Islands call collect 202-566-7143.**

Background

The legislative history of Title XI of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970 indicated a primary concern for the theft or loss of explosive materials because of the potential criminal misuse of such stolen explosive materials and the inherent dangers to public safety. Consequently, in 1976, ATF initiated "Project SEAR" (Stolen Explosives and Recoveries) in an effort to combat the problem of explosives thefts and losses; to aid in the recovery of such materials; to determine trends and establish patterns of thefts; and to assist State, local, foreign, or other Federal agencies in the investigation of explosives-related incidents. In addition, appropriate information regarding stolen explosives is provided to the licensed explosives industry in furtherance of a mutual

concern for public safety.

The information reported to ATF relative to stolen or recovered explosives is subsequently computerized in the Treasury Enforcement Communications System (TECS), and thereby readily retrievable to support the various objectives of the project. To facilitate the reporting of a theft, loss, or recovery of explosive materials, and to expedite the investigation of such incidents, ATF has established a toll free telephone number (800-424-9555) that may be utilized by licensees, permittees, carriers, or any person having knowledge of a loss or theft of explosives.

Highlights

During 1981, there were 243 stolen explosives incidents reported to ATF. This represents a 30% decrease over the 349 incidents reported for 1980.

The combined thefts in 1981 totaled 48,917 pounds of explosives, 80,356 feet of detonating cord/safety fuse and 33,990 blasting caps.

Locks cut or pried were the primary entry method into storage facilities. Kentucky reported the most thefts with 25. Nonlicensed users accounted for 53.5% of the

thefts as compared to 26.8% for permittees, 11.9% for manufacturers, and 7.8% for dealers.

During 1981, ATF and/or other law enforcement agencies recovered 39,007 pounds of explosives through seizures, abandonments, and/or undercover purchases.

In 1981, ATF identified 90 incidents of recovered stolen explosives involving 11,142 pounds of explosives, 5,835 blasting caps and 13,970 feet of detonating cord/safety fuse.

TABLE 15.—Quantity of Explosives Stolen by General and Specific Types for 1980-1981

Type—General	Amount Stolen	
	1980	1981
High Explosives	112,157 lbs.	23,292 lbs.
Low Explosives	1,179 lbs.	1,589 lbs.
Blasting Agents	51,168 lbs.	24,036 lbs.
Type—Specific	Amount Stolen	
	1980	1981
Blasting Agents	51,168 lbs.	24,036 lbs.
Dynamite	107,453 lbs.	21,317 lbs.
Black Powder	772 lbs.	325 lbs.
Military Explosives	93 lbs.	20 lbs.
Primer	2,681 lbs.	1,461 lbs.
Boosters	1,851 lbs.	494 lbs.
TNT	79 lbs.	0
Smokeless Powder	307 lbs.	973 lbs.
Other ¹	100 lbs.	291 lbs.
Grenades	90 each	40 each
Blasting Caps	87,664 each	33,990 each
Det. Cord/Safety Fuse/Ignitor Cord	148,117 feet	80,356 feet
Total Explosives Stolen	1980	1981
Pounds of Explosives	164,504 lbs.	48,917 lbs.
Det. Cord/Safety Fuse/Ignitor Cord	148,117 ft.	80,356 ft.
Blasting Caps	87,664 each	33,990 each

¹Other specific types of explosives were identified and combined in this category due to the small quantities involved.

TABLE 16.—Explosives Thefts by Method of Entry—Number of Incidents and Percentages for 1980-1981

Entry Method	Number		Percentage ¹	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
Locks Cut	57	46	24.0	26.6
Locks Pried	39	16	16.5	9.2
Door Pried	16	10	6.8	5.8
Key	19	15	8.0	8.7
Wall Entry	12	4	5.1	2.3
Roof Entry	4	3	1.7	1.7
Vent Entry	5	5	2.1	2.9
Window Entry	4	1	1.7	.6
Floor Entry	1	1	.4	.6
Door Blown	2	1	.8	.6
Other	78	71	32.9	41.0
Unknown ²	112	70	—	—
Total	349	243	100.0	100.0

¹These percentages do not include 112 incidents in 1980 and the 70 incidents for 1981 where the method of entry was undetermined.

²These figures reflect those incidents where the entry method could not be determined.

TABLE 17.—Stolen Explosives by State Showing Number of Incidents, Explosives Stolen in Pounds, and Blasting Caps by Quantity for 1980-1981

State	Number of Incidents		Explosives (lbs.)		Blasting Caps	
	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981
Alabama	9	11	338	1,760	505	849
Alaska	3	2	374	603	0	0
Arizona	5	3	953	350	332	20
Arkansas	3	2	41	104	1,746	372
California	18	14	5,082	1,067	1,708	901
Colorado	6	7	283	581	1,425	700
Connecticut	4	3	0	5	4,449	20
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	2	3	51	1,435	0	0
Georgia	8	5	242	283	781	0
Hawaii	1	0	550	0	0	0
Idaho	2	2	150	50	0	250
Illinois	6	5	700	556	47	50
Indiana	6	2	438	118	530	2,067
Iowa	2	2	71	1,450	50	100
Kansas	6	6	2,102	400	30	894
Kentucky	29	25	41,405	20,796	12,069	6,854
Louisiana	7	11	400	1,246	186	597
Maine	1	0	2	0	0	0
Maryland	5	1	90	496	456	0
Massachusetts	1	2	160	100	0	0
Michigan	1	1	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	4	2	281	51	43	725
Mississippi	7	5	2,360	624	394	67
Missouri	12	5	10,569	385	2,655	312
Montana	8	12	4,405	206	790	451
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nevada	6	3	1,507	67	444	979
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Jersey	3	4	138	454	166	0
New Mexico	6	2	1,659	4,170	3,031	50
New York	4	1	325	14	419	0
North Carolina	9	7	549	1,365	1,158	1,427
North Dakota	1	0	150	0	0	0
Ohio	8	5	21,913	645	2,674	1,361
Oklahoma	7	3	145	775	715	1,148
Oregon	4	1	4,272	150	2,220	0
Pennsylvania	19	13	1,906	1,411	1,049	2,110
Rhode Island	0	1	0	300	0	524
South Carolina	3	2	0	74	833	3
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	13	8	3,207	1,356	1,025	712
Texas	27	17	1,307	2,187	1,560	501
Utah	12	9	1,018	512	3,207	1,059
Vermont	3	0	440	0	74	0
Virginia	15	10	2,555	551	20,150	5,911
Washington	17	8	5,839	301	1,294	538
West Virginia	23	10	44,043	1,205	19,419	2,178
Wisconsin	3	4	1,900	374	0	100
Wyoming	9	4	576	340	29	160
Guam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerto Rico	1	0	8	0	1	0
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	349	243	164,504	48,917	87,664	33,990

TABLE 18.—*Stolen Explosives Ranked by Top Ten States for 1980-1981*

1980			1981		
Rank	State	Number of Incidents	Rank	State	Number of Incidents
1.	Kentucky	29	1.	Kentucky	25
2.	Texas	27	2.	Texas	17
3.	West Virginia	23	3.	California	14
4.	Pennsylvania	19	4.	Pennsylvania	13
5.	California	18	5.	Montana	12
6.	Washington	17	6.	Louisiana	11
7.	Virginia	15	7.	Alabama	11
8.	Tennessee	13	8.	Virginia	10
9.	Missouri	12	9.	West Virginia	10
10.	Utah	12	10.	Utah	9

TABLE 19.—*Number and Percentage of Total Stolen Explosives Incidents by Month for 1980-1981*

Month	1980		1981	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
January	26	7.4	24	9.9
February	25	7.2	16	6.6
March	32	9.2	22	9.0
April	35	10.0	15	6.2
May	35	10.0	18	7.4
June	44	12.6	25	10.3
July	29	8.3	21	8.6
August	29	8.3	27	11.1
September	29	8.3	23	9.5
October	25	7.2	20	8.2
November	23	6.6	18	7.4
December	17	4.9	14	5.8
Total	349	100.0	243	100.0

