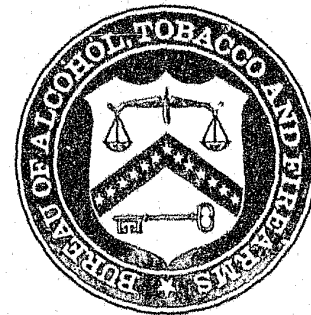


# EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS



*1978 Annual Report*



Department of the Treasury • Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms  
Explosives Enforcement Branch

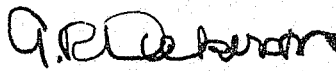
## FOREWORD

This 1978 Annual Report has been prepared by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Its primary use is to provide meaningful information to law enforcement agencies.

Our analysis of the data reflects a measurable decrease in the number of bombings during 1978; however, total explosives incidents reported to ATF have significantly increased 2.4 percent. Deaths due to explosives incidents showed a marked decrease, but injuries showed an equally significant increase. This trend indicates a continuing total disregard for the lives and property of the intended victims by those who criminally misuse explosives.

ATF is deeply concerned about this wanton disregard for human life and property and we continue to place a high priority on the investigation of explosives incidents. As evidence of our commitment, ATF has established two National Response Teams consisting of highly skilled investigators, lab and explosive technicians and equipped with the most advanced equipment available. These teams are designed to respond to any location in the United States to investigate major bombings, arsons and accidental explosions or to assist other Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies in these investigations.

The data in this report reflects only the information investigated by and or reported to ATF and does not necessarily include all explosives incidents which may have occurred.

  
Director

NCJRS

SEP 18 1979

ACQUISITIONS

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## I. Explosives Incidents Highlights

Total explosives incidents increased 2.4 percent from 1977 to 1978 (table 1).

Deaths decreased 46 percent and injuries increased 89 percent in overall explosives incidents from 1977 to 1978 (table 1).

Property damage was estimated at \$61.3 million in 1977, of which approximately \$50 million was result of grain elevator explosions. In 1978, property damage was estimated at \$27.5 million (table 1).

In 1977, there were 1797 bombing incidents and in 1978, there were 1767 bombing incidents reported to ATF. Bombings decreased by 1.6 percent from 1977 to 1978 (table 2).

Residential dwellings ranked as the number one target for bombing incidents in 1977, with commercial establishments second and vehicles third. In 1978, commercial establishments were the number one target with residential dwellings second and vehicles third (tables 3 and 4).

California had the highest number of bombing incidents for both 1977 and 1978. The States with the second highest number of incidents were Illinois in 1977 and New York in 1978 (table 6).

The highest number of deaths by accidental explosions occurred in commercial establishments for both 1977 and 1978. The highest number of deaths by bombings occurred in residential dwellings for both 1977 and 1978 (tables 8 and 9).

In 1977, labor was the number one motive for bombings and in 1978, vandalism was the number one motive for bombings. The labor-related motive had the highest amount of property damage for both 1977 and 1978 (table 10). In 1977 and 1978, revenge was the number one motive for incendiary bombings (table 11).

In 1977 and 1978, pipe was the number one container used in destructive devices followed by bottles (table 12). Flammable liquids, black powder and smokeless powder were the top fillers used in destructive devices in 1977 and 1978 (table 13).

There were 327 stolen explosives incidents in 1977 and 362 in 1978, an increase of 10 percent. The prying or cutting of locks was the major entry method into explosives storage facilities (table 18). The highest number of thefts occurred from those not having an explosives license or permit (table 22). Recovered and seized explosives incidents increased 15 percent from 853 in 1977 to 987 in 1978 (table 24).

TABLE 1

Types of Explosives Incidents  
By Number and Percentage

TYPE OF INCIDENT	1977		1978	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Accident-Criminal	21	.7%	67	2.1%
Bombing (Detonation)	1037	32.6%	896	27.5%
Bombing (Nondetonation)	319	10.0%	287	8.8%
Incendiary (Ignited)	339	10.7%	446	13.7%
Incendiary (Nonignited)	81	2.5%	71	2.2%
Stolen Explosives	327	10.3%	362	11.1%
Recovered Explosives	751	23.7%	870	26.7%
Seized Explosives	102	3.2%	117	3.6%
Threats (Treasury Facilities)	33	1.0%	22	.7%
Hoax Devices	105	3.3%	47	1.4%
Accident-Noncriminal	62	2.0%	71	2.2%
TOTAL	3,177	100%	3,256	100%

<u>TOTAL KILLED</u>		<u>TOTAL INJURED</u>	<u>TOTAL DAMAGE AMOUNT</u>
1977	127	374	\$61,300,000
1978	69	707	\$27,500,000

TABLE 2

Total Criminal Bombing Incidents Defined  
As Either Explosive or Incendiary 1

EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS	1977		1978	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Detonation	1,058	77%	963	77%
Nondetonation (did not detonate)	319	23%	287	23%
TOTAL	1,377	100%	1250	100%

INCENDIARY INCIDENTS	1977		1978	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Incendiary Bombing	339	81%	446	86.3%
Nonincendiary (did not ignite)	81	19%	71	13.7%
TOTAL	420	100%	517	100%

TOTAL BOMBING INCIDENTS:	1,797	1,767
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1. Explosive devices consisted of an explosive filler and firing/fuse mechanism. Incendiary devices contained flammable liquid or chemicals which would cause the device to ignite.

TABLE 3  
1977 Bombing Incidents By Target

RANK	TARGET	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
1	Residential	465	26.8%
2	Commercial	453	26.1%
3.	Vehicles	281	16.2%
4.	Educational	132	7.6%
5.	Mail Box	60	3.5%
6.	Utilities	58	3.3%
7.	Open Areas	56	3.2%
8.	Government (Federal)	35	2.0%
9.	Government (State-Local)	27	1.5%
10.	Banks	24	1.4%
11.	Police Facilities/Vehicles	20	1.2%
12.	Airports/Aircraft	10	.6%
	Other <sup>1</sup>	115	6.6%
	Unknown <sup>2</sup>	61	—
TOTAL:		1797	100% <sup>3</sup>

1. The other category included those incidents which could not be placed in one of the above categories provided.
2. These are the number of incidents where the report received does not reflect the type of targets attacked.
3. The percentage totals do not include the 61 incidents where the targets were not reported.



TABLE 4  
1978 Bombing Incidents By Target

RANK	TARGET	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
1.	Commercial	458	25.9%
2.	Residential	355	20.1%
3.	Vehicles	330	18.7%
4.	Educational	118	6.7%
5.	Mail Boxes	79	4.5%
6.	Utilities	69	3.9%
7.	Open Areas	65	3.7%
8.	Police Facilities/Vehicles	34	1.9%
9.	Government (Federal)	27	1.5%
10.	Banks	21	1.2%
11.	Government (State-Local)	14	.7%
12.	Airports/Aircraft	7	.3%
13.	Military Installations	4	.2%
	Other <sup>1</sup>	184	10.4%
	Unknown <sup>2</sup>	2	---
TOTAL		1,767	99.7% <sup>3</sup>

1. The other category includes those incidents which could not be placed in one of the above categories provided.
2. These are the number of incidents where the report received does not reflect the type of target attacked.
3. The percentage total does not include the two unknown incidents where the targets were not reported. Percentages do not total 100 percent due to rounding.

FIGURE 1

# BOMBING INCIDENTS By Target

1978

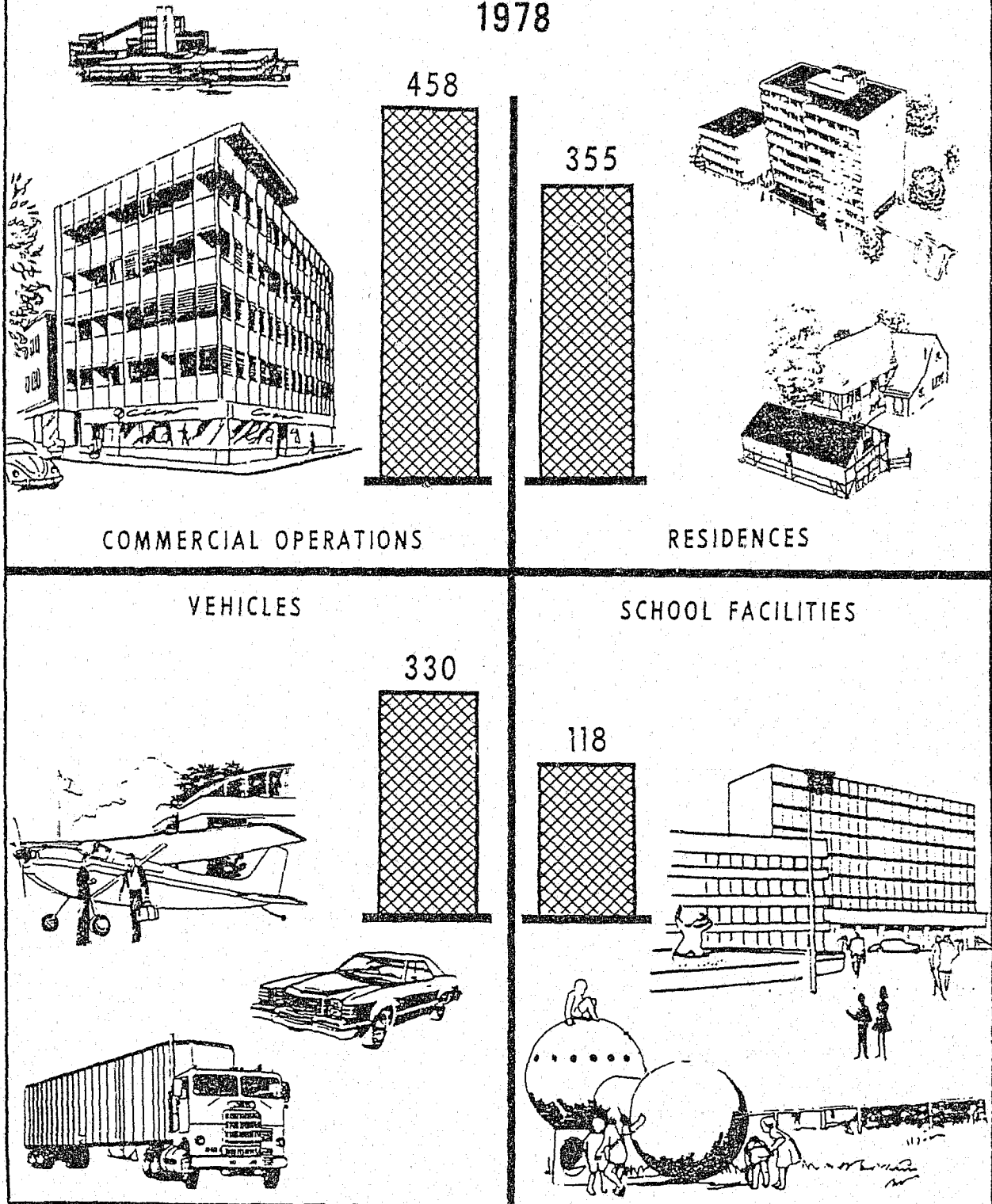


TABLE 5  
EXPLOSIVE INCIDENTS  
BY STATE

STATE	BOMBINGS		INCENDIARIES		OTHER		TOTAL INCIDENTS	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
ALABAMA	20	21	12	20	48	60	80	101
ALASKA	7	9	1	3	9	9	17	21
ARIZONA	16	14	13	18	20	17	49	49
ARKANSAS	12	11	1	1	31	22	44	34
CALIFORNIA	166	161	66	132	79	77	311	370
COLORADO	24	37	28	22	38	51	90	110
CONNECTICUT	16	16	8	9	11	6	35	31
DELAWARE	3	0	0	0	2	8	5	8
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	4	10	0	3	3	2	7	15
FLORIDA	25	23	12	9	13	32	50	64
GEORGIA	21	14	1	13	27	49	49	76
HAWAII	1	0	5	0	5	4	11	4
IDAHO	2	6	1	2	13	10	16	18
ILLINOIS	151	74	16	16	64	57	231	147
INDIANA	18	25	10	6	9	21	37	52
IOWA	8	4	1	2	12	11	21	17
KANSAS	14	6	0	1	22	22	36	29
KENTUCKY	65	90	9	9	99	101	173	200

1. Bombing incidents include: Detonations and Nondetonations.
2. Incendiary incidents include: Ignited and Nonignited.
3. Other incidents include: Accidental, Hoax, Threat, Recovered, Seized and Stolen Explosives.

