**UNIT 4: Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives**

LESSON 6: Case Studies in Terrorist Acquisition and Use of CBRNE Weapons

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| **Lesson Topics*** Rajneeshees
* Aum Shinrikyo
* Chechens
* Bruce Ivins (anthrax letter mailer)
* Lessons learned
* Timothy McVeigh
* David Hahn (not a terrorist; but a cautionary tale of how easy it is to develop CBRNE)
 | **Learning Objective:** The student will:* Explore the case studies and report on the local radiological risks.
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| **Engage** Access prior knowledge* What do you know? How did you learn it?

Pique their interest * What do you see, think, wonder when you see this image, watch this video, or hear this story?
 | **Resources** |
| **Exploration** * Identify groups and individuals who were engaged in behavior that was consistent with terrorism.
* Examine and discuss the nature, consequences, and root causes of domestic, international, and trans-national acts of CBRNE terrorism.
* Watch Frontline, “The Anthrax Files.”

Rajneeshees* Bhaqwan Shree Rajneesh; spiritual leader from India.
* 1981- thousands of his disciples moved to Wasco and Jefferson counties.
* Disciples were called “Sannyasin.”
* Became a cult.
* Charges to members of the group later included attempted murder, assault, arson, immigration fraud, wiretapping, and conspiracy.

Aum Shinrikyo* Cult known as Aum Supreme Truth (AUM).
* Established in 1987 by Shoko Asahara.
* Cult wanted to take over Japan and the world.
* Was initially recognized as a religion under Japanese law but was later revoked when group started to say the United States would initiate World War III with Japan causing Armageddon.
* On March 20, 1995, the group released a chemical nerve agent (Sarin gas) into Tokyo subway: 12 civilians died with another 6,000 injured.
* Group has been responsible for other mysterious chemical accidents.
* The leader, Shoko Asahara, was arrested by Japanese authorities.

Chechens* Chechnya, officially the Chechen Republic, is a constituent republic of Russia situated in the North Caucasus in Eastern Europe, close to the Caspian Sea.
* Fought for independence from Russia.
* October 2002, 50 Chechen terrorists seized a venue of 800 people at the Moscow Music Theatre.
* Chechen terrorists threatened to kill everyone unless Russia ended its war with Chechnya.
* Russian authorities responded with a chemical gas intervention.
* At the conclusion, all 50 Chechen terrorists and 117 hostages died.

Bruce Ivins (anthrax letter mailer)* Fall 2001, envelopes were mailed to U.S. Senate offices that contained Anthrax.
* The Anthrax letters caused the death of 5 people.
* Investigation lasted seven years as the FBI mistakenly pursued the wrong suspect.
* Dr. Bruce Ivins, Army scientist, was identified as the sole perpetrator after his suicide.

Timothy McVeigh* Was responsible for the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Murrah Federal Building, Oklahoma.
* The bomb killed 168 innocent people.
* McVeigh was a war-decorated American.
* Two other subjects, Michael Fortier and Terry Nichols, were prosecuted since they had knowledge of the plot.
* McVeigh was radicalized after the stand-off at Waco, Texas.
* McVeigh was sentenced to death for his involvement in the Murrah Federal Building bombing.

Lessons learned* CBRNE from past events are a legitimate threat to the American community.
* Significant investments in public education and preparedness for threats of terrorism.
* Americans have become more knowledgeable of the threats that could occur in the country.

David Hahn (not a terrorist; but a cautionary tale of how easy it is to develop CBRNE)* Was a boy scout who attempted to build a nuclear breeder reactor in a shed on his mother’s property for a merit badge.
* David was able to create a list of 14 radioactive isotopes from common household items such as smoke detectors.
* David was able to obtain radium and other radioactive materials before it was discovered by police.
* David endangered 40,000 people in the surrounding neighborhood.
 | **Teacher Resources:**Websites:OPB. (2012). Rajneeshpuram [https://www.oshonews.com/2012/11/16/oregon-experience-rajneeshpuram/](http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/mcveigh/mcveighaccount.html)Huffpost. (2018). I covered The Rajneesh Cult. Here’s what ‘Wild Wild Country’ leaves out.[I Covered The Rajneesh Cult. Here’s What ‘Wild Wild Country’ Leaves Out. | HuffPost](http://harpers.org/archive/1998/11/the-radioactive-boy-scout/)FAS. Aum Supreme Truth (Aum) a.k.a. Aum Shinrikyo Aleph. (n.d.) [http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/aum.htm](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/anthrax-files/)Frontline. (2011). The Anthrax Files [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/anthrax-files/](http://www.start.umd.edu/) CNS. (2002). The Moscow Theater Hostage Crisis: Incapacitants and Chemical Warfare by CBWNP<https://nonproliferation.org/the-moscow-theater-hostage-crisis-incapacitants-and-chemical-warfare/> Linder, D. (2006). The Oklahoma City Bombing & The Trial of Timothy McVeigh [http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/mcveigh/mcveighaccount.html](https://www.oshonews.com/2012/11/16/oregon-experience-rajneeshpuram/) Pangi, R. (2002). Consequence Management in the 1995 Sarin Attacks on the Japanese Subway System [https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/files/consequence\_management\_in\_the\_1995\_sarin\_attacks\_on\_the\_japanese\_subway\_system.pdf](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/cult-wild-wild-country-netflix_n_5ab2b37de4b054d118df49c1)Silverstein, K. (1998). The Radioactive Boy Scout: When a teenager attempts to build a breeder reactor [http://harpers.org/archive/1998/11/the-radioactive-boy-scout/](http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/aum.htm) University of Maryland, College Park - START[http://www.start.umd.edu/](https://nonproliferation.org/the-moscow-theater-hostage-crisis-incapacitants-and-chemical-warfare/)**Student Resources:**Websites:OPB. (2012). Rajneeshpuram [https://www.oshonews.com/2012/11/16/oregon-experience-rajneeshpuram/](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/cult-wild-wild-country-netflix_n_5ab2b37de4b054d118df49c1)Huffpost. (2018). I covered The Rajneesh Cult. Here’s what ‘Wild Wild Country’ leaves out.[I Covered The Rajneesh Cult. Here’s What ‘Wild Wild Country’ Leaves Out. | HuffPost](http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/mcveigh/mcveighaccount.html)FAS. Aum