Figure 3
MAP OF 1981 EXPLOSIVE THEFT INCIDENTS BY STATE

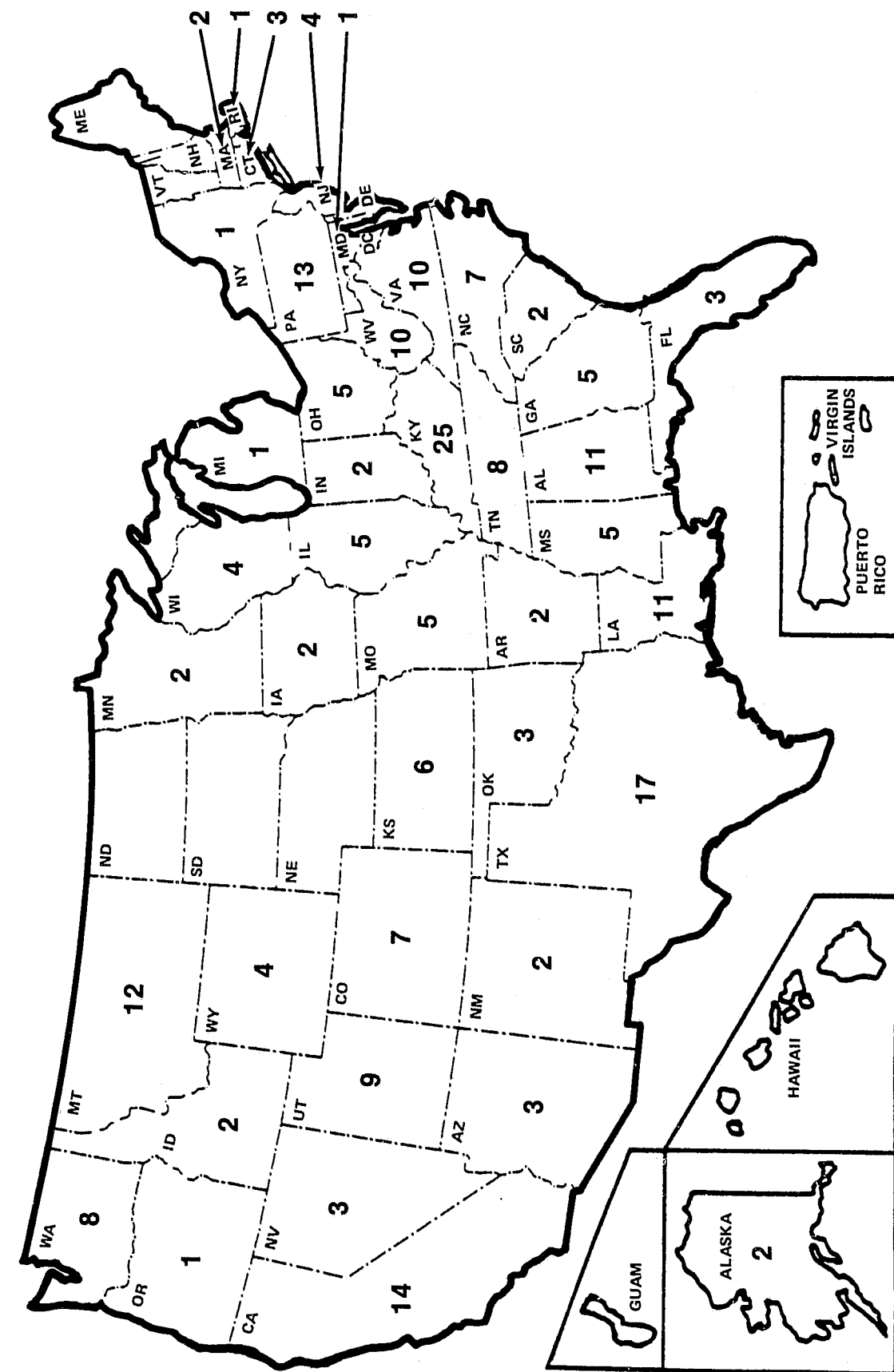


Figure 3

MAP OF 1981 EXPLOSIVE THEFT INCIDENTS BY STATE

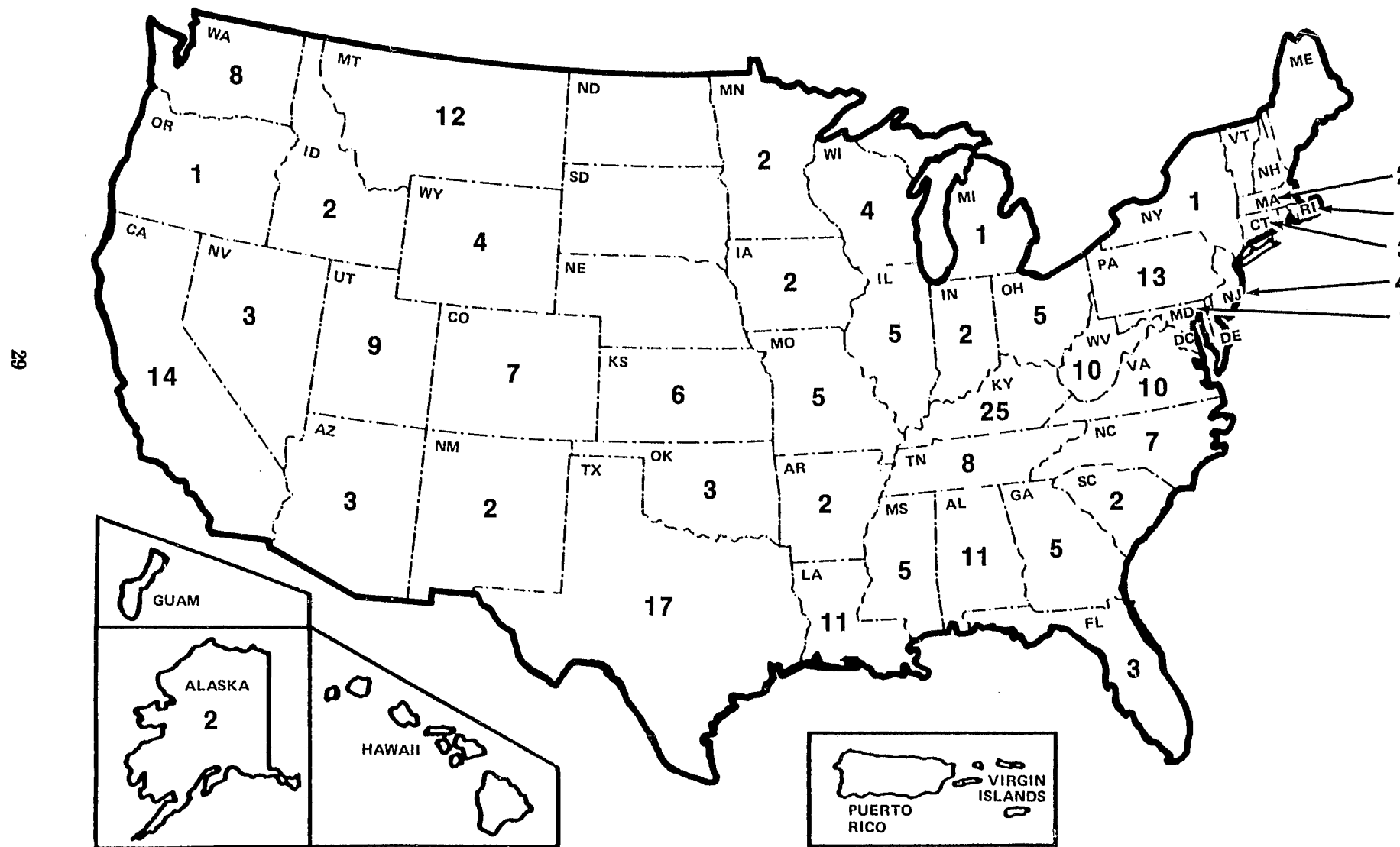
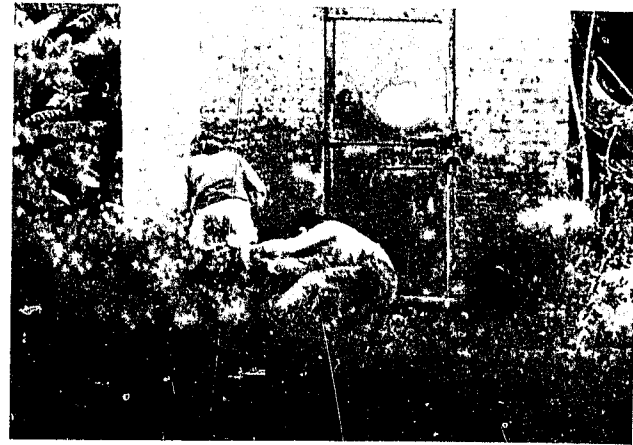
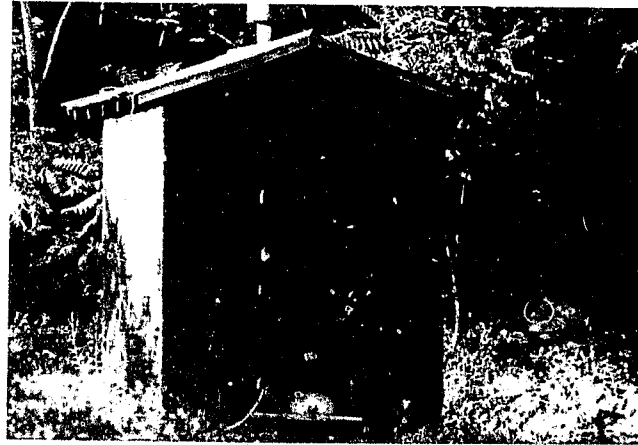


TABLE 20.—Number and Percentage of Stolen Explosives Incidents
From Manufacturers, Dealers, Permittees, and Users for 1980-1981

Type of License	1980		1981	
	Number of Thefts	Percentage	Number of Thefts	Percentage
Manufacturers	32	9.2	29	11.9
Dealers	38	10.9	19	7.8
Permittees	71	20.3	65	26.8
Users (Nonlicensed)	208	59.6	130	53.5
Total	349	100.0	243	100.0



These series of photographs are surveillance photos of 3 men in the process of stealing 1500 pounds of dynamite from a bunker in Inwood, West Virginia.

Table 20A
GRAPH OF STOLEN EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS BY PERCENTAGES
FROM MANUFACTURERS, DEALERS, PERMITTEES, AND USERS FOR 1980-1981