TABLE 5 (Continued)

EXPLOSIVE INCIDENTS  
BY STATE

STATE	BOMBINGS		INCENDIARIES		OTHER		TOTAL INCIDENTS	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
LOUISIANA	7	6	1	3	25	29	33	38
MAINE	2	1	1	0	4	3	7	4
MARYLAND	46	25	20	15	26	17	92	57
MASSACHUSETTS	25	18	10	27	16	18	51	63
MICHIGAN	43	29	10	5	36	24	89	58
MINNESOTA	6	12	1	0	8	8	15	20
MISSISSIPPI	4	5	3	3	11	13	18	21
MISSOURI	58	32	17	26	54	38	129	96
MONTANA	6	1	1	1	3	1	10	3
NEBRASKA	7	3	1	1	2	8	10	12
NEVADA	6	3	4	0	5	8	15	11
NEW HAMPSHIRE	4	1	0	0	6	1	10	2
NEW JERSEY	44	31	16	10	18	23	78	64
NEW MEXICO	6	11	2	0	13	23	21	34
NEW YORK	100	115	32	35	53	42	185	192
NORTH CAROLINA	9	19	1	3	62	64	72	86
NORTH DAKOTA	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
OHIO	107	83	24	29	80	56	211	168
OKLAHOMA	21	9	3	11	37	50	61	70
OREGON	24	23	4	5	11	31	39	59

TABLE 5 (Continued)

EXPLOSIVE INCIDENTS  
BY STATE

STATE	BOMBINGS		INCENDIARIES		OTHER		TOTAL INCIDENTS	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
PENNSYLVANIA	35	38	21	8	52	56	108	102
RHODE ISLAND	4	4	0	2	1	3	5	9
SOUTH CAROLINA	8	6	3	2	27	42	38	50
SOUTH DAKOTA	4	1	0	0	3	9	7	10
TENNESSEE	29	32	9	11	51	61	89	104
TEXAS	41	49	30	22	90	78	161	149
UTAH	33	19	0	7	19	19	52	45
VERMONT	0	2	0	1	6	1	6	4
VIRGINIA	40	38	5	8	54	62	99	108
WASHINGTON	44	21	7	2	23	27	74	50
WEST VIRGINIA	12	17	8	6	55	82	75	105
WISCONSIN	5	21	1	1	8	13	14	35
WYOMING	3	6	0	1	10	14	13	21
GUAM	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
PUERTO RICO	21	47	0	6	6	3	27	56
VIRGIN ISLAND	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	1,377	1,250	420	517	1,380	1,489	3,177	3,256

TABLE 6

BOMBING INCIDENTS RANKED  
BY STATE 1977 - 1978 <sup>1</sup>

1977			1978		
RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
1.	California	166	1.	California	161
2.	Illinois	151	2.	New York	115
3.	Ohio	107	3.	Kentucky	90
4.	New York	100	4.	Ohio	83
5.	Kentucky	65	5.	Illinois	74
6.	Missouri	58	6.	Texas	49
7.	Maryland	46	7.	Puerto Rico	47
8.	New Jersey	44	8.	Pennsylvania	38
	Washington	44		Virginia	38
9.	Michigan	43	9.	Colorado	37
10.	Texas	41	10.	Missouri	32
				Tennessee	32

1. Bombing incidents include only detonations and nondetonations of explosive devices.

FIGURE 2

GEOGRAPHIC AREA

EXPLOSIVES BOMBING INCIDENTS

1978

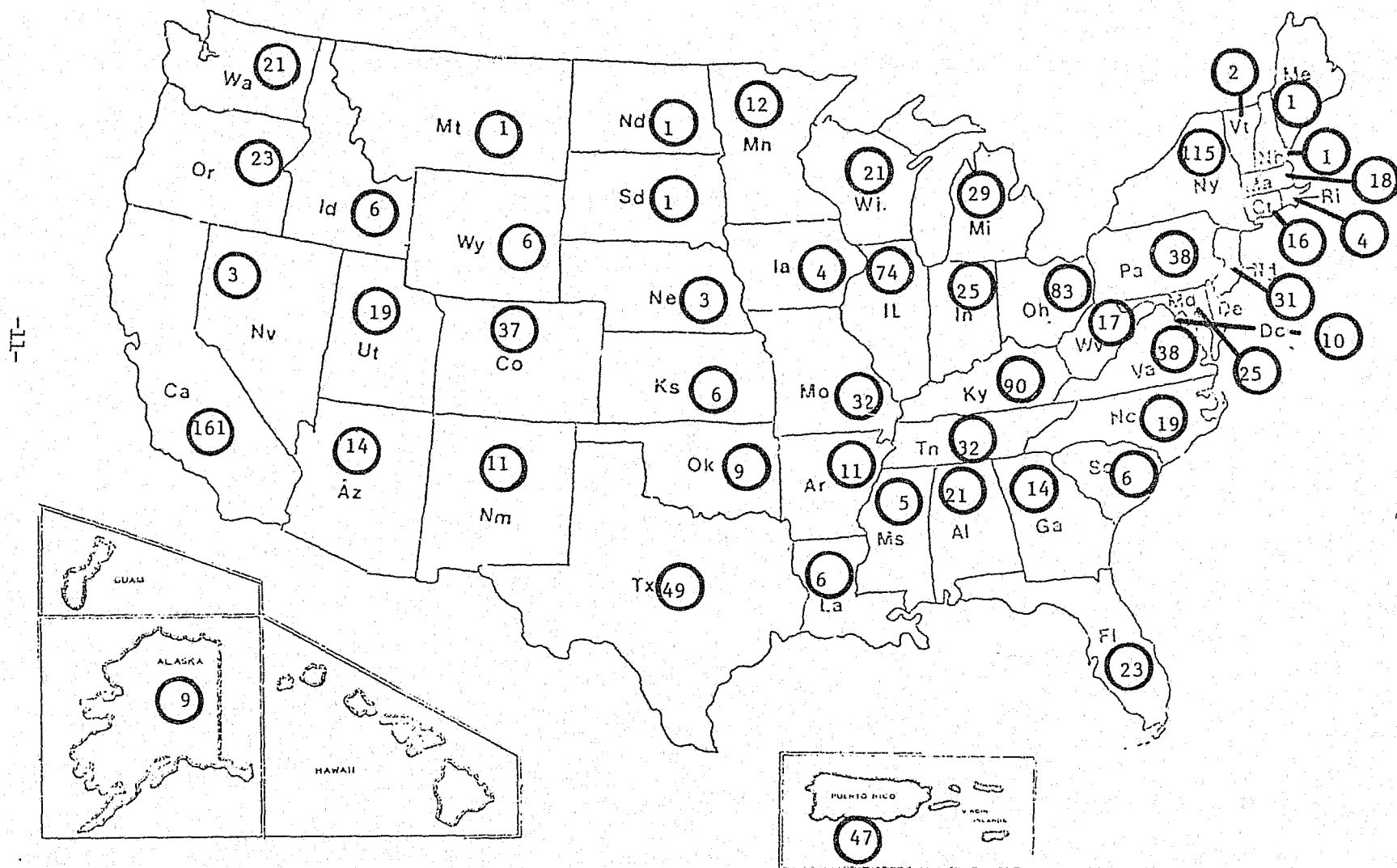


TABLE 7

INCENDIARY INCIDENTS  
RANKED BY STATE 1977 - 1978 <sup>1</sup>

1977			1978		
RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
1.	California	66	1.	California	132
2.	New York	32	2.	New York	35
3.	Texas	30	3.	Ohio	29
4.	Colorado	28	4.	Massachusetts	27
5.	Ohio	24	5.	Missouri	26
6.	Pennsylvania	21	6.	Colorado	22
7.	Maryland	20		Texas	22
8.	Missouri	17	7.	Alabama	20
9.	Illinois	16	8.	Arizona	18
	New Jersey	16	9.	Illinois	16
10.	Arizona	13	10.	Maryland	15

1. Incendiary incidents include only ignited and nonignited incendiary devices.



FIGURE 3  
GEOGRAPHIC AREA  
INCENDIARY BOMBING INCIDENTS

1978

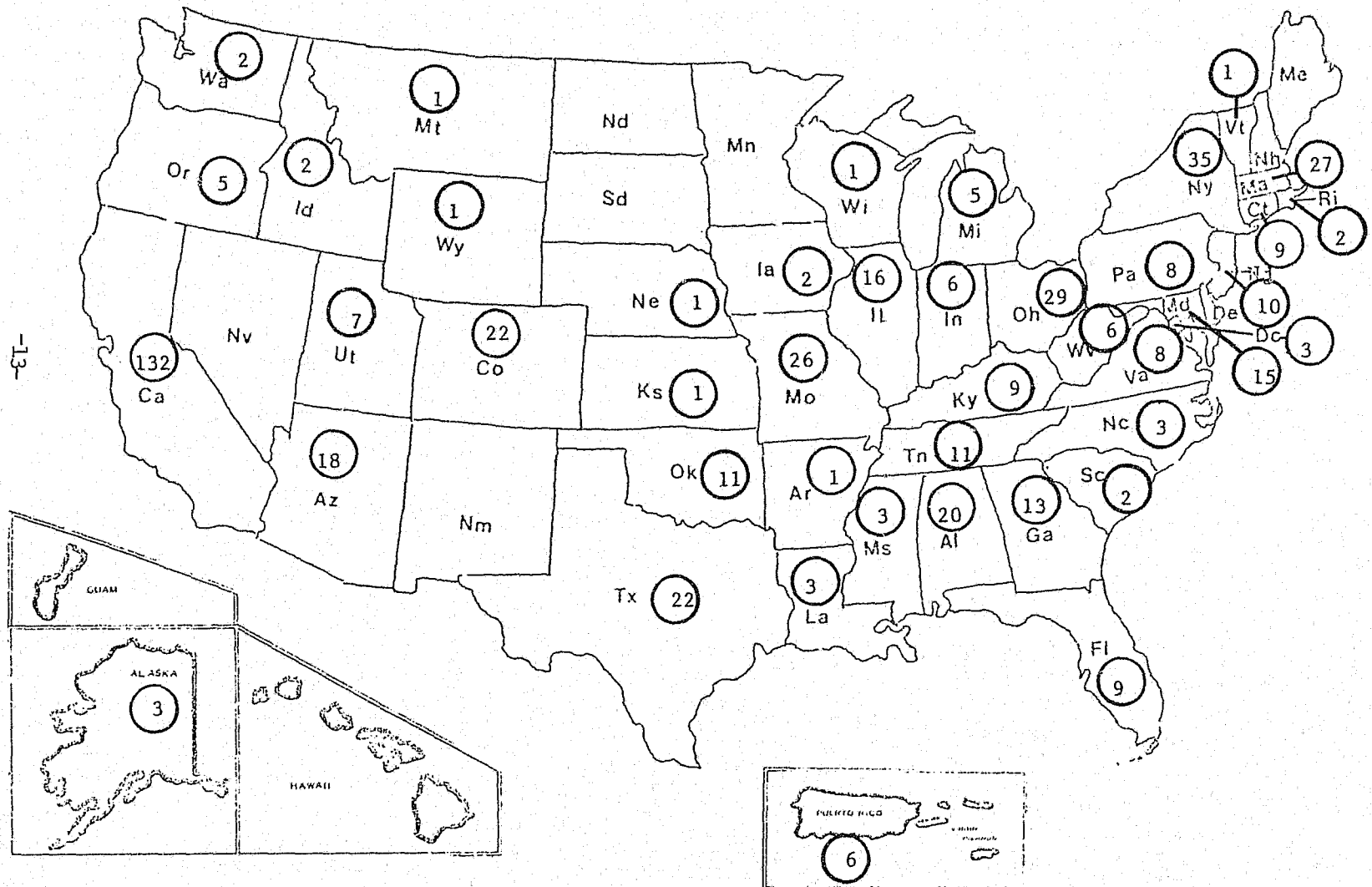


TABLE 8

ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSIONS BY SPECIFIC TARGETS  
FOR 1977 - 1978