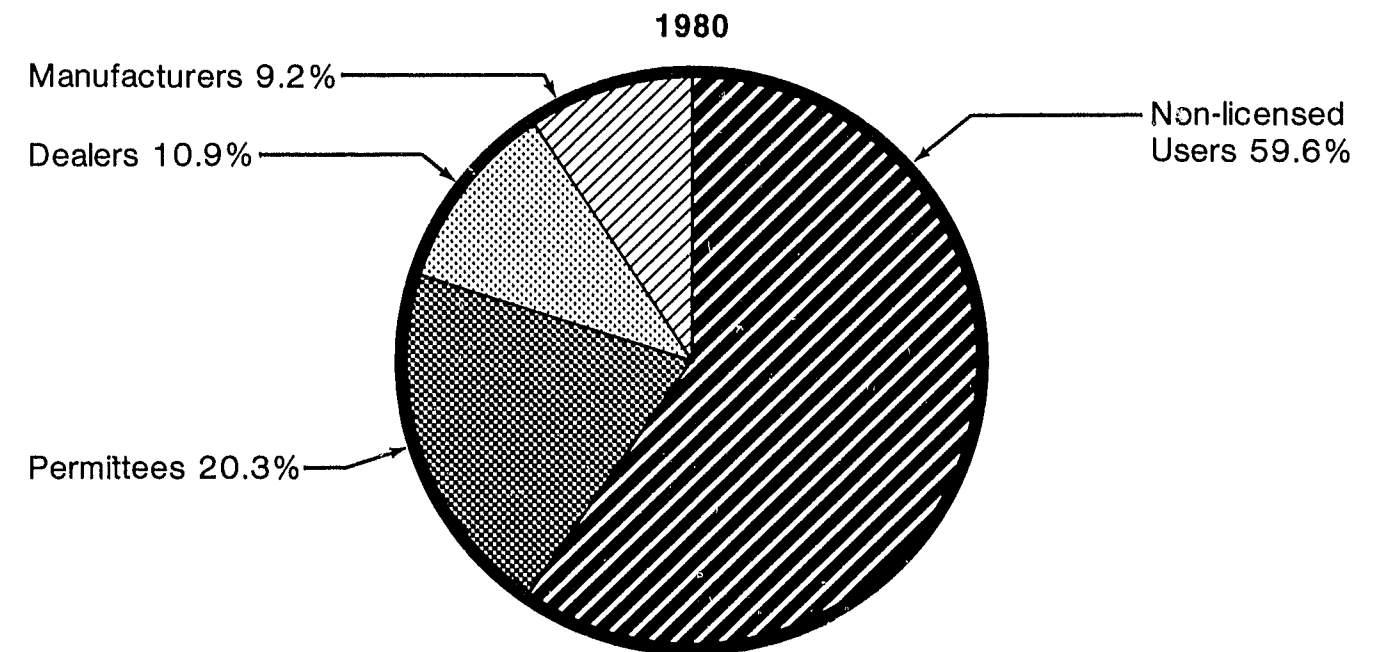
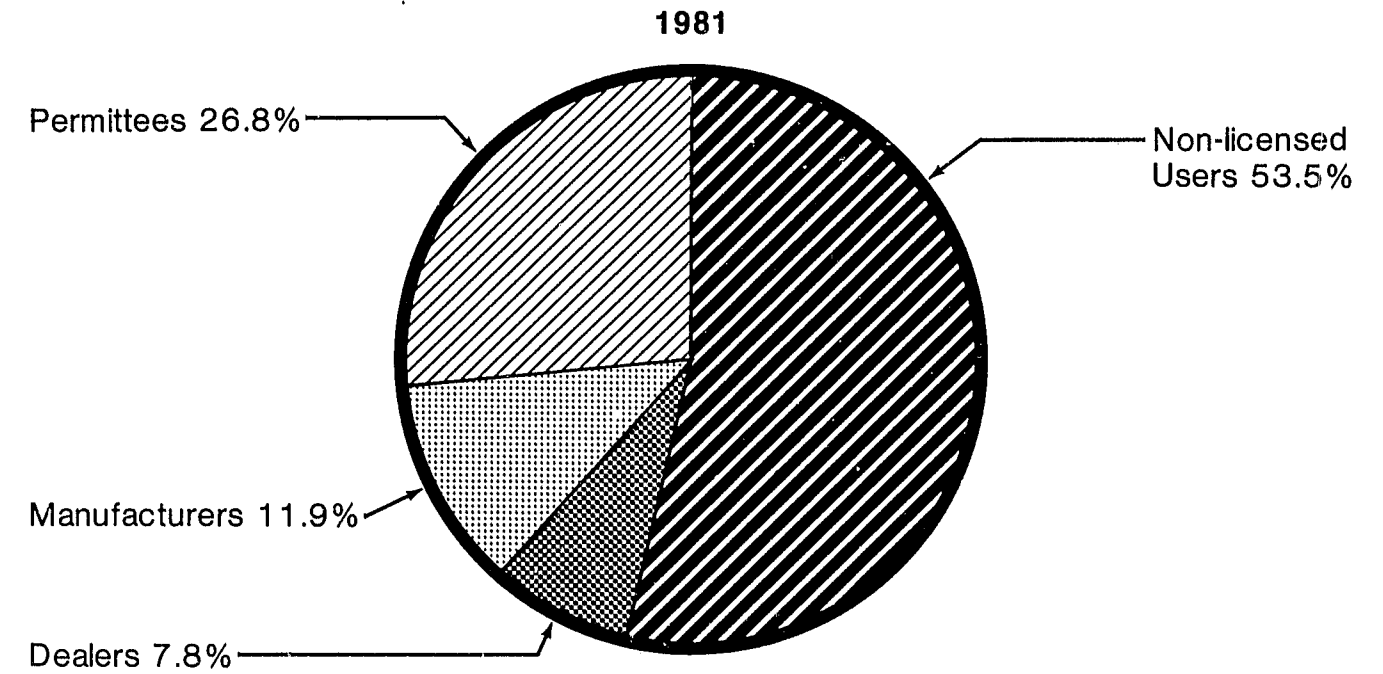


TABLE 21.—Quantity of Explosives Recovered by General and Specific Types for 1980-1981

Type—General	Amount Recovered	
	1980	1981
High Explosives	90,634 lbs.	25,473 lbs.
Low Explosives	991 lbs.	712 lbs.
Blasting Agents	27,744 lbs.	12,822 lbs.
Type—Specific	Amount Recovered	
	1980	1981
Blasting Agents	27,744 lbs.	12,822 lbs.
Dynamite	87,653 lbs.	24,546 lbs.
Smokeless Powder	45 lbs.	114 lbs.
Military Explosives	182 lbs.	407 lbs.
Boosters	2,425 lbs.	377 lbs.
Black Powder	433 lbs.	19 lbs.
TNT	106 lbs.	95 lbs.
Other ¹	513 lbs.	79 lbs.
Potassium Chlorate	0	500 lbs.
Primer	268 each	47 lbs.
RDX	0	1 lb.
Grenades	136 each	96 each
Blasting Caps	37,690 each	11,386 each
Det. Cord/Safety Fuse/Ignitor Cord	120,561 feet	48,375 feet
Total Explosives Recovered	1980	1981
Pounds of Explosives	119,369 lbs.	39,007 lbs.
Det. Cord/Safety Fuse/Ignitor Cord	120,561 feet	48,375 feet
Blasting Caps	37,690 each	11,386 each

¹Other specific types of explosives were combined in this category due to the small quantities involved.

TABLE 22.—Recovery of Stolen Explosives for 1980-1981¹

Volume	1980	1981
Incidents	123	90
Explosives	92,961 lbs.	11,142 lbs.
Blasting Caps	10,416 each	5,835 each
Safety Fuse/Detonating Cord	37,264 feet	13,970 feet

¹Explosives that have been reported to ATF as stolen.

TABLE 23.—Recovered Explosives by State Showing Number of Incidents, Explosives Recovered in Pounds, and Blasting Caps by Quantity for 1980-1981¹

State	Number of Incidents		Explosives (lbs.)		Blasting Caps	
	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981
Alabama	36	26	607	931	224	1,188
Alaska	0	3	0	4	0	34
Arizona	12	8	905	497	3,892	418
Arkansas	20	17	755	527	393	128
California	42	30	3,615	1,232	1,245	127
Colorado	16	7	1,793	81	1,977	7
Connecticut	6	9	2	72	283	92
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	12	24	63	2,967	169	255
Georgia	22	25	705	3,127	210	387
Hawaii	3	2	0	0	0	1
Idaho	3	0	91	0	1,437	0
Illinois	60	18	1,024	2,280	122	163
Indiana	11	5	518	11	273	0
Iowa	5	6	6	1,596	77	401
Kansas	10	8	70	162	52	210
Kentucky	82	53	18,464	2,786	1,879	2,042
Louisiana	16	14	726	930	170	519
Maine	1	1	0	2	0	1
Maryland	8	8	49	502	20	4
Massachusetts	11	4	14	8	5	42
Michigan	9	10	112	295	14	443
Minnesota	5	2	142	0	131	0
Mississippi	14	14	417	318	154	196
Missouri	27	20	632	325	1,658	244
Montana	3	4	500	26	0	100
Nebraska	9	2	124	0	5	0
Nevada	11	9	1,905	415	791	6
New Hampshire	1	0	0	0	0	0
New Jersey	26	16	78	2	652	39
New Mexico	9	10	529	1,113	1,204	104
New York	16	8	285	67	438	0
North Carolina	48	38	886	2,640	412	550
North Dakota	5	0	355	0	4	0
Ohio	41	22	21,941	249	1,819	141
Oklahoma	10	22	1,228	89	78	217
Oregon	11	3	2,315	9	6,241	20
Pennsylvania	32	12	44,092	914	836	664
Rhode Island	1	1	0	300	0	524
South Carolina	17	13	258	124	644	73
South Dakota	2	2	10	4	15	11
Tennessee	32	22	1,382	959	3,293	321
Texas	50	49	2,834	11,514	1,608	567
Utah	21	7	983	208	2,703	19
Vermont	1	1	27	1	0	1
Virginia	42	19	895	282	483	119
Washington	24	25	3,513	277	881	830
West Virginia	50	19	3,969	471	1,117	90
Wisconsin	3	10	423	254	0	1
Wyoming	12	9	127	436	61	87
Guam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	908	637	119,369	39,007	37,690	11,386

¹This category includes explosives seized, abandoned, and purchased (undercover).

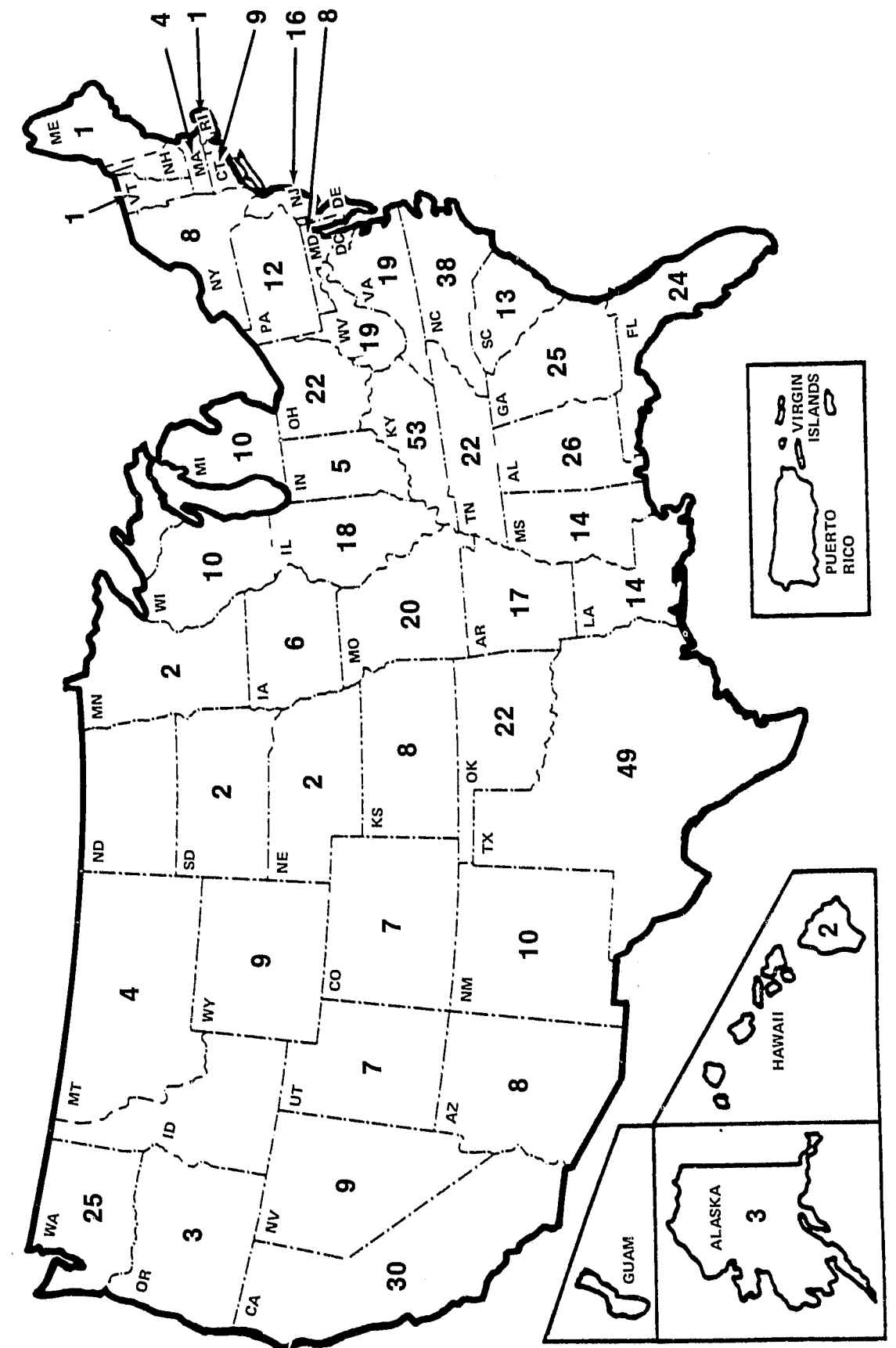
TABLE 24.—Recovered Explosives Ranked by Top Ten States for 1980-1981