TYPE TARGET	TOTAL INCIDENTS		NO. KILLED		NO. INJURED		PROPERTY 1 DAMAGE	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
Residential	21	16	2	10	22	16	85.1	138.0
Commercial	19	29	71	26	100	43	50,953.0	3,140.0
Aircraft/Airports	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Police Facilities/ Vehicles	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational	3	1	3	—	49	1	—	—
Government (Local)	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	250.0
Government (Federal)	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Military Installations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Utilities	2	4	—	3	9	27	—	1,500.0
Banks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vehicles	3	6	—	2	2	155	—	50.0
Open Area	5	4	2	—	4	5	—	—
Mail Boxes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	8	9	11	4	8	24	.2	5,170.0
TOTAL	62	71	89	46	194	272	51,038.3	10,248.0

1. Figures are in thousands and are estimated.

TABLE 9

BOMBINGS BY SPECIFIC TARGETS  
FOR 1977 - 1978  
(Actual Detonations or Ignitions)

TYPE TARGET	TOTAL INCIDENTS		NO. KILLED		NO. INJURED		PROPERTY <sup>1</sup> DAMAGE	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
Residential	352	294	17	7	66	57	1,022.3	2,982.2
Commercial	367	375	7	6	48	46	6,640.1	8,777.7
Airports/Aircraft	7	5	1	—	1	—	.2	.2
Police Facilities/ Vehicles	14	29	—	—	—	—	5.8	70.4
Educational	106	97	—	—	13	5	43.1	532.3
Government (Local)	24	9	—	1	1	4	145.6	70.1
Government (Federal)	26	22	—	—	4	1	2.4	6.6
Military Installations	4	3	—	—	—	1	—	0.0
Utilities	51	57	1	—	1	2	628.0	1,727.7
Banks	22	18	—	—	—	—	225.2	49.3
Vehicles	216	252	11	7	24	25	363.3	2,119.4
Open Areas	36	40	1	2	8	13	.5	4.2
Mail Boxes	48	69	—	—	1	2	25.8	2.1
Other	90	137	—	—	8	27	1,206.8	869.9
Unknown <sup>2</sup>	34	2	—	—	5	252	22.6	0.0
Total	1,397	1,409	38	23	180	435	10,331.7	17,212.1

1. Figures are in thousands and are estimated.

2. This category includes those incidents where the type target was either unknown or not reported.

TABLE 10

Bombing Incidents By Motive  
and Property Damage for  
1977 - 1978

MOTIVE	PROPERTY <sup>1</sup> DAMAGE		NO. INCIDENTS		PERCENTAGE <sup>2</sup>	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
Vandalism	245.2	119.1	52	106	21.1%	28.9%
Revenge	89.8	577.7	56	105	22.8%	28.7%
Labor Related	1,002.0	2,758.8	78	87	31.8%	23.8%
Extortion	100.0	266.7	4	19	1.6%	5.2%
Insurance Fraud	606.0	357.0	6	7	2.4%	1.9%
Protest	171.8	1,116.5	45	30	18.3%	8.2%
Suicide	—	2.5	1	2	.4%	.6%
Homicide	.5	63.4	4	10	1.6%	2.7%
Unknown <sup>3</sup>	6,045.3	9,048.5	812	597	—	—
TOTAL	8,260.6	14,310.2	1,058	963	100%	100%

1. Figures are in thousands and are estimated.

2. These percentages do not reflect 812 incidents for 1977 in which the motive was not available and 597 for 1978.

3. This category reflects those incidents where the motive was not available.

TABLE 11

Incendiary Bombing Incidents By  
Motive and Property Damage  
for 1977-1978

MOTIVE	PROPERTY <sup>1</sup> DAMAGE		NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		PERCENTAGE <sup>2</sup>	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
Revenge	41.2	133.1	37	67	45.1%	42.9%
Vandalism	10.0	21.4	16	19	19.6%	12.2%
Labor Related	8.4	587.2	14	30	17.1%	19.2%
Protest	0.05	126.2	3	26	3.6%	16.7%
Insurance Fraud	865.0	14.2	11	9	13.4%	5.8%
Extortion	.2	0	1	2	1.2%	1.3%
Homicide	—	0	—	3	—	1.9%
Suicide	—	0	—	0	—	0.0%
Unknown <sup>3</sup>	1,146.3	2,020.5	257	290	—	—
TOTAL	2,071.15	2,902.6	339	446	100%	100%

1. Figures are in thousands and are estimated.

2. These percentages do not reflect 257 incidents for 1977 in which the motive was not available and 290 for 1978.

3. The unknown category reflects those incidents where the motive was not available.

TABLE 12

Types of Containers Used As Destructive  
Devices for 1977-1978

TYPE OF CONTAINER	NUMBER		PERCENTAGE <sup>1</sup>	
	1977	1978	1977	1978
Pipe	492	473	39.3%	36.9%
Bottle	285	407	22.8%	31.8%
Dynamite Sticks	223	199	17.8%	15.5%
Can	55	66	4.4%	5.1%
Cardboard/Metal Boxes	38	69	3.1%	5.4%
Other	158	68	12.6%	5.3%
Unknown	546	485	—	—
TOTAL CONTAINERS	1,797	1,767	100%	100%

1. These percentages do not include 546 incidents for 1977 and 485 incidents for 1978 in which the type of container was unavailable.

TABLE 13

Types of Explosives Filler Used  
Within the Destructive Device

TYPE OF FILLER <sup>1</sup>	NUMBER		PERCENTAGE <sup>2</sup>	
	1977	1978	1977	1978
Flammable Liquid	279	468	36.4%	36.2%
Black Powder	222	171	29.0%	13.2%
Smokeless Powder	133	157	17.4%	12.2%
Military Explosives	19	54	2.4%	4.2%
Dynamite <sup>3</sup>	30	251	4.0%	19.4%
Blasting Agent	23	8	3.0%	.6%
Chemical	10	7	1.3%	.5%
Other <sup>4</sup>	50	176	6.5%	13.7%
Unknown	1,031	475	—	—
TOTAL FILLER	1,797	1,767	100%	100%

1. This category includes fillers that were placed in some specific type of container such as a pipe, metal box, or attache case.
2. These percentages do not include 1,031 incidents in 1977 and 475 incidents in 1978 in which the type of filler was not made available, or the laboratory results for recent incidents were not completed.
3. The method in which the filler was determined has been revised for 1978. Dynamite within the sticks are counted as a filler.
4. This category includes those fillers which could not be placed in the categories provided.

TABLE 14

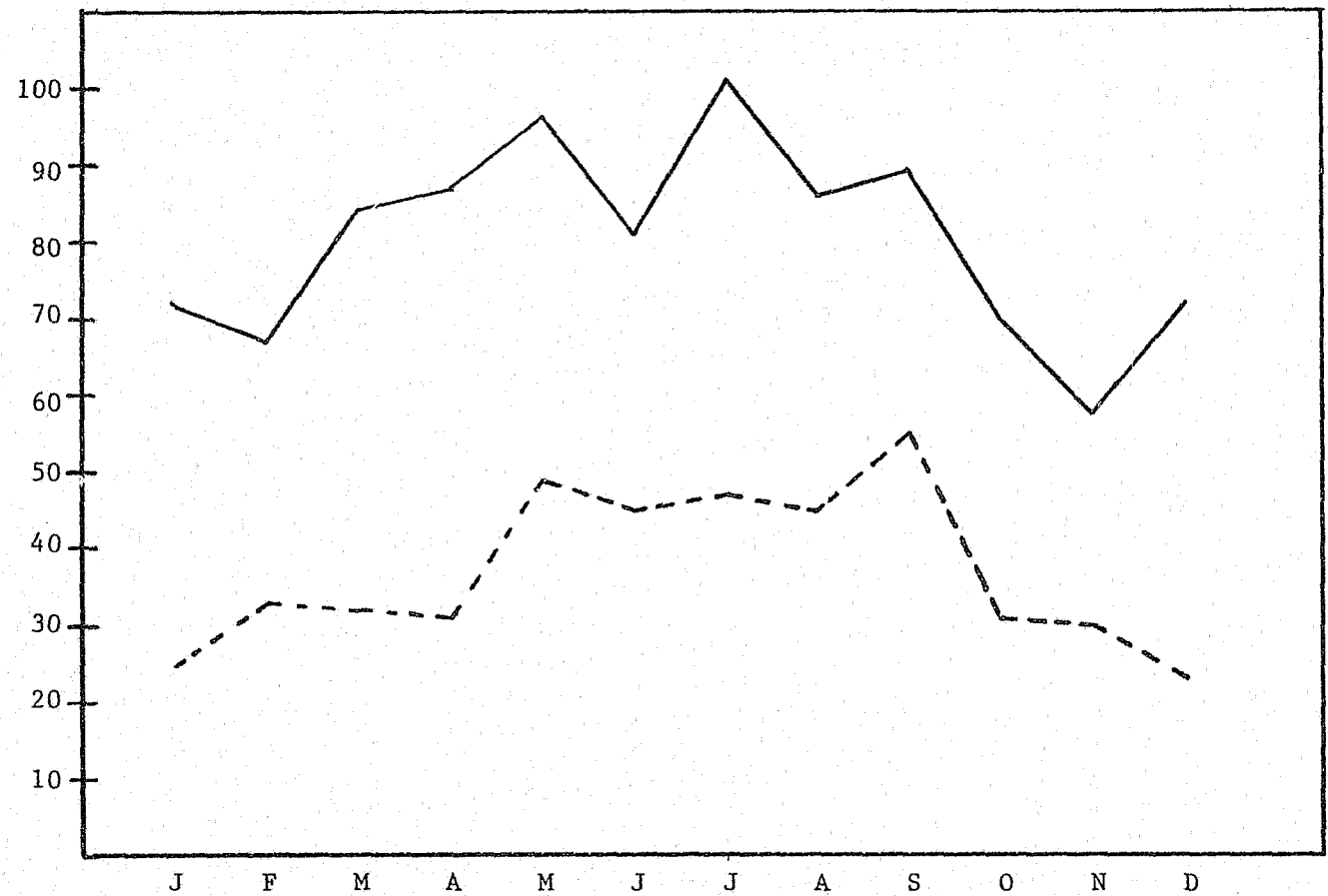
Number of Bombing Incidents by  
Month and Type of Device  
(Actual Detonations)

MONTH	BOMBINGS		INCENDIARY		TOTAL	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
January	79	72	18	25	97	97
February	77	67	28	33	105	100
March	91	84	26	32	117	116
April	89	87	26	31	115	118
May	101	96	35	49	136	145
June	79	81	30	45	109	126
July	101	101	21	47	122	148
August	74	86	28	45	102	131
September	73	89	37	55	110	144
October	96	70	31	31	127	101
November	106	58	38	30	144	88
December	92	72	21	23	113	95
TOTALS	1,058	963	339	446	1,397	1,409



FIGURE 4

Number of 1978 Bombing Incidents  
by Month and Device



Explosive —————  
Incendiary - - - - -

TABLE 15

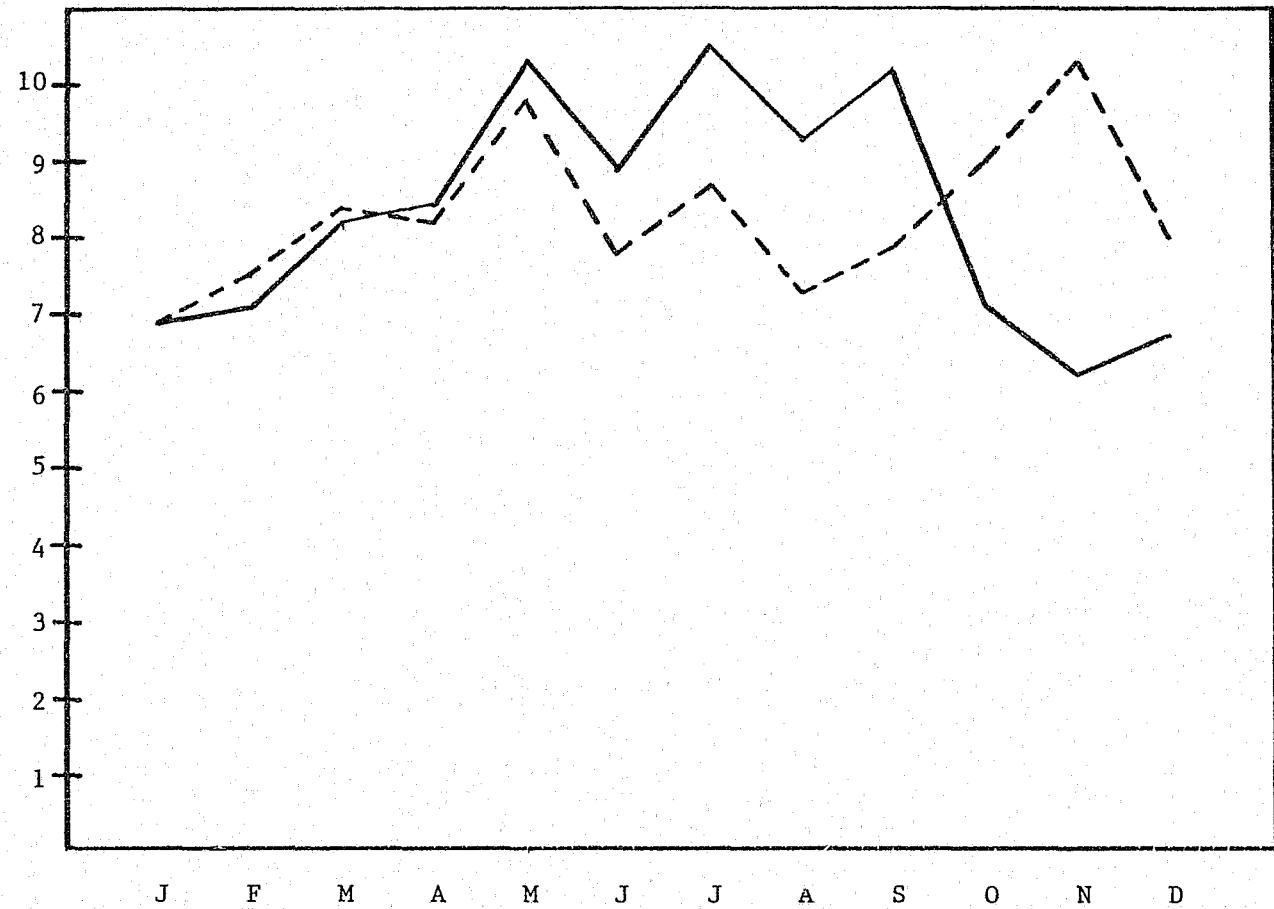
Number and Percent of Total Bombing  
Incidents by Month for 1977 - 1978  
(Actual Detonations)

MONTH	1977		1978	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
January	97	6.9%	97	6.9%
February	105	7.5%	100	7.1%
March	117	8.4%	116	8.2%
April	115	8.2%	118	8.4%
May	136	9.8%	145	10.3%
June	109	7.8%	126	8.9%
July	122	8.7%	148	10.5%
August	102	7.3%	131	9.3%
September	110	7.9%	144	10.2%
October	127	9.0%	101	7.1%
November	144	10.3%	88	6.2%
December	113	8.0%	95	6.7%
TOTAL	1,397	99.8% <sup>1</sup>	1,409	99.8% <sup>1</sup>

1. Percentages do not total 100 percent due to rounding.

FIGURE 5

Percents of Total Bombing Incidents  
for 1977 - 1978 by Month



1977 -----  
1978 —————

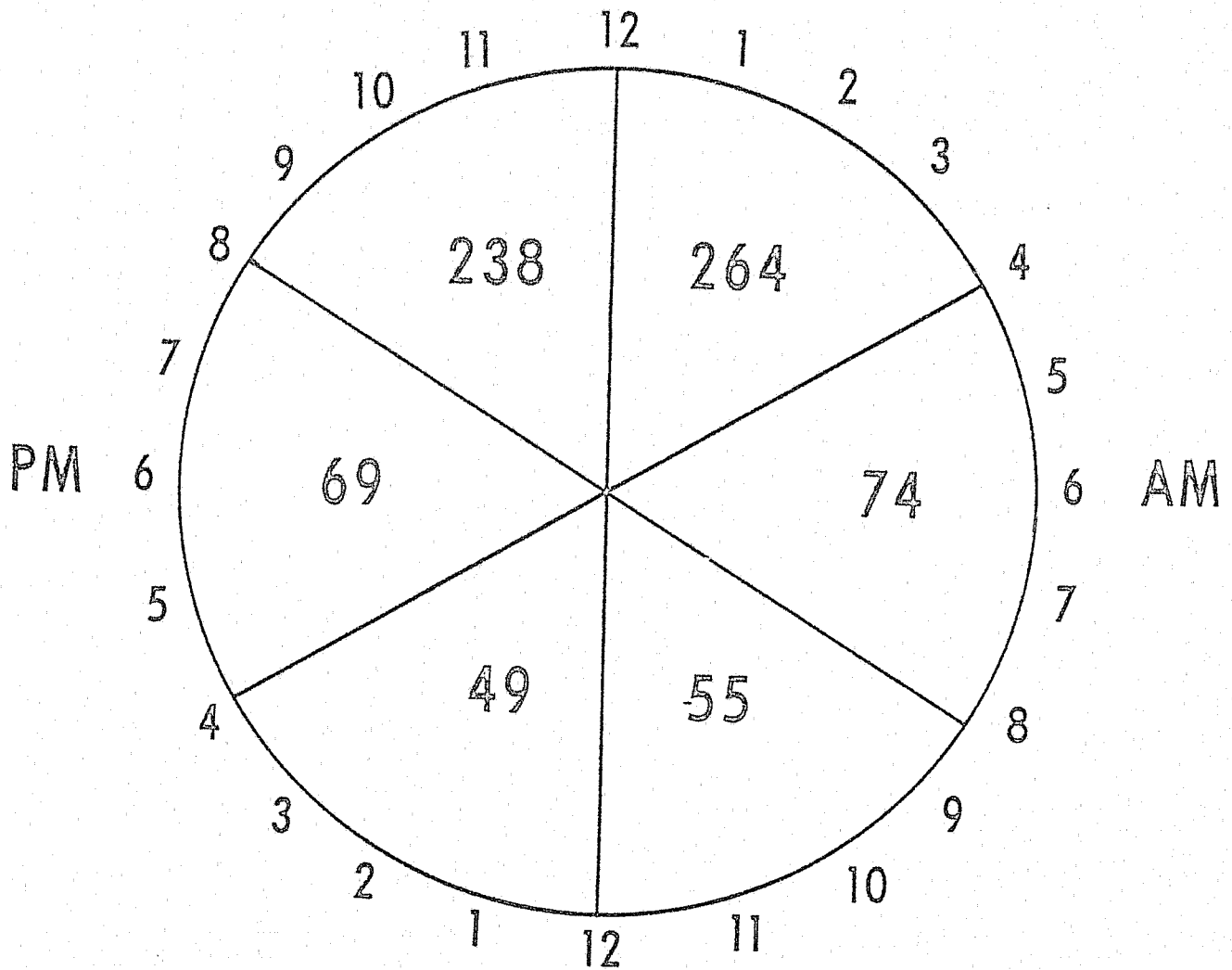
TABLE 16

Bombing Incidents by Time of Day  
for 1977 - 1978  
(Actual Detonation or Ignition)

TIME OF DAY	BOMBINGS		INCENDIARIES		TOTAL	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
12 A (Midnight)	52	58	18	18	70	76
1	80	85	30	27	110	112
2	73	73	24	19	97	92
3	68	48	11	27	79	75
4	47	27	16	18	63	45
5	18	22	13	18	31	40
6	8	20	10	6	18	26
7	8	5	6	4	14	9
8	10	14	1	4	11	18
9	12	13	1	5	13	18
10	12	16	2	6	14	22
11	19	12	4	3	23	15
12 P (Noon)	23	18	4	5	27	23
1	19	10	1	5	20	15
2	11	8	4	2	15	10
3	20	13	3	0	23	13
4	14	10	3	1	17	11
5	10	19	6	0	16	19
6	18	19	3	3	21	22
7	28	21	3	6	31	27
8	35	29	7	15	42	44
9	67	39	20	21	87	60
10	76	75	19	22	95	97
11	97	95	22	29	119	124
Unknown <sup>1</sup>	233	214	108	182	341	396
TOTAL	1,058	963	339	446	1,397	1,409

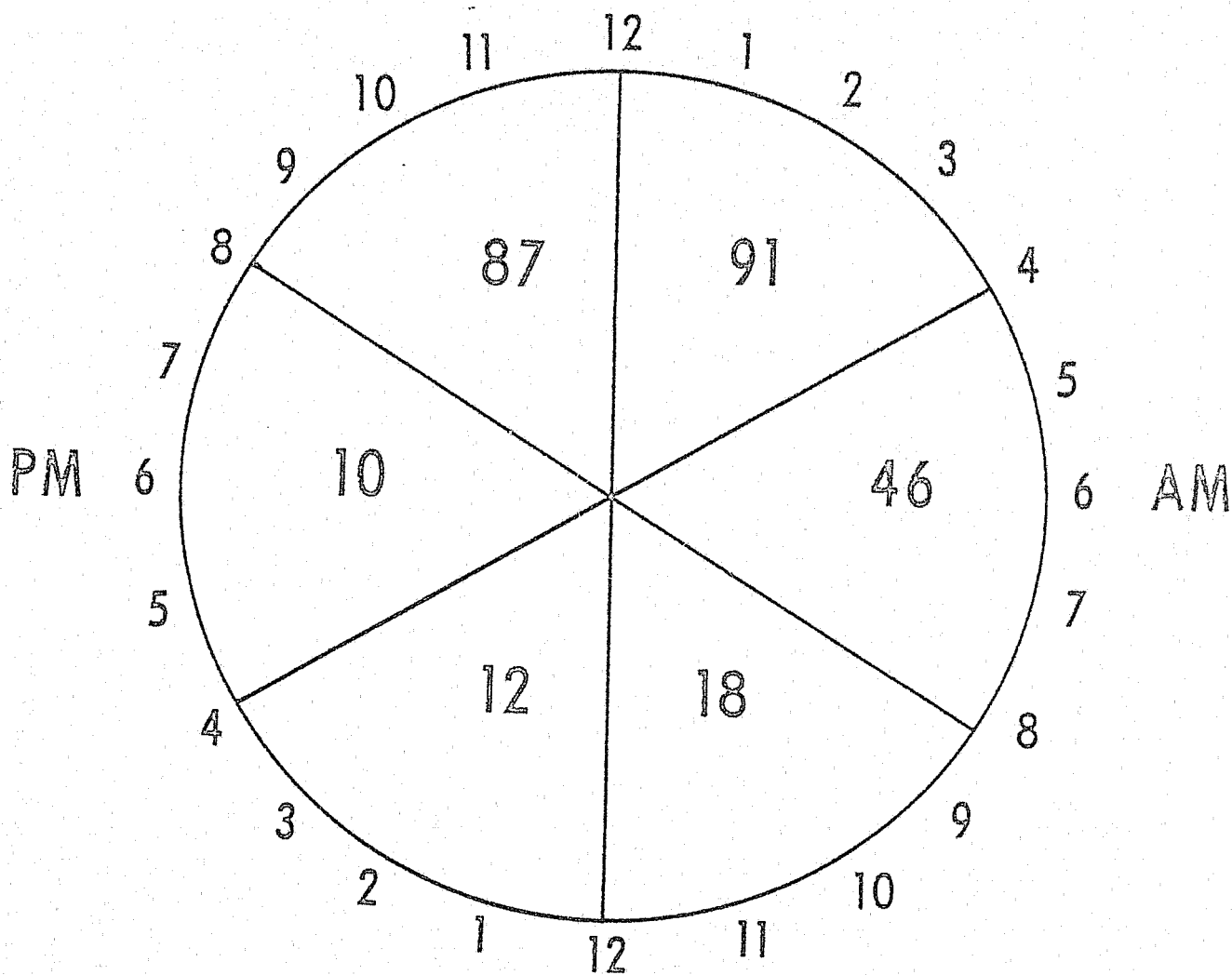
1. Those incidents where the time of day was not available.