Rank	State	Number of incidents	Rank	State	Number of incidents
1980			1981		
1.	Kentucky	82	1.	Kentucky	53
2.	Illinois	60	2.	Texas	49
3.	Texas	50	3.	North Carolina	38
4.	West Virginia	50	4.	California	30
4.	North Carolina	48	5.	Alabama	26
5.	California	42	6.	Washington	25
	Virginia	42		Georgia	25
6.	Ohio	41	7.	Florida	24
7.	Alabama	36	8.	Ohio	22
8.	Pennsylvania	32		Oklahoma	22
	Tennessee	32		Tennessee	22
9.	Missouri	27	9.	Missouri	20
10.	New Jersey	26	10.	New Jersey	19
				West Virginia	19

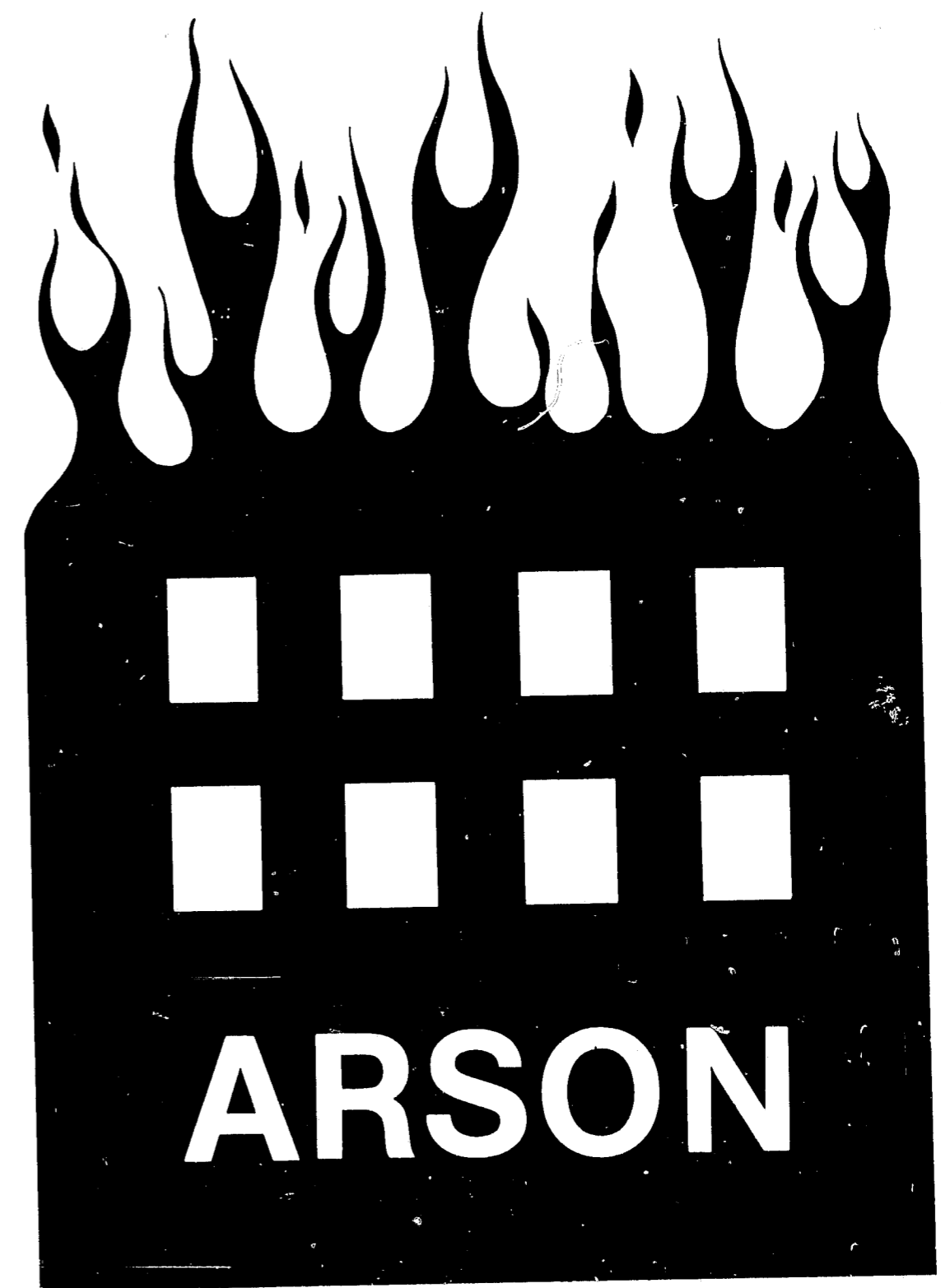
TABLE 25.—Number of Recovered Explosives Incidents by Month for 1980-1981

Month	1980		1981	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
January	95	10.5	58	9.1
February	57	6.3	51	8.0
March	82	9.0	52	8.2
April	67	7.4	66	10.4
May	93	10.2	55	8.6
June	93	10.2	72	11.3
July	86	9.5	34	5.3
August	68	7.5	75	11.8
September	70	7.7	52	8.2
October	73	8.0	54	8.5
November	65	7.2	38	5.9
December	59	6.5	30	4.7
Total	908	100.0	637	100.0

Figure 4
MAP OF 1981 RECOVERED EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS BY STATE



Part III



ARSON

For Profit

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Statutory Authority

ATF's investigative jurisdiction in arson crimes emanates from the statutory enforcement responsibilities defined in chapter 40 of Title 18, U.S.C. (i.e., Title XI of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970); and chapter 53 of Title 26, U.S.C. (i.e., Title II of the Gun Control Act of 1968).

Arson incidents perpetrated by the use of destructive devices, incendiary devices, explosives or accelerants with explosive potential may often include violations of "Title II" or "Title XI," or a combination of both. For example:

1. Under Title II of the Gun Control Act of 1968 (Title 26 U.S.C., section 5845(f)), a "destructive device" is defined as any explosive or incendiary bomb or similar device, or any combination of parts from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. Such "destructive devices" must be registered with ATF (in the same fashion as a machinegun, sawed-off shotgun, etc.) and in the absence of that required registration, the possessor(s) of the "device" is in violation of the law. The "molotov cocktail" is a good example of an incendiary destructive device covered under this section of the statute.
2. Under Title XI of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970 (Title 18 U.S.C., chapter 40, section 844(j)), the definition of an "EXPLOSIVE" covers generic explosive materials (i.e., dynamite), certain incendiary devices, AND any chemical compound (such as gasoline), combined with oxidizing units (air), that causes (or may cause) an EXPLOSION if ignited by fire or some other means of detonation. The additional element required by this statute is that the TARGET of the arson (explosives) related incident must be connected with INTERSTATE or foreign commerce. Hence, if such, "EXPLOSIVES" are used to perpetrate an arson, and the interstate or foreign commerce element exists, then ATF's jurisdiction under this statute (especially, section 844(i)) can be applied.

It is only within the definition of these statutes that ATF has the jurisdictional authority to investigate arson crimes. Consequently, we have structured our arson enforcement program toward "arson-for-profit" schemes and/or other significant arson-related crimes directed toward commercial or industrial activities, when the perpetrators of such crimes are suspected to be: (a) members or associates of organized crime; (b) white-collar criminals; (c) members of organized "arson rings"; and/or (d) violent criminals whose illegal activities impact upon the community at large.

ATF provides assistance and support to State/local authorities through:

- (1) Joint investigative efforts, especially when the nature or magnitude of the arson incident(s) extends beyond the jurisdiction or resource capability of such authorities.
- (2) The administration of training programs directed toward "arson-for-profit" investigative techniques and laboratory techniques for the examination of arson debris.
- (3) The use of ATF laboratory facilities to process and examine evidence collected at the scene of an arson crime.