FIGURE 6  
TIME OF DAY FOR 1978



BOMBINGS BY TIME OF DAY

FIGURE 7  
TIME OF DAY FOR 1978



INCENDIARY BOMBINGS BY TIME OF DAY

### III. EXPLOSIVES THEFTS AND RECOVERIES

There were 327 stolen explosive incidents in 1977 and 362 for 1978, an increase of 10 percent. In 1977, 61,003 pounds of explosives, 183,224 feet of detonating cord/safety fuse and 61,531 blasting caps were stolen. In 1978, 101,217 pounds of explosives, 113,510 feet of detonating cord/safety fuse, and 66,614 blasting caps were stolen. Kentucky was number one in 1977 and 1978 for stolen explosive incidents. October accounted for the highest number of thefts in 1978 and July in 1977. The prying or cutting of locks constituted the major entry method into explosive storage facilities, 50 percent in 1977 and 46 percent in 1978.

In 1978, thefts doubled in 13 States, 31 States experienced an increase and 13 States experienced a decrease as compared to 1977. Missouri and North Carolina had the highest decrease in the number of incidents in 1978 with nine each.

There were 853 recovered and seized explosive incidents in 1977 and 987 for 1978, an increase of 15 percent. In 1977, 71,470 pounds of explosives, 84,554 feet of detonating cord/safety fuse, and 37,225 blasting caps were recovered. In 1978, 74,966 pounds of explosives, 101,117 feet of detonating cord/safety fuse, and 44,456 blasting caps were recovered.

In 1977, Texas had the highest number of recovered explosive incidents and in 1978, Kentucky was the highest State. The month of June accounted for the highest number of recoveries in 1977 and 1978.

In 1978, 32 States experienced increases in their recovered explosive incidents while 14 States had a decrease in the number of recovered explosive incidents as compared to 1977.

The recovered explosives category includes recovered explosives, reports of abandonment, undercover purchases, and seized explosives pursuant to serving of a search warrant.

TABLE 17

The Amount of Explosives Stolen By  
General and Specific Types  
for 1977 - 1978

TYPE - GENERAL	AMOUNT STOLEN	
	1977	1978
High Explosives	40,024	58,327
Low Explosives	145	718
Blasting Agents	20,834	42,172
Blasting Caps	61,531	66,614
Det. Cord/Safety Fuse/Ig. Cord	183,224	113,510
TYPE - SPECIFIC	AMOUNT STOLEN	
	1977	1978
Blasting Agents	20,834	42,172
Black Powder	145	379
Smokeless Powder	0	163
Boosters	2,177	9,528
Military Explosives	44	123
TNT	5	17
Dynamite	36,498	44,316
Primer	1,300	4,333
Blasting Caps	61,531	66,614
Det. Cord/Safety Fuse/Ig. Cord	183,224	113,510
	1977	1978
TOTAL EXPLOSIVES STOLEN:	61,003 lbs.	101,217 lbs.
DET. CORD/SAFETY FUSE/IGNITOR CORD:	183,224 ft.	113,510 ft.
BLASTING CAPS:	61,531 ea.	66,614 ea.



TABLE 18

Explosives Thefts by Method of Entry - Number  
of Incidents and Percentages for 1977-1978

ENTRY METHOD	NUMBER		PERCENTAGE <sup>1</sup>	
	1977	1978	1977	1978
Locks Cut	59	71	31.1%	26.9%
Locks Pried	36	50	18.9%	19.0%
Door Pried	10	10	5.3%	3.9%
Key	14	23	7.4%	8.8%
Window Entry	7	3	3.7%	1.1%
Inside Help	3	0	1.6%	—
Wall Entry	10	16	5.3%	6.1%
Burning	2	1	1.0%	.4%
Roof Entry	7	3	3.7%	1.1%
Door Blown	1	2	.5%	.8%
Floor Entry	0	1	—	.4%
Vent Entry	1	3	.5%	1.1%
Other <sup>2</sup>	40	80	21.0%	30.4%
Unknown	137	99	—	—
TOTAL	327	362	100%	100%

1. These percentages do not include 137 incidents for 1977 and 99 incidents for 1978.
2. This figure reflects those incidents where the entry method could not be placed in the above categories provided.

TABLE 19

Stolen Explosives by State Showing Number  
of Incidents, Explosives Stolen in Pounds  
and Blasting Caps by Number for 1977 - 1978

STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL THEFTS		EXPLOSIVES (LBS.)		BLASTING CAPS	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
ALABAMA	10	14	3.0%	3.9%	4,404	18,511	1,502	6,751
ALASKA	2	3	.6%	.8%	150	101	0	0
ARIZONA	7	8	2.1%	2.2%	377	201	1,669	1,120
ARKANSAS	8	6	2.4%	1.7%	265	1,913	314	10
CALIFORNIA	17	17	5.2%	4.7%	3,924	8,127	6,638	1,093
COLORADO	9	16	2.8%	4.4%	2,491	6,359	494	3,065
CONNECTICUT	1	2	.3%	.5%	10	102	0	164
DELAWARE	0	0	—	—	0	0	0	0
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	0	0	—	—	0	0	0	0
FLORIDA	3	9	.9%	2.5%	1,011	4,387	128	3,863
GEORGIA	7	7	2.1%	1.9%	270	32	289	1,601
HAWAII	0	1	—	.3%	0	0	0	0
IDAHO	6	4	1.8%	1.1%	766	2,668	200	0
ILLINOIS	7	12	2.1%	3.3%	2,650	757	1,140	508
INDIANA	2	5	.6%	1.4%	597	696	0	934
IOWA	4	3	1.2%	.8%	1,047	245	478	979
KANSAS	7	6	2.1%	1.7%	1,101	1,651	357	1,480
KENTUCKY	34	27	10.4%	7.5%	13,803	1,850	18,711	10,371
LOUISIANA	9	12	2.8%	3.3%	1,016	1,998	342	261

TABLE 19 (Continued)

STOLEN EXPLOSIVES  
BY STATE

STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL THEFTS		EXPLOSIVES (LBS.)		BLASTING CAPS	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
MAINE	2	2	.6%	.5%	75	50	7	1,092
MARYLAND	3	6	.9%	1.7%	55	307	105	429
MASSACHUSETTS	1	1	.3%	.3%	0	0	0	0
MICHIGAN	2	2	.6%	.5%	14	25	51	3
MINNESOTA	5	2	1.5%	.5%	903	50	107	0
MISSISSIPPI	0	2	—	.5%	0	162	0	0
MISSOURI	16	7	4.9%	1.9%	1,319	1,914	1,245	176
MONTANA	1	0	.3%	0	100	0	7	0
NEBRASKA	1	3	.3%	.8%	55	150	0	0
NEVADA	4	1	1.2%	.3%	216	5	1	300
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1	0	.3%	0	25	0	50	0
NEW JERSEY	2	2	.6%	.5%	21	112	1,953	30
NEW MEXICO	3	8	.9%	2.2%	321	1,750	255	7,305
NEW YORK	13	7	4.0%	1.9%	8,637	292	9,040	2,284
NORTH CAROLINA	16	7	4.9%	1.9%	335	450	2,484	242
NORTH DAKOTA	0	1	—	.3%	0	0	0	100
OHIO	11	14	3.4%	3.9%	688	6,670	173	2,324
OKLAHOMA	8	13	2.4%	3.6%	3,412	3,274	1,022	1,370
OREGON	5	7	1.5%	1.9%	702	2,521	7	590
PENNSYLVANIA	16	21	4.9%	5.8%	1,377	2,192	1,591	2,811
RHODE ISLAND	0	1	—	.3%	0	100	0	0

TABLE 19 (Continued)

STOLEN EXPLOSIVES  
BY STATE

STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL THEFTS		EXPLOSIVES (LBS.)		BLASTING CAPS	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
SOUTH CAROLINA	2	2	.6%	.5%	402	79	4	48
SOUTH DAKOTA	0	1	—	.3%	0	0	0	150
TENNESSEE	16	19	4.9%	5.2%	2,185	5,998	5,853	2,403
TEXAS	16	22	4.9%	6.1%	2,096	11,990	1,534	4,078
UTAH	6	7	1.8%	1.9%	278	4,000	20	1,165
VERMONT	4	0	1.2%	—	45	0	771	0
VIRGINIA	13	14	4.0%	3.9%	773	1,134	795	2,097
WASHINGTON	3	9	.9%	2.5%	350	1,650	176	1,200
WEST VIRGINIA	19	20	5.8%	5.5%	1,280	5,790	1,488	1,544
WISCONSIN	2	4	.6%	1.1%	1,127	100	374	2,172
WYOMING	3	4	.9%	1.1%	330	57	156	13
GUAM	0	0	—	—	0	0	0	0
PUERTO RICO	0	1	—	.3%	0	797	0	488
VIRGIN ISLANDS	0	0	—	—	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	327	362	99.5% <sup>1</sup>	99.7% <sup>1</sup>	61,003	101,217	61,531	66,614

1. The percentages did not total 100 percent due to rounding.

TABLE 20

STOLEN EXPLOSIVES RANKED  
BY TOP TEN STATES FOR 1977 - 1978

STOLEN 1977			STOLEN 1978		
RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
1.	Kentucky	34	1.	Kentucky	27
2.	West Virginia	19	2.	Texas	22
3.	California	17	3.	Pennsylvania	21
4.	Missouri	16	4.	West Virginia	20
	North Carolina	16	5.	Tennessee	19
	Pennsylvania	16	6.	California	17
	Tennessee	16	7.	Colorado	16
	Texas	16	8.	Alabama	14
5.	New York	13		Ohio	14
	Virginia	13		Virginia	14
6.	Ohio	11	9.	Oklahoma	13
7.	Alabama	10	10.	Illinois	12
8.	Colorado	9		Louisiana	12
	Louisiana	9			
9.	Arkansas	8			
	Oklahoma	8			
10.	Arizona	7			
	Georgia	7			
	Illinois	7			
	Kansas	7			

FIGURE 8  
GEOGRAPHIC AREA  
EXPLOSIVES THEFT INCIDENTS  
1978

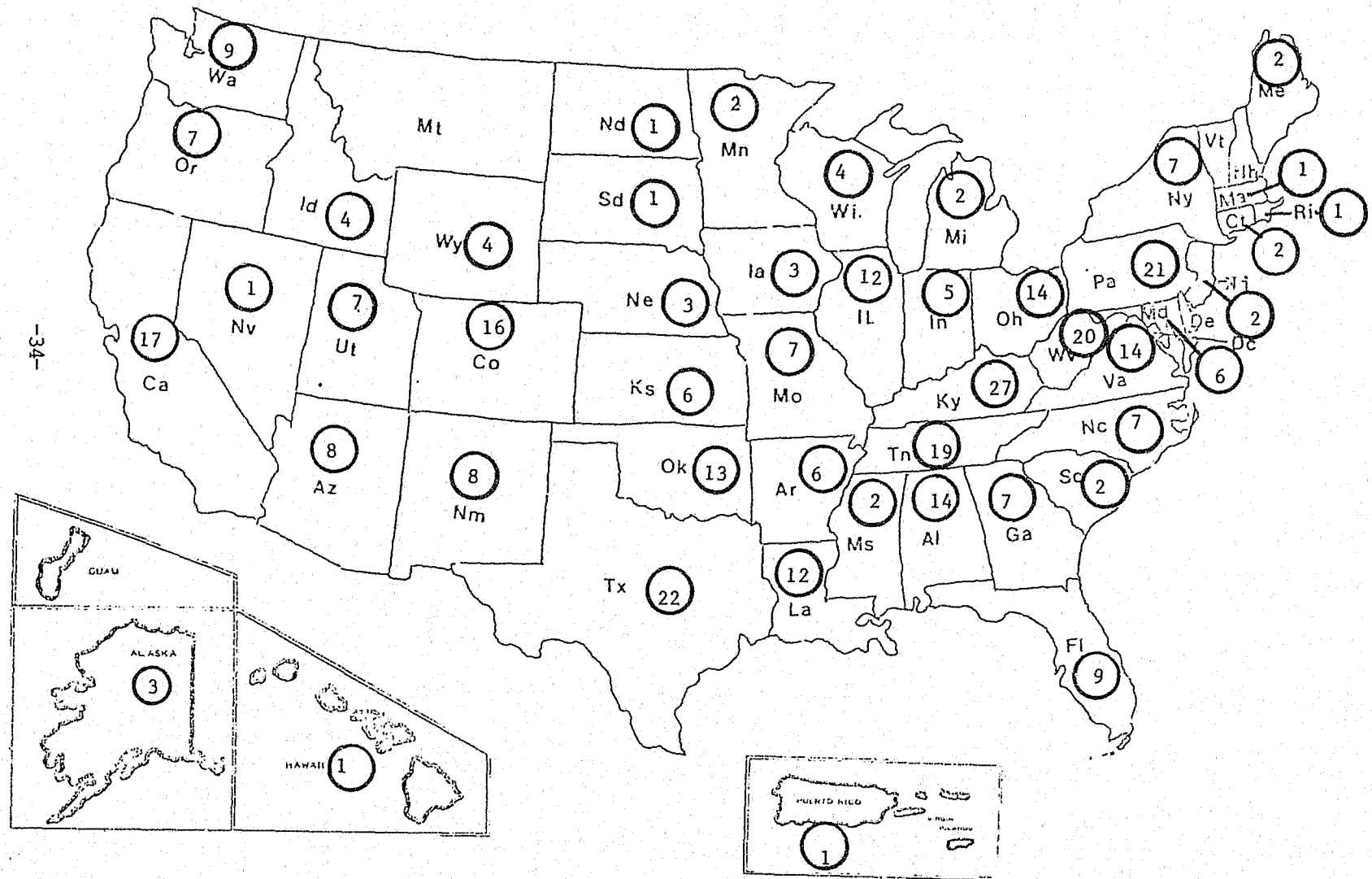


TABLE 21

Number and Percent of Total Stolen Explosives  
Incidents by Month for 1977 - 1978

MONTH	1977		1978	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
January	21	6.4%	22	6.0%
February	14	4.3%	20	5.5%
March	25	7.6%	30	8.3%
April	18	5.5%	25	6.9%
May	19	5.8%	32	8.8%
June	30	9.1%	42	11.6%
July	42	12.8%	34	9.4%
August	38	11.6%	33	9.1%
September	30	9.1%	29	8.0%
October	32	9.8%	44	12.1%
November	27	8.2%	32	8.8%
December	31	9.5%	19	5.2%
TOTAL	327	99.7% <sup>1</sup>	362	99.7% <sup>1</sup>

1. Percentages do not total 100 percent due to rounding.

FIGURE 9

Number of Stolen Explosives Incidents

by Month for 1977 - 1978

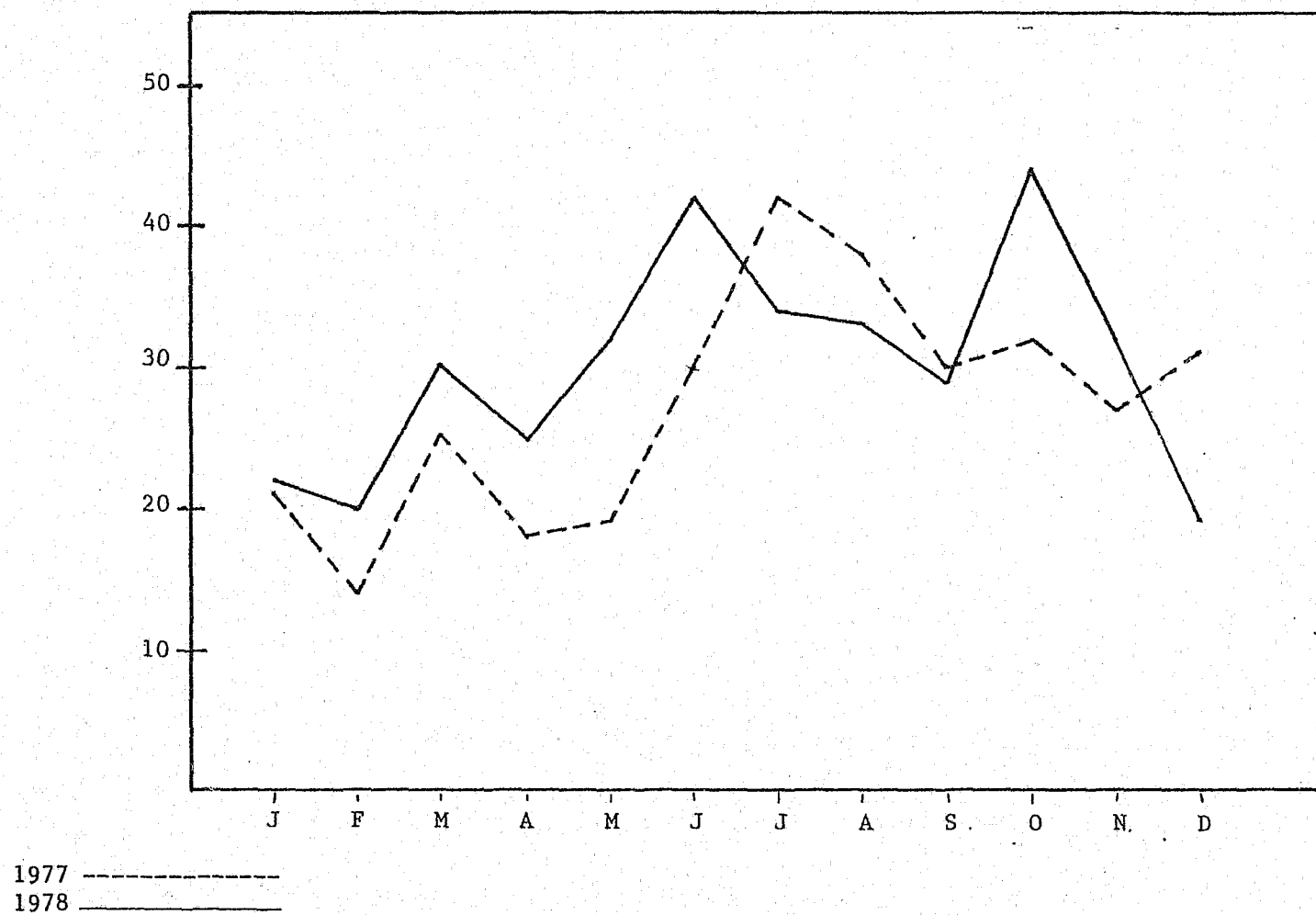




TABLE 22

The number and percent of stolen explosives incidents from manufacturers, dealers, permittees, and users for 1978.

TYPE OF LICENSE <sup>1</sup>	NUMBER OF THEFTS	PERCENT
Manufacturers	31	8.6%
Dealers	29	8.0%
Permittees	72	19.9%
Non-licensed	230	63.5%
Totals	362	100%

1. Manufacturers means any person engaged in the business of manufacturing explosive materials for purpose of sale and distribution or for his own use.

Dealer means any person engaged in the business of distributing explosive materials at wholesale or retail.

Permittee means any user of explosives for a lawful purpose, who has obtained a user permit to use explosive materials.

TABLE 23

The Amount of Explosives Recovered and  
Seized by General and Specific Types for  
1977 - 1978

TYPE-GENERAL	AMOUNT RECOVERED	
	1977	1978
High Explosives	49,915	42,501
Low Explosives	295	8,842
Blasting Agents	21,260	23,623
Blasting Caps	40,719	44,456
Det. Cord/Safety Fuse/Ig. Cord	84,554	101,117
TYPE-SPECIFIC	AMOUNT RECOVERED	
	1977	1978
Blasting Agents	21,260	23,623
Black Powder	277	723
Smokeless Powder	16	1,361
Photoflash Cartridges Powder	2	150
Potassium Chlorate	—	6,300
Boosters	2,804	362
Military Explosives	156	697
RDX	484	4
TNT	699	86
Dynamite	43,039	41,008
Primer	2,733	344
Blasting Caps	40,719	44,456
Det. Cord/Safety Fuse/Ig. Cord	84,554	101,117
	1977	1978
TOTAL EXPLOSIVES RECOVERED:	71,470 lbs.	74,966 lbs.
DET. CORD/SAFETY FUSE/IGNITOR CORD:	84,554 ft.	101,117 ft.
BLASTING CAPS:	40,719 ea.	44,456 ea.

TABLE 24

Recovered and Seized Explosives by State Showing  
Number of Incidents, Explosives Recovered in  
Pounds and Blasting Caps by Number for

1977 - 1978 <sup>1</sup>

STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RECOVERIES		EXPLOSIVES (LBS.)		BLASTING CAPS	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
ALABAMA	36	43	4.2%	4.4%	4,630	2,681	1,769	1,798
ALASKA	7	4	.8%	.4%	4,901	8	1	71
ARIZONA	8	9	.9%	.9%	189	187	94	156
ARKANSAS	22	11	2.6%	1.1%	205	847	766	17
CALIFORNIA	40	44	4.7%	4.5%	951	5,721	1,046	2,243
COLORADO	15	24	1.8%	2.4%	630	529	795	1,539
CONNECTICUT	6	7	.7%	.2%	108	2	36	0
DELAWARE	1	7	.1%	.7%	0	2,196	7	758
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	0	0	0%	.0%	0	0	0	0
FLORIDA	9	19	1.0%	1.9%	38	1,672	0	2,827
GEORGIA	18	38	2.1%	3.9%	1,105	2,435	115	1,095
HAWAII	5	3	.6%	.3%	1	1	15	0
IDAHO	5	6	.6%	.6%	46	355	6	35
ILLINOIS	47	42	5.5%	4.3%	1,115	307	382	665
INDIANA	4	14	.4%	1.4%	261	290	215	743
IOWA	6	7	.7%	.7%	122	232	365	111
KANSAS	14	14	1.6%	1.4%	1,008	3,720	72	2,483
KENTUCKY	61	67	7.1%	6.8%	8,301	5,013	2,719	1,253
LOUISIANA	12	14	1.4%	1.4%	1,220	820	240	2,533

TABLE 24 (Continued)