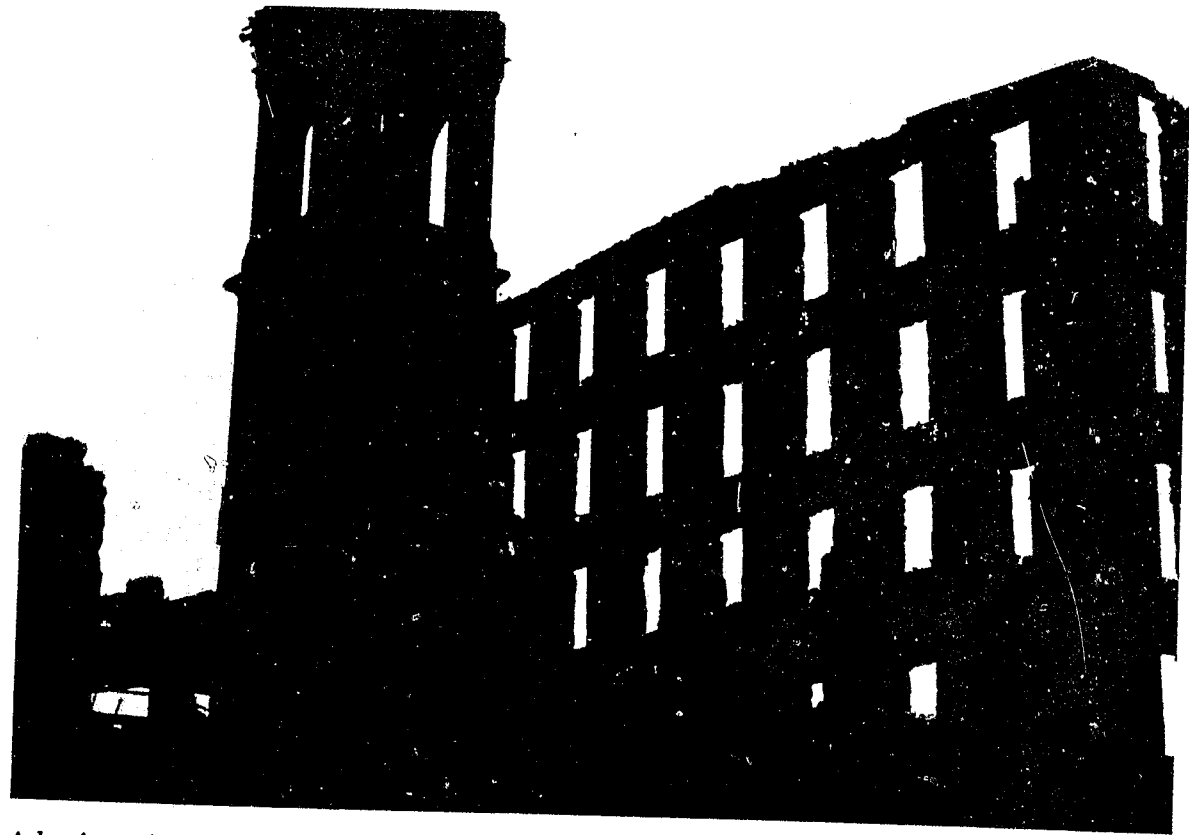
ATF realizes that we do not, and jurisdictionally cannot, address the totality of arson incidents occurring throughout the United States. However, within the framework of our statutory and resource capabilities, we believe that we are successfully addressing an element of arson-related criminal activity that warrants Federal emphasis.

NOTE: This section of the report reflects statistical data relative to arson incidents that were investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) during calendar years 1980 and 1981.

TABLE 26.—Arson Incidents Investigated by ATF for 1980-1981

Target	Incidents Investigated		Killed		Injured		Property Damage ¹ (in millions)		Percentage of Incidents	
	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981	1980	1981
Commercial Buildings	491	258	14	17	61	87	\$146.8	\$171.5	81.4	77.9
Commercial Dwellings	73	44	9	9	11	34	4.1	3.1	12.1	13.3
Vehicles	30	15	1	2	0	0	.2	.5	4.9	4.5
Educational	4	5	0	0	0	0	.1	3.9	.7	1.5
Other	5	9	0	0	0	0	1.5	10.2	.9	2.8
Total	603	331	24	28	72	121	152.7	189.2	100.0	100.0

¹Property damages listed above are based upon estimates that are generally reported during the preliminary stages of the investigation and do not reflect all property loss that might have occurred. Furthermore, in some instances, no reports of property damage are submitted.



A business in Fall River, Massachusetts, that was destroyed by fire on November 5, 1981, resulting in \$5,000,000 in damages.

Table 26A
GRAPH OF ARSON INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED BY
ATF BY TARGET AND PERCENTAGES FOR 1980-1981

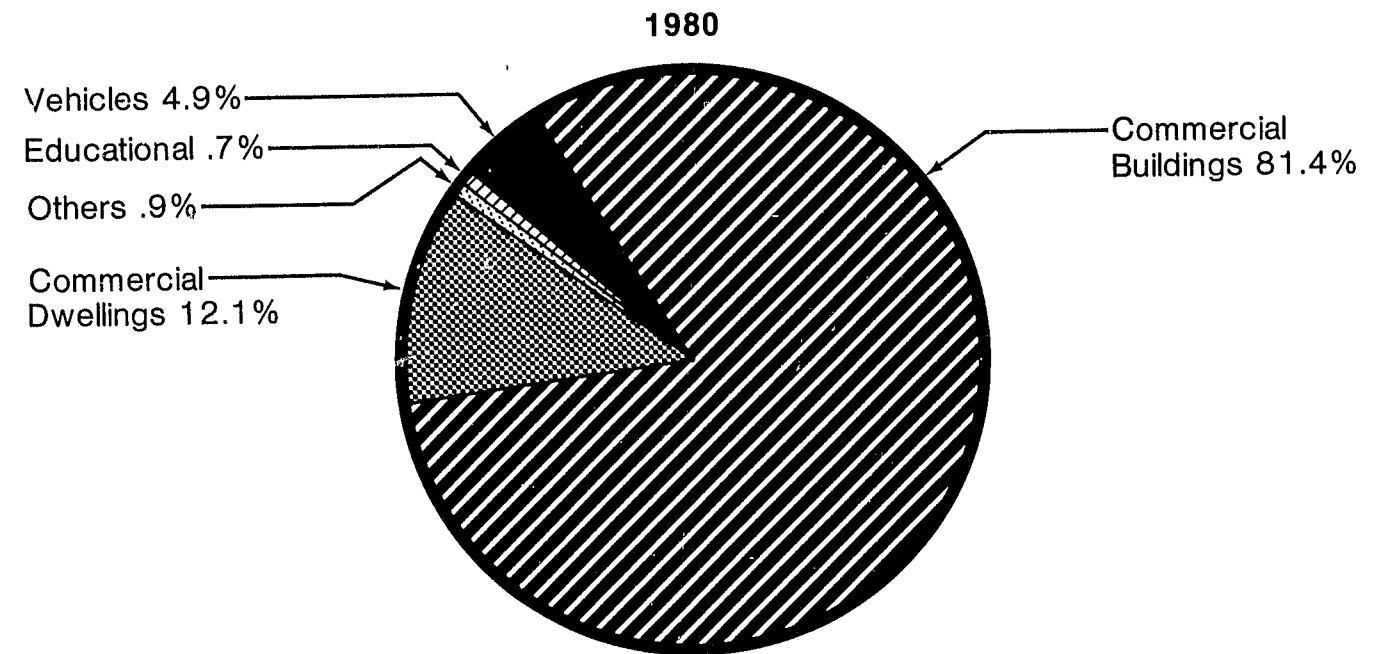
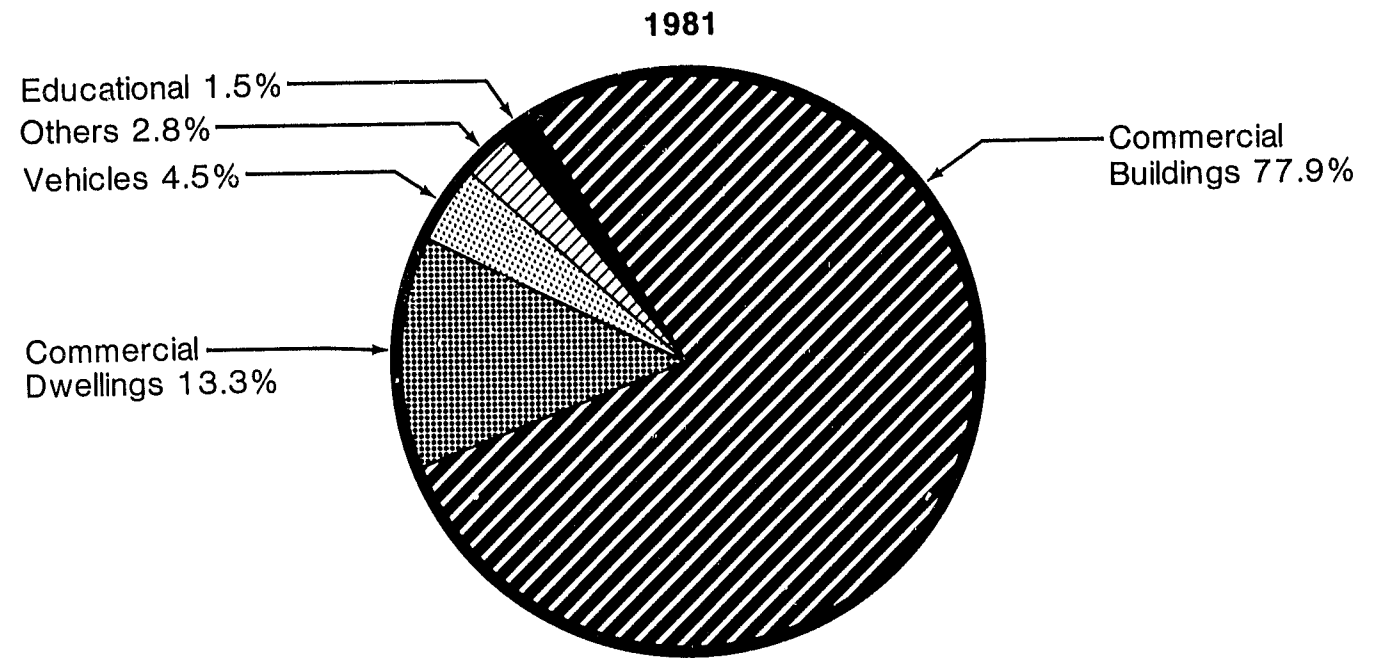


TABLE 27.—Motive for Arson Incidents Investigated by ATF for 1980-1981

Motive	Incidents		Percentage ¹	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
Insurance	138	100	59.3	71.5
Revenge	35	14	15.0	10.0
Extortion	24	15	10.3	10.7
Labor Related	24	5	10.3	3.6
Vandalism	10	1	4.3	.7
Protest	1	3	.4	2.1
Homicide	1	1	.4	.7
Suicide	0	1	—	.7
Unknown	370	191	—	—
Total	603	331	100.0	100.0

¹These percentages do not include 370 incidents in 1981 and the 191 incidents for 1981 for which the motive was undetermined.