Recovered Explosives by State for  
1977 - 1978

STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RECOVERIES		EXPLOSIVES (LBS.)		BLASTING CAPS	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
MAINE	1	1	.1%	.1%	2	0	0	29
MARYLAND	15	10	1.8%	1.0%	16	6,298	30	154
MASSACHUSETTS	12	14	1.4%	1.4%	59	355	7	33
MICHIGAN	29	20	3.3%	2.0%	352	176	743	54
MINNESOTA	2	4	.2%	.4%	325	53	0	3
MISSISSIPPI	9	8	1.0%	.8%	458	215	533	7
MISSOURI	32	27	4.0%	2.8%	7,439	1,176	1,510	457
MONTANA	1	1	.1%	.1%	2	944	6	0
NEBRASKA	1	5	.1%	.5%	55	259	0	0
NEVADA	1	7	.1%	.7%	1	262	1	356
NEW HAMPSHIRE	4	0	.4%	0%	117	0	9	0
NEW JERSEY	10	16	1.1%	1.6%	26	44	11	56
NEW MEXICO	10	15	1.1%	1.5%	9,440	696	6	1,645
NEW YORK	20	25	2.3%	2.5%	135	601	8,635	3,073
NORTH CAROLINA	41	55	5.0%	5.6%	7,182	1,134	5,603	585
NORTH DAKOTA	0	0	0%	0%	0	0	0	0
OHIO	60	37	7.0%	3.7%	2,642	7,145	1,827	1,267
OKLAHOMA	23	34	2.7%	3.4%	6,041	1,943	372	666
OREGON	3	22	.3%	2.2%	0	945	0	231
PENNSYLVANIA	28	27	3.3%	2.7%	4,028	3,450	2,719	673

TABLE 24 (Continued)

Recovered Explosives by State for  
1977 - 1978

STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RECOVERIES		EXPLOSIVES (LBS.)		BLASTING CAPS	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
RHODE ISLAND	1	2	.1%	.2%	3	100	0	50
SOUTH CAROLINA	24	38	3.0%	3.9%	249	1,055	251	677
SOUTH DAKOTA	3	8	.3%	.8%	635	20	36	325
TENNESSEE	32	37	3.8%	3.7%	3,144	794	456	358
TEXAS	67	47	8.0%	4.8%	6,428	7,375	2,690	6,462
UTAH	13	12	1.5%	1.2%	346	682	332	182
VERMONT	2	1	.2%	.1%	306	4	731	0
VIRGINIA	32	46	3.8%	4.7%	678	658	1,350	655
WASHINGTON	15	17	1.8%	1.7%	1,262	258	3,150	160
WEST VIRGINIA	34	61	4.0%	6.2%	6,727	10,833	753	4,507
WISCONSIN	5	9	.6%	.9%	400	127	286	2,272
WYOMING	6	10	.7%	1.0%	813	152	24	28
GUAM	0	2	0%	.2%	0	196	0	1,159
PUERTO RICO	1	1	.1%	.1%	13	0	0	0
VIRGIN ISLANDS	0	0	0%	0%	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	853	987	100%	99.7% <sup>2</sup>	84,155	74,966	40,719	44,456

1. The recovered explosives include recovered explosives, abandonments, undercover purchases, and seized explosives pursuant to serving a search warrant. Even though the explosives were recovered, it does not mean that the explosives were necessarily stolen.
2. This column totals 99.7 percent for 1978 due to rounding.

TABLE 25

RECOVERED AND SEIZED EXPLOSIVES  
RANKED BY TOP TEN STATES FOR 1977 - 1978

RECOVERED 1977			RECOVERED 1978		
RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	RANK	STATE	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
1.	Texas	67	1.	Kentucky	67
2.	Kentucky	61	2.	West Virginia	61
3.	Ohio	60	3.	North Carolina	55
4.	Illinois	47	4.	Texas	47
5.	North Carolina	41	5.	Virginia	46
6.	California	40	6.	California	44
7.	Alabama	36	7.	Alabama	43
8.	West Virginia	34	8.	Illinois	42
9.	Missouri	32	9.	South Carolina	38
	Tennessee	32		Georgia	38
	Virginia	32	10.	Ohio	37
10.	Michigan	29		Tennessee	37

FIGURE 10  
GEOGRAPHIC AREA  
RECOVERED AND SEIZED  
EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS 1978

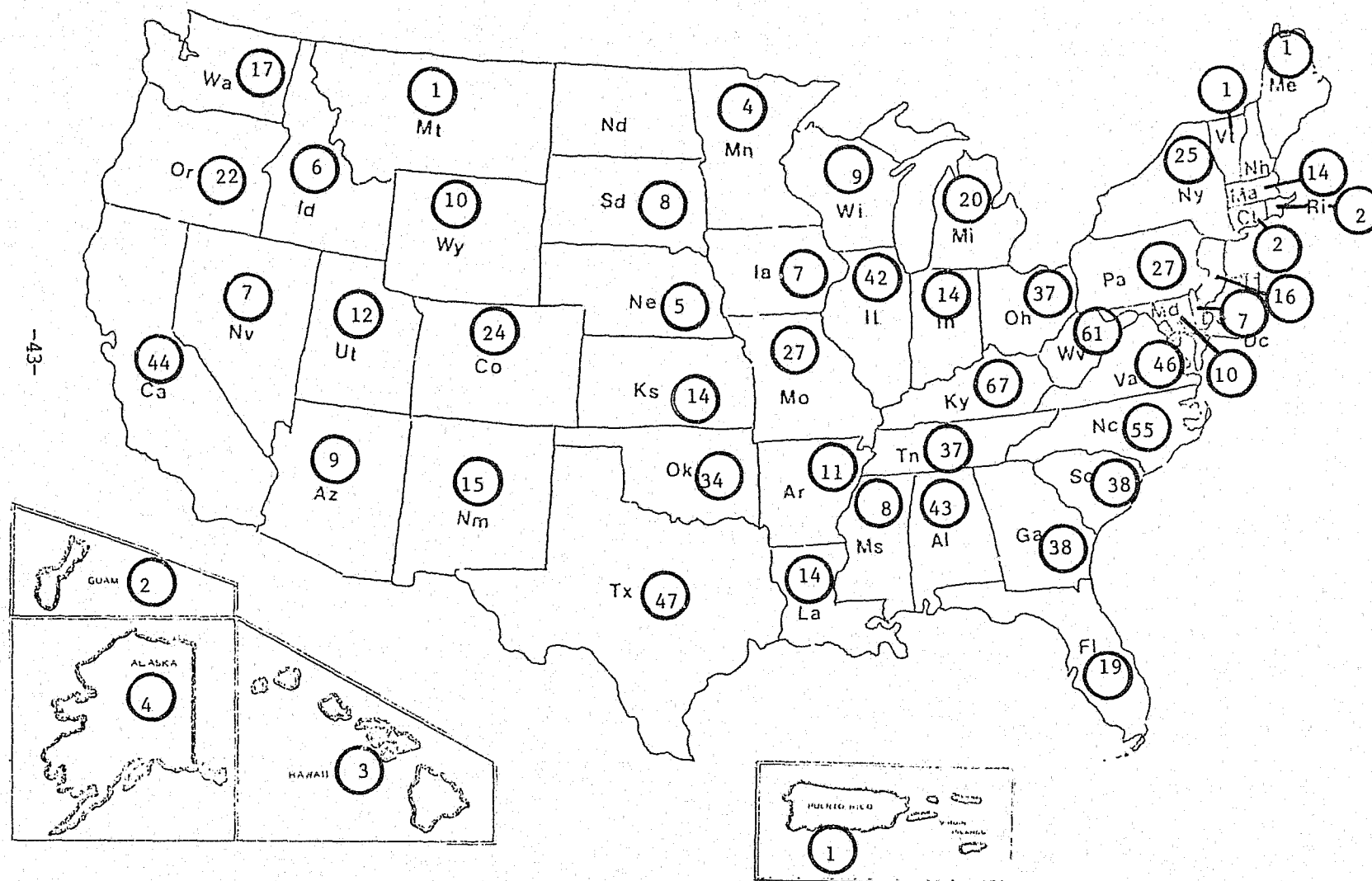


TABLE 26

Number of Recovered and Seized Explosive  
Incidents by Month for 1977 - 1978

MONTH	1977		1978	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
January	41	4.8%	85	8.6%
February	54	6.3%	71	7.2%
March	49	5.7%	86	8.7%
April	58	6.8%	90	9.1%
May	71	8.3%	85	8.6%
June	100	11.7%	99	10.0%
July	71	8.3%	78	7.9%
August	94	11.0%	96	9.7%
September	74	8.6%	87	8.8%
October	91	10.6%	77	7.8%
November	83	9.7%	73	7.4%
December	67	7.9%	60	6.1%
TOTAL	853	99.7% <sup>1</sup>	987	99.9% <sup>1</sup>

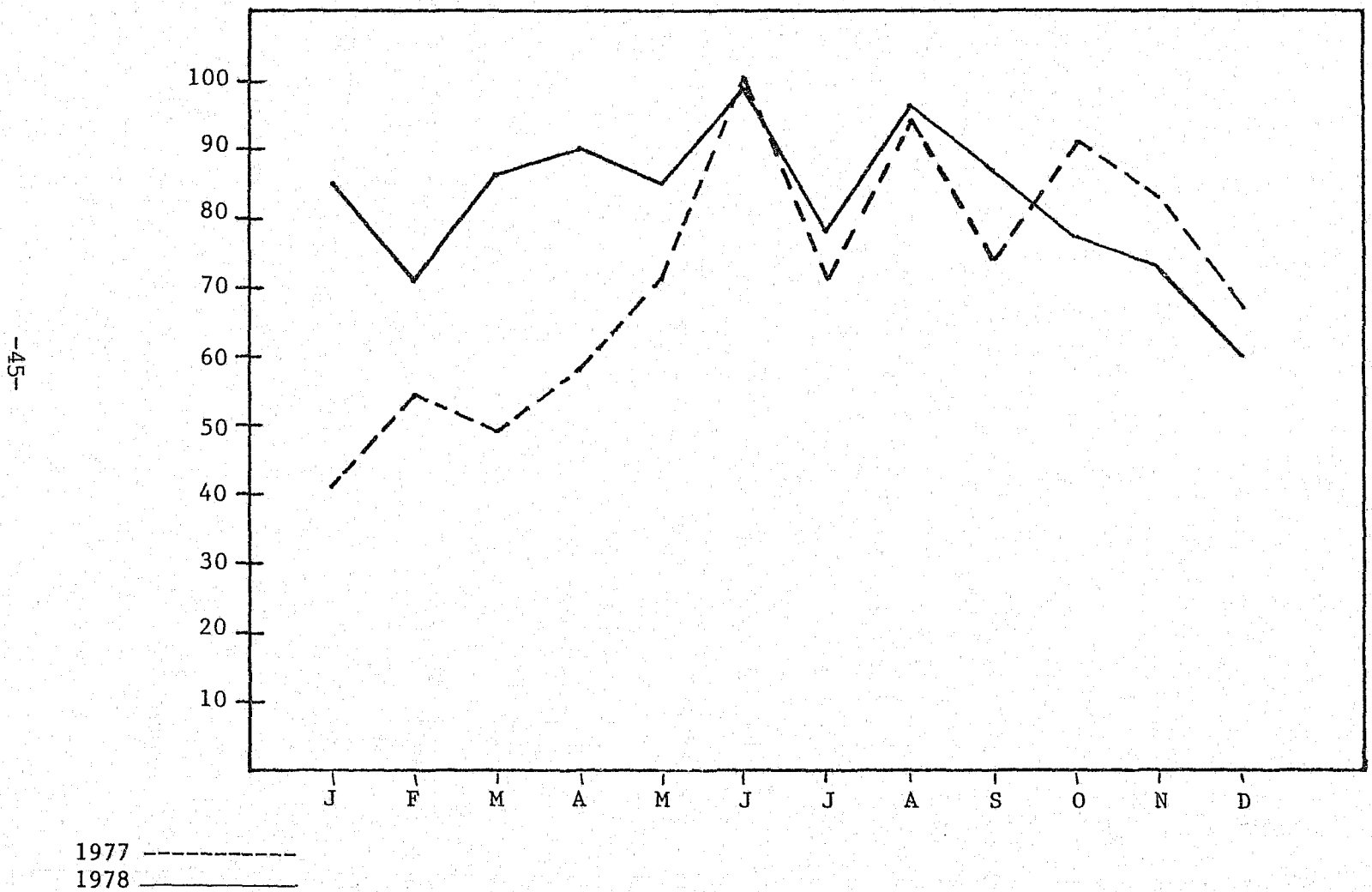
1. These columns do not total 100 percent due to rounding.