Table 27A
GRAPH OF ARSON INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED BY ATF BY
MOTIVE AND PERCENTAGES FOR 1980-1981

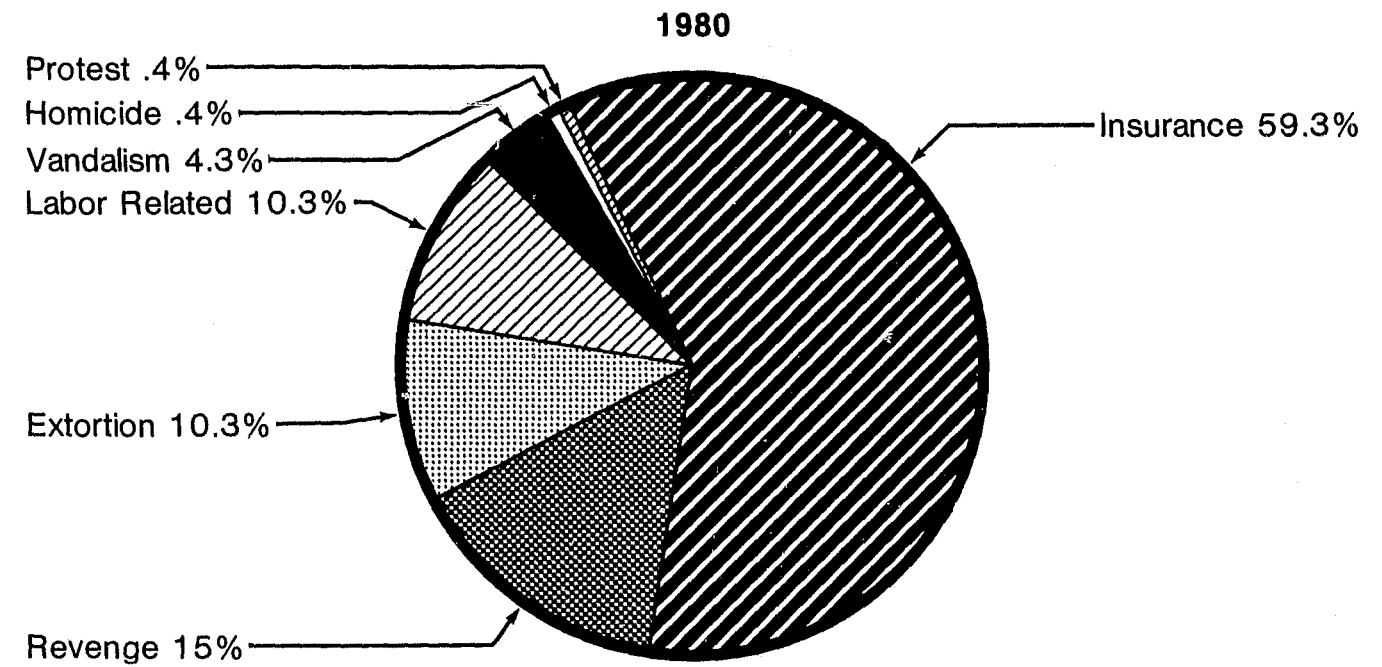
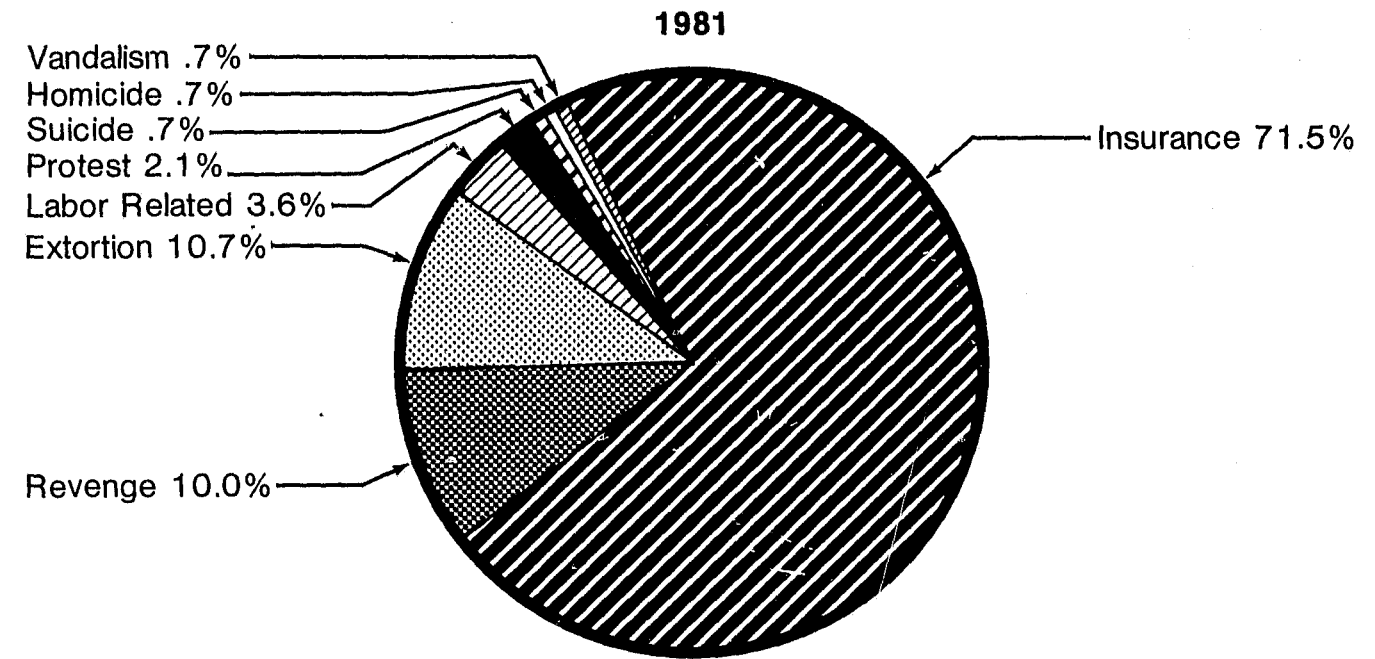


TABLE 28.—Types of Accelerants Identified in Arson Incidents Investigated by ATF for 1980

Accelerants	Number of Incidents	Percentage ¹
Gasoline	226	74.3
Diesel Fuel	11	3.1
Paint Thinner	10	2.8
Kerosene	8	2.2
Natural Gas	7	2.0
Lacquer Thinner	6	1.7
Coleman Fuel	5	1.4
Lighter Fluid	5	1.4
Toluene	4	1.1
Ethyl Alcohol	3	.8
Acetone	3	.8
Charcoal Lighter	3	.8
Alcohol	3	.8
Turpentine	3	.8
Fuel Oil	3	.8
Smokeless Powder	3	.8
Methanol	2	.6
Photoflash Powder	2	.6
Cleaning Fluid	2	.6
Others	2	.6
Unknown	10	2.8
Total	603	100.0

¹These percentages do not include 245 incidents in 1980 in which the accelerant was undetermined.

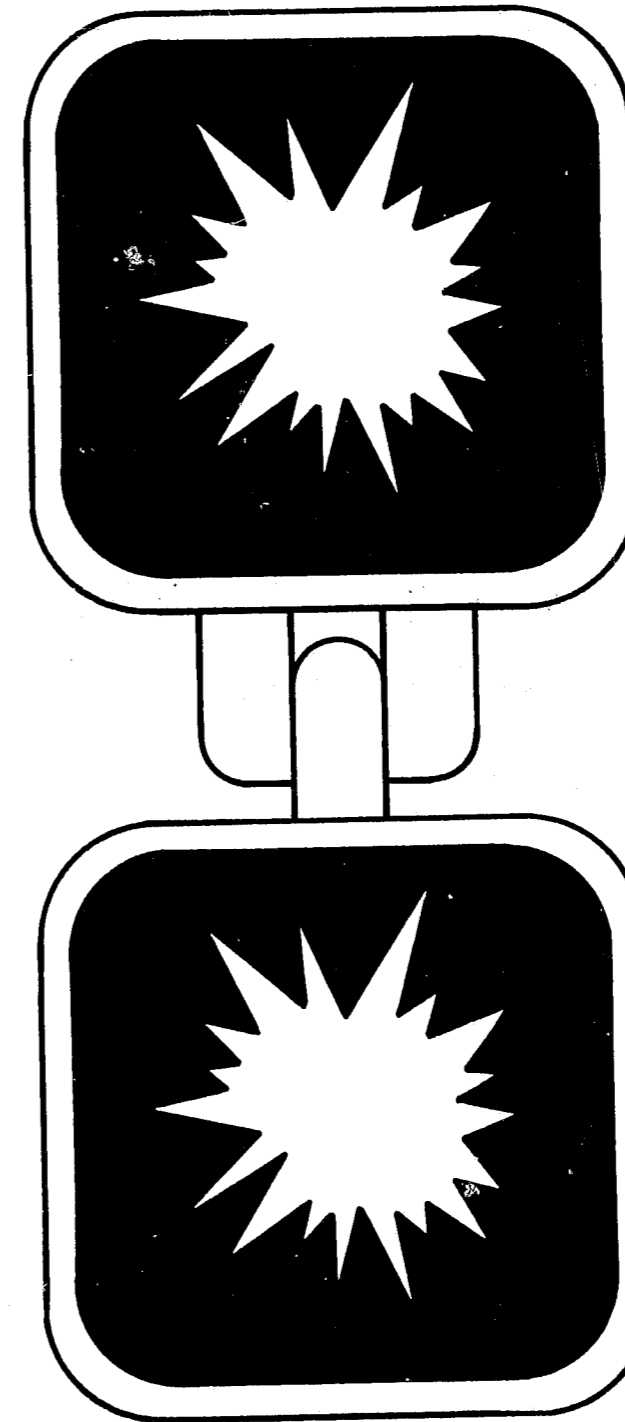
TABLE 29.—Types of Accelerants Identified in Arson Incidents Investigated by ATF for 1981

Accelerants	Number of Incidents	Percentage ¹
Gasoline	142	79.8
Natural Gas	6	3.3
Diesel Fuel	5	2.8
Turpentine	4	2.2
Kerosene	3	1.7
Lighter Fluid	3	1.7
Paint Thinner	2	1.1
Lacquer Thinner	2	1.1
Coleman Fuel	2	1.1
Fuel Oil	2	1.1
Acetone	2	1.1
Ethyl Alcohol	2	1.1
Woodlife	1	.6
Propane Gas	1	.6
Naptha	1	.6
Xylene	1	.6
Unknown	1	.6
Total	331	100.0

¹These percentages do not include 153 incidents in 1981 in which the accelerant was undetermined.