FIGURE 11

Number of Recovered and Seized Explosives

Incidents by Month for 1977 - 1978



#### IV. 1978 EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS SUMMARIES

#### ALABAMA

On September 9, 1978, approximately 1,000 electric blasting caps were stolen from an unlicensed explosives user in Huntsville, Alabama. The suspects entered a Class I magazine by sawing the lock hasp. The stolen blasting caps were all recovered and accounted for after publicizing the theft and hazards involved. This was the second theft in two months from this unlicensed explosives user.

#### ALASKA

On February 15, 1978, an explosive device was used to rupture the Alaskan Pipe Line in Alaska. The damage which occurred to the pipe line is estimated at \$1 million. It appeared that some form of an explosive shape charge was used to penetrate the pipe.

#### ARKANSAS

On April 1, 1978, at 11:00 p.m., nine persons were on the Arkansas River at Scott, Arkansas, fishing. Two of these people were fishing with dynamite, nonelectric blasting caps and safety fuse. The first stick of dynamite they threw into the water did not produce any fish. Before the second stick could be thrown into the water, it exploded seriously injuring the two fishermen.

#### CALIFORNIA

On August 3, 1978, at 7:00 a.m., an explosion occurred in a pickup truck in Sacramento, California. The device was placed under the driver's seat and exploded when the vehicle was placed in motion. An applied pressure switch activated the device which was placed behind the tire. The driver sustained minor injuries and the damage was \$2,000.

#### COLORADO

On March 23, 1978, special agents of ATF met with a suspect in Aurora, Colorado, to purchase destructive devices that he had manufactured. The agents purchased the pipe bombs and arrested the suspect after he assaulted them and resisted arrest. The pipe bombs contained smokeless gun powder and were to be detonated electrically.

\* \* \* \* \*

On March 22, 1978, at 12:00 a.m., an explosion occurred at the rear of a state employment office in Denver, Colorado. The blast caused an estimated \$60,000 worth of damage in the area. Fifteen minutes later, approximately five blocks away, another explosion ripped into a wall of a building causing \$15,000 damage and killing one person. The victim (in all probability the bomber) was killed as he attempted to arm the device. The crime scene search disclosed that the bomber had

deviously placed a second timed device 30 feet from the seat of the second explosion. It is surmised that this timed device was intended to detonate when police officers responded to the initial explosion.

#### CONNECTICUT

On July 11, 1978, at 4:00 a.m., a pipe bomb exploded and totally destroyed a guard building at a high school in Shelton, Connecticut. The pipe bomb was 3 inches in diameter. The lab reported that non-perforated wafer type double base smokeless powder was used in the bomb. The device was initiated by utilizing a pyrotechnic type fuse. Damage was estimated at \$12,000.

#### FLORIDA

On June 28, 1978, ATF was notified that a large explosive device was located on a private road in Key Largo, Florida. The device consisted of 88 sticks of dynamite. Each stick was double primed with electric blasting caps. The device was in four boxes, placed in close proximity and the entire device was wired in series and parallel.

#### GEORGIA

On March 16, 1978, at 8:30 a.m., a student at an elementary school in Savannah, Georgia, found an explosive device in a trash can at the school. The student removed the device and activated it by pulling the trip line. The student sustained serious injuries to the hand. The device was a military simulator used extensively on training missions.

#### GUAM

On June 27, 1978, and August 31, 1978, Federal search warrants were issued for a company in Asan, Guam. Special agents seized the following explosives: 15,000 feet of fuse, 1,150 blasting caps, 115 pounds of C-4, binary explosives, smokeless powder, black powder, military high explosive grenades, and other military ordnance.

#### ILLINOIS

On March 17, 1978, at 11:40 a.m., a series of explosions occurred in Willmette, Illinois, completely destroying a residence and causing widespread damage to the surrounding area. One person was killed and 11 people were injured. Damage was estimated at \$2 million to property and equipment. The explosion resulted from the illegal manufacture of Class B fireworks.

#### INDIANA

ATF and the Speedway, Indiana Police are investigating eight bombings that occurred in the first week of September. There have been two injuries and \$20,000 in property damage. The devices were similarly constructed using a clock-type timing mechanism, battery, beverage can, electric blasting caps and dynamite. ATF identified a suspect who was subsequently arrested.

#### KANSAS

On March 20, 1978, a house trailer was completely destroyed in Riley, Kansas. The investigation revealed that a 90mm HEAT anti-tank shell had exploded, killing 2 and injuring 6 people. The military shell was carried from a military firing range as a souvenir.

#### KENTUCKY-WEST VIRGINIA

Over the 1978 Christmas holidays more than 250 injuries occurred in Kentucky and West Virginia as a result of illegal fireworks. These illegal fireworks were defective in that they functioned immediately instead of providing the necessary delay. ATF is investigating and attempting to locate the source of these explosives.

#### MICHIGAN

On September 6, 1978, at 4:00 a.m., two people were killed as a result of a premature detonation of a pipe bomb which they were carrying in their vehicle in Shelby Township, Michigan. Reconstruction of the bomb revealed that it was approximately 12 inches in length and 2 inches in diameter, and was filled with long grain smokeless powder. The electrical initiator used was a bridge wire within the powder connected to a 6-volt battery, using a mechanical kitchen timer for a delay.

#### MINNESOTA

On June 28, 1978, at 4:45 p.m., an explosive device detonated in a vehicle in St. Paul, Minnesota. The device was placed under the car seat and was electronically detonated when the victim turned on the ignition of the vehicle. The victim sustained serious injuries and the motive was revenge. The device consisted of galvanized pipe with one end cap, smokeless powder, a model rocket igniter, shotgun shot and nails.

#### NEW JERSEY

On September 24, 1978, at approximately 9:00 p.m., an explosion occurred in a moving vehicle in Monmouth County, New Jersey. The explosion killed the passenger who was holding the device and injured the driver. Damages were estimated at \$7,500. Reconstruction of the devices revealed it was a pipe bomb approximately 7 1/2 inches

in length and 1 3/4 inches in diameter filled with black powder and attached to a container of gasoline. The electrical initiator was a battery and clock. The motive appears to be extortion.

#### NEW YORK

On April 23, 1978, at 3:00 a.m., an explosion occurred under a vehicle in Rochester, New York. The explosion killed one person and injured another. There was an estimated \$7,000 in damage. This high order explosion was detonated by a remote control unit as the victims were entering the vehicle. This and other bombings in this area are directly related to the power struggle among members of the organized crime element. These bombings are being investigated by a joint task force consisting of ATF, Rochester Police, New York State Police, and the FBI.

#### NORTH CAROLINA

On January 13, 1978, Naval Investigative Service requested ATF's assistance in an investigation aboard a USMC base in North Carolina. Seven suspects were arrested for concealment, storage, and transfer of stolen military ordnance. The military ordnance consisted of fragmentation hand grenades, high explosives, anti-tank weapons, and other military ordnance.

#### OHIO

A combined investigation by ATF, Cleveland Police and local police led to the arrest of a bomber in the Cleveland, Ohio area. This investigation was pursued for 12 months in an effort to end the bombing rampage directed against schools and pornographic businesses. The devices consisted of pipe bombs, safety fuse, and dynamite. Following the suspect's arrest, search warrants were executed and a large supply of dynamite and blasting caps were recovered. The dynamite was traced to a local licensed explosives user.

#### PENNSYLVANIA

On October 6, 1978, at 1:00 a.m., an explosion occurred in an office building in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Two explosive devices had detonated, blowing holes in the side of the building. Upon entering the office building the firemen found a dynamite bomb and asked for Army EOD assistance. Further search revealed four more dynamite bombs. Three were rendered safe and one exploded while EOD was attempting to remotely render it safe. ATF special agents and laboratory personnel conducted a crime scene search. There were no deaths or injuries, however, there was considerable damage to the building.

## TENNESSEE

On August 29, 1978, two unexploded devices were found outside two residences in Jefferson City, Tennessee. Both devices consisted of identical clocks, batteries, and blasting caps. One device had 7 sticks of dynamite and the other had 9 sticks. The blasting caps on both devices exploded but the dynamite failed to detonate.

\* \* \* \* \*

On January 12, 1978, at 5:15 a.m., an explosion occurred on the roof of a commercial building in Maryville, Tennessee, causing an estimated \$27,000 in damage. The motive is believed to be revenge. Analysis of the evidence revealed that dynamite was the explosive.

## TEXAS

On April 20, 1978, and July 9, 1978, accidental explosions occurred at a licensed manufacturer of high explosives in Cleburne, Texas. Many homes and businesses within a one mile radius suffered extensive damage. Four workers were killed and three were injured.

\* \* \* \* \*

On May 30, 1978, at 1:00 a.m., a steel pipe bomb filled with dynamite was thrown under a vehicle in Corpus Christi, Texas. An explosion resulted which injured one person and caused \$700 in damage to the vehicle and surrounding building. The local police department requested the services of ATF in their investigation. The evidence was forwarded to the ATF lab for analysis. The motive for the bombing was related to a drug rip off. ATF identified a suspect who was subsequently arrested.

## UTAH

On March 30, 1978, at 9:00 p.m., an explosive device detonated in the basement of a home in Bountiful, Utah. The investigation revealed that youths were experimenting with a pipe bomb when it detonated, killing one youth and injuring another. The pipe bomb was filled with shotgun shell powder and homemade black powder. The device detonated when the end cap was being tightened, causing the powder on the pipe threads to explode.

## VIRGINIA

On March 25, 1978, a bombing occurred at a strip mine in Russell County, Virginia. Coal mining equipment valued at \$1 million was destroyed by a massive explosion. This coal mining company persuaded their miners to return to work following the Taft-Hartley injunction.

\* \* \* \* \*

On May 19, 1978, at 2:50 p.m., an explosion occurred in a moving vehicle in Grundy, Virginia. The blast lifted the vehicle 10 feet in the air completely destroying the vehicle valued at \$5,000 and killing the driver. The investigation indicates that a high explosive was placed under the car seat and wired into the turn signal. Upon activation of the turn signal the device exploded. The victim's husband was arrested by ATF and charged with his wife's death.

#### WEST VIRGINIA

On January 3, 1978, at 11:30 p.m., an explosion occurred, damaging railroad tracks in Mercer County, West Virginia. The device consisted of dynamite and an electric blasting cap. The damage was estimated at \$10,000 and the motive was labor-related. Subsequent investigation by ATF developed several suspects. On January 6 and 7, 1978, five persons were arrested and charged with the bombing. Four pleaded guilty and one was acquitted by a jury.

\* \* \* \* \*

On July 11, 1978, at 8:45 p.m. ATF agents, together with the West Virginia State Police, arrested three suspects who were in the process of stealing 1500 pounds of dynamite. The suspects entered the storage magazine by removing the bricks from the wall.

#### WASHINGTON

On August 11, 1978, an explosion occurred at the state penitentiary in Walla Walla, Washington. Investigation revealed that a pipe bomb was discovered in the building and was being dismantled by a guard when the device detonated. The guard died and three others were injured. Additional devices were found and samples were forwarded to the ATF laboratory for analysis.

\* \* \* \* \*

On September 16, 1978, at 3:00 a.m., a bomb exploded at a power station in Spokane, Washington. Property damage is estimated at \$20,000 and the motive appears to be extortion. The device consisted of a battery, wire, electric blasting cap, and dynamite. A suspect was arrested and charged with this bombing.

#### WISCONSIN

On June 30, 1978, at 9:00 a.m., an explosive device detonated in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The preliminary indication is that the explosive device was placed between the vehicle's firewall and transmission. The device was detonated by the deceased when he attempted to start the vehicle.



## Explosives Incidents Reporting

ATF stands ready to help and assist all law enforcement agencies in their explosives incidents investigations. To report explosives incidents such as bombings, incendiary bombings, and seized, stolen or recovered explosives, call ATF's toll free number, 800-424-9555.



In Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, call collect (202) 566-7143.



**END**