Part IV

EXPLOSIVES RELATED INCIDENTS



Explosives Related Incidents Significant 1981 Investigations

Alabama

On October 16, 1981, one subject was sentenced under the Multiple Offender Act to 20 years in the Alabama State Penitentiary for the attempted arson/bombing of the Galilee Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, on October 22, 1980. The suspect had previously been convicted of Gun Control violations. This case is currently being appealed.

The motive for the bombing was suspected to be politically sparked by two rival citizen groups. The defendant had been active in the past with the Black Panther Party and recently with political activist groups in Alabama. His conviction is the result of a joint ATF and Birmingham Police Department investigation.

Alaska

On March 1, 1981, an Anchorage, Alaska police/bomb technician was critically injured when an incendiary bomb that he was attempting to remove to a safe location detonated prematurely. The bomb, consisting of 3 - 16 ounce glass bottles (contents unknown) with styrofoam wrapping attached to a clock and batteries, was recovered from a topless dancing bar in Anchorage. The device exploded as the officer was about to lower it into a bomb disposal bucket. The bomb technician has since recovered and has returned to work.

Arkansas

On separate occasions in June and July of 1981, two defendants in Little Rock, Arkansas, sold a total of 5 pipe bombs to undercover agents of ATF and the Arkansas State Police. One of the defendants had an extensive knowledge of explosives and reportedly manufactured the devices in his residence prior to the illegal transactions. On October 10, 1981, both subjects were arrested and are currently pending trial in Little Rock.

California

On January 26, 1982, a third of three defendants was sentenced to a total of 16 years in Federal prison for conspiracy and mail fraud. These charges are the result of the combined efforts of ATF's National Response Team, and the ATF/Los Angeles Fire Department Arson Task Force in the investigation of the January 28, 1981, arson of Cugee's Restaurant, North Hollywood, California. The arson/fire claimed the life of one firefighter and injured 8 others.

Previously, On June 16, 1981, the two owners entered guilty pleas to charges of arson, homicide, conspiracy and mail fraud. Each received sentences not to exceed 10 years in return for their testimony against the third defendant.

This was the second case in less than one year in Los Angeles in which the Arson Task Force successfully investigated an arson which took the lives of Los Angeles firefighters.

* * * * *

On August 17, 1981, a U.S. District Court Judge sentenced 7 defendants following the successful prosecution of an arson and extortion ring that operated in the greater Los Angeles area. The 7 men convicted were charged with extorting their competitors in the rebuilt automotive parts industry, and burning numerous competitors' businesses over a 7 year period (1973 through 1980). All of the criminal activities were initiated and controlled by one of the defendants who was also the controlling owner of a large automotive parts business in Burbank, California. The owner ordered his co-conspirators to burn 8 of his competitors' businesses, two of which were burned twice, totalling 10 arsons. The sentences ranged from 6 months to 8½ years. This was a joint investigation conducted by the ATF/Los Angeles Fire Department Arson Task Force.

Colorado

On July 31, 1981, an explosive device was found under a police vehicle in the underground parking area of the Longmont Department of Public Safety, Longmont, Colorado. The Denver Police Bomb Squad disarmed the device which consisted of explosives, a clock, a blasting cap and a 9 volt battery. The device was concealed in a bag and placed under the police vehicle.

On August 1, 1981, a second such device was located under another police vehicle in the garage, which was also disarmed by Denver police authorities. ATF assistance was requested by local authorities and this joint investigation continues.

Connecticut

On September 21, 1981, two subjects were sentenced to 4 years in Federal prison by a United States District Court Judge, following their conviction for firebombing a residence in Sterling, Connecticut. The residence was occupied at the time, but there were no injuries. The incident was motivated by revenge against the occu-

pants, who previously were witnesses against the two defendants in a State criminal matter. This was a joint investigation involving ATF and the Connecticut State Police Department.

District of Columbia

On October 29, 1981, an Iranian National was arrested at his residence in Edison, New Jersey, by ATF agents, for his role in a pipe bombing that occurred in Washington, D.C., on September 29, 1981. The bombing was directed against an anti-Khomeini newspaper and resulted in an estimated \$3,000 in damages. A second Iranian suspect had previously been arrested in New York City on October 13, 1981. A third Iranian suspect is currently being sought and is believed to be a fugitive hiding out in Iran.

Florida

On June 27, 1981, an Illinois organized crime figure was fatally injured when an explosion destroyed his vehicle in the parking lot of the Tamarac Country Club in Oakland Park, Florida. A second subject in the vehicle received critical injuries, and died on June 29, 1981. ATF assisted the Broward County Sheriff's Office in a crime scene search. The Illinois crime figure had been the target of previous bombings. This joint investigation continues between ATF and the local authorities.

Georgia

On June 12, 1981, a fire caused approximately \$2.5 million in damages to the Columbus High School in Columbus, Georgia. There were no deaths or injuries.

Upon arrival at the scene of the fire, members of the Columbus Fire Department observed a subject inside the school who was finally apprehended outside of the building following a 1 hour search. The subject was identified as a member of a very prominent and wealthy family in the Columbus area.

On June 15, 1981, following a request for assistance by the Columbus Fire Department, ATF's National Response Team (NRT), Southeast Region, was activated to the scene. A second suspect was developed, but no additional arrests have occurred.

Idaho

On July 13, 1981, at approximately 12:00 a.m., an explosion occurred in a vehicle parked in the driveway of the residence of a Bonner County prosecuting attorney, located in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. The vehicle was totally destroyed. The explosive device is suspected to have contained dynamite.

ATF assistance in the investigation of the incident was requested by the Bonners Ferry, Idaho Police Department.

Illinois

On August 4, 1981, an explosive device detonated at the residence of an Olney, Illinois woman, who suffered minor injuries and damage to her residence in excess of \$10,000.

ATF assistance was requested by the Richland County Sheriff's Office and the Olney Police Department. The investigation identified three local subjects as suspects in the bombing. As a result of this investigation, grand jury indictments resulted in the arrest of the three defendants in late August of 1981. All three are currently pending trial.

Indiana

On Friday, September 25, 1981, an explosion and fire occurred at a clubhouse owned by the Evansville "All Whites" Rugby/Football Club, Inc., Evansville, Indiana. There were no deaths or injuries but the property damage to the clubhouse and nearby residences was estimated at \$250,000.

The National Response Team (NRT) of ATF was called to the scene to assist the Evansville Police Department in the investigation.

Two suspects were developed, including one of the owners and the suspected "torch." The "torch" entered a plea of guilty and is pending sentencing. The owner is scheduled for trial in 1982.

Iowa

On August 19, 1981, an Iowa man was sentenced to 5 years in Federal prison in the U.S. District Court at Ft. Dodge, Iowa, following his conviction on eight counts in an arson-for-profit conspiracy.

The conspiracy, which involved 6 additional suspects being prosecuted in State and local courts, was developed as a result of a joint investigation between ATF, Sioux City Police, Iowa State Police, Postal Inspectors, South Dakota State Police and the FBI. This case involved an extensive arson-for-profit ring operating in several states.

Kansas

On April 17, 1981, following a week-long trial, an Olathe, Kansas man was found guilty on 6 counts of 1st degree murder and 5 other related felony counts in the State of Kansas, and sentenced to life in prison.

This was the result of a 7 month investigation by ATF and the Olathe, Kansas Police Department, into the September 20, 1980, bombing that killed 6 people in Olathe, Kansas. The investigation disclosed that the suspect had sent a package containing explosives to the residence of his ex-wife after numerous domestic problems. When opened, a bomb detonated killing the ex-

wife and 5 other persons. ATF assisted in the crime scene search as well as interviews, and supplied testimony during the State court proceedings.

Kentucky

On April 2, 1981, a large explosion destroyed a garage type building located in Newport, Kentucky, killing two persons, injuring 21, and resulting in over \$1,000,000 in damages to the structure and other buildings in a four block area.

The National Response Team (NRT), Midwest Region, was activated. A joint investigation was initiated by ATF, the Newport Police and Fire Department, and the Kentucky State Police and Fire Marshal's Office.

On July 9, 1981, a Federal grand jury in Covington, Kentucky, indicted six persons in connection with the fatal explosion. All six persons were convicted in October of 1981. In November of 1981, the principal suspect and two others received substantial sentences ranging from 5-20 years imprisonment.

* * * * *

On November 3-9, 1981, 4 defendants in an explosives theft case received substantial prison sentences in United States District Court, Pikeville, Kentucky.

The convictions were the result of an ATF investigation of two large explosives thefts that occurred on March 27 and April 27, 1980, in Floyd County, Kentucky. The combined thefts totalled 13,150 pounds of high explosives and 6,300 blasting caps.

Louisiana

On February 8, 1981, at approximately 8:00 a.m., a New Orleans, Louisiana man was killed when he attempted to start his vehicle at his residence. ATF assistance was requested by local authorities and a post scene investigation revealed that a bomb had exploded under the driver's side of the vehicle, hurling the victim into the street in front of his home.

The deceased had been recently convicted of Federal narcotics violations, and the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Orleans requested a joint investigation by Federal and State authorities. This investigation continues.

Maryland

In September of 1981, a joint investigation between ATF and the Baltimore County Police Department culminated with the 15 year Federal prison sentence of a Maryland man for his role in a Ku Klux Klan conspiracy to bomb the NAACP Headquarters in Catonsville, Maryland.

Nine other defendants were involved and prosecuted on various Federal and State charges of firearms violations

and cross burning. The primary suspect provided an undercover agent with a incendiary device on May 20, 1981, which was to be used in the bombing of the NAACP building.

Massachusetts

On October 20, 1981, a Massachusetts man was sentenced to 20 years in prison for Federal explosives violations and two 5-year prison terms for mail fraud.

The charges are the result of ATF's investigation of an arson on September 27, 1975, in Lowell, Massachusetts, that caused millions of dollars in damages with twenty-three (23) persons injured. The President declared the site a "disaster area," since an entire block was devastated.

ATF developed evidence which implicated the suspect as hiring two individuals to open a gas main in his cafe. Further investigation revealed that the gas was ignited remotely with a light bulb and a timing device.

Michigan

On February 20, 1981, three Molotov cocktails were thrown into a building located in front of the main plant of a corporation involved in a labor union strike in Grand Rapids, Michigan. On July 22, 1981, ATF special agents arrested 3 local union members on charges relating to the unlawful manufacture and possession of destructive devices.

In the resulting court action, one defendant was found not guilty, while the remaining two entered pleas of guilty on December 11, 1981, and January 11, 1982. Both men were subsequently sentenced to Federal prison.

Missouri

On August 11, 1981, a bomb exploded in a parked vehicle in St. Louis, Missouri, seriously injuring one subject, a reputed organized crime figure in the St. Louis area. A task force was organized consisting of ATF, St. Louis Police Department, FBI, and the Illinois State Police. Media coverage has been extensive during this continuing investigation.

* * * * *

On January 5, 1981, an explosive device was detonated at the Phelps County Drive-in Bank in Rolla, Missouri. On that same date, at approximately the same time, a second device was detonated at the Show-Me Power Corporation sub-station, also located in Rolla. This device was placed under a 67,000 volt power transformer serving the rural area of Rolla.

A joint investigation of the bombing incidents revealed that the simultaneous explosions were part of a plot to

interrupt power circuits to the City of Rolla, thereby defeating all commercial burglar alarms and distracting local police while the perpetrators burglarized a local jewelry store.

This extensive investigation resulted in the arrest and conviction of four defendants, with the last conviction occurring on October 16, 1981, and resulting in the defendant being sentenced to 10 years Federal imprisonment.

Montana

On July 30, 1981, a pipe bomb attached to a butane tank on railroad property, exploded in Great Falls, Montana, and a second unexploded pipe bomb was located during a crime scene search. The second device was also taped to a second butane tank. The following day a second explosion occurred at the International Seaman Corporation, causing minor damages. This explosive device was connected to the building's natural gas line. ATF is assisting the Great Falls Police Department in this investigation.

Nevada

On January 11, 1982, a Nevada man was sentenced to Federal prison for his role in the bombing of the office of a part-time U.S. Magistrate in Elko, Nevada, on June 3, 1980. The defendant had been a fugitive for over 1-year prior to his arrest in September of 1981. The subject's wife had previously been convicted and sentenced for her role in the bombing.

New Mexico

On September 21, 1981, two bombs exploded at the Turquoise Bar in Waterflow, New Mexico, causing \$5,000 damage to the building. A third bomb was deactivated by the Albuquerque Police Department Bomb Squad.

ATF, in conjunction with local and State agencies, conducted a crime scene search and are proceeding with the investigation.

New Jersey

On February 18, 1981, about 9:25 a.m., a fire, followed by three separate explosions, completely destroyed Jerry Richards Men's Store in Highstown, New Jersey. Property loss was estimated at \$215,000, and there were no deaths or injuries.

Over the ensuing 5 months, a joint investigation between ATF and local authorities resulted in the arrest of the two co-owners of the business on July 20, 1981, revealing an arson-for-profit scheme. Both suspects are currently pending trial.

New York

On October 16, 1981, at Wolcott, New York, an explosive device detonated in a New York State Police vehicle severely injuring a New York State Trooper.

A joint investigation by ATF and New York State Police is focusing on a former ATF defendant who was previously involved in a similar bombing of a police vehicle in New York.

North Carolina

On July 20, 1981, an explosion occurred at the Italian Village Restaurant in Boone, North Carolina, resulting in excess of \$500,000 in damages. On July 21, 1981, Boone Police arrested the restaurant owner and requested ATF assistance in the investigation. Two additional suspects were developed in the ensuing joint investigation and Federal prosecution is being sought.

Ohio

On August 20, 1981, an explosion occurred at a large meat packing plant in Seaman, Ohio. Damage to the facility was estimated at \$500,000.

ATF, in conjunction with the Adams County Sheriff's Office, is conducting an investigation of the incident. Prosecution will be pursued in State Court on this investigation.

Oklahoma

On February 12, 1981, at 1:00 a.m., ATF special agents in Tulsa, Oklahoma, arrested one subject as he entered the garage section of a building that he had contracted to "torch." The suspect had previously burned other buildings on a contract basis. On April 8, 1981, following the defendant's guilty plea in Federal court, he was committed for a 1½ year term in a mental institution. Additional suspects were developed, but they were given immunity for their testimony against the arsonist.

Oregon

On July 9, 1981, a pipe bomb exploded in a residence in Oregon City, Oregon, followed up by an extortion attempt for \$450,000. A joint investigation between ATF, three county Sheriff's departments and the local District Attorney, resulted in Federal indictments and arrests of a local school board member and the suspected bomber. On February 4, 1982, the primary suspect, the school board member, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and the actual bomber received a 2 year commitment on February 8, 1982.

Pennsylvania

On September 28, 1981, the Chief of the Braddock Volunteer Fire Department, Braddock, Pennsylvania,

was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to 5 years imprisonment and an additional 5 years probation for violations of the Explosives Control Act of 1970 and conspiracy. These charges were related to an arson in Braddock, Pennsylvania, that occurred on September 22, 1980, in which property damages were estimated at \$50,000.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, in conjunction with local and State agencies, solved this incident after an extensive investigation.

Rhode Island

On July 14, 1981, a theft of 300 pounds of dynamite and 524 blasting caps occurred in Warwick, Rhode Island, from a construction company site. A joint investigation between ATF and the Warwick Police Department developed two suspects, both local burglars. On July 25, 1981, the two suspects were arrested on violation of State explosives charges and burglary. Both have since been convicted and sentenced.

Tennessee

In January of 1982, a 9 month investigation was culminated with the final sentencing of 3 of 6 defendants in a conspiracy to destroy a Jewish Temple in Nashville, Tennessee. The ATF investigation uncovered and thwarted a plot by Ku Klux Klan and American Nazi Party members to destroy the temple. Two defendants pleaded guilty in September of 1981 and testified against the remaining 4 defendants. A lengthy 3-week trial resulted in the conviction of the remaining suspects with one receiving a 20 year Federal prison sentence, and 2 defendants with sentences in excess of 5 years.

Texas

At approximately 5:21 p.m., on September 11, 1981, the Dallas Fire Department responded to a fire which eventually became a 5-alarm fire at a clothing manufacturing plant called "Altman's of Dallas," 3005 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas. The building is a two story commercial building containing approximately 20,000 square feet.

Three firemen were injured fighting the blaze, one seriously. Damage is estimated at 1.5 million dollars.

The Western Region National Response Team (NRT) was activated and responded to assist local authorities on September 14, 1981. The pursuing joint investigation resulted in the indictment in State court of the business owner, who is currently pending trial.

Utah

On June 16, 1981, an explosion occurred at the Salt Lake City County Jail, in an attempt to free two bank

robbery suspects who were housed in the jail facility on State charges. The explosion caused damage only, and did not result in any jail break. A pursuing ATF investigation uncovered a conspiracy by numerous suspects to free the two State prisoners, resulting in the indictment and prosecution of 6 defendants, one of which was the suspected bomber. The case terminated with the last conviction and sentencing in December of 1981.

Virginia

On June 12, 1981, at approximately 12:17 p.m., an explosive device detonated in a vehicle in Sandston, Virginia, seriously injuring the vehicle's driver. At the time of the explosion, the vehicle was parked in a private parking garage.

ATF assistance was requested by the Richmond Police Department and a subsequent crime scene search and follow-up investigation developed a suspect, the victim's business partner. On this same date, June 12, ATF assisted the Richmond Police Department in the arrest of the suspect at approximately 8:00 p.m., on State charges of attempted murder.

On September 8, 1981, the suspect was convicted in State court and sentenced to State prison on October 28, 1981, terminating this joint investigation.

Washington

On October 13, 1981, the Federal Grand Jury, Spokane, Washington, returned secret indictments charging ten individuals with multiple conspiracy and Federal explosives law violations.

These indictments are the result of an extensive ATF investigation of three bombing incidents in the Wenatchee, Washington area that occurred between August 13, 1981, and September 13, 1981. The targets of the three incidents were law enforcement facilities and personnel. Those indicted are known to be heavily involved in local drug activities and politically active in the Free Peoples Party, an anti-establishment, anti-gun and drug law group.

Ensuring prosecution resulted in the conviction and sentencing of eight of the defendants in Federal and State court.

West Virginia

On September 22, 1981, four suspects were arrested in Nitro, West Virginia, as they attempted to sell 62 pounds of dynamite that they had stolen from a stone quarry on September 22, 1981.

On October 2, 1981, and November 2, 1981, two of the suspects pleaded guilty to lesser violations in Federal court, and agreed to testify against the remaining two prime suspects. On January 20, 1982, the remaining

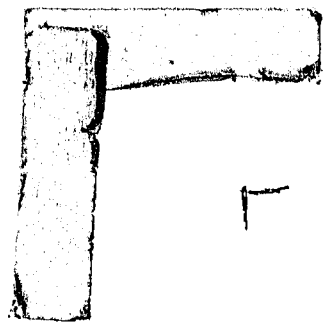
two subjects were convicted of Explosives Control Act violations, and both received Federal prison sentences.

Wisconsin

On March 26, 1981, a former member of an outlaw motorcycle gang was sentenced to 20 years in Federal prison, for the fire bombing of a residence in Racine, Wisconsin, on September 29, 1980. The fire bombing injured 3 children, 1 seriously, and was revenge oriented as a result of a confrontation between the suspect and the children's father. This was a joint investigation between ATF and the Racine Fire Department.

Wyoming

On September 18, 1981, a Wyoming man was convicted in Federal Court in Cheyenne, Wyoming, for his role in a conspiracy in the attempted arson of a bar in Wheaton, Wyoming. The defendant was the owner of the Forty-Niner Bar in Wheaton, and he solicited to have the bar burned for insurance purposes, as well as a second bar in the same city. On November 12, 1981, the defendant was sentenced and fined.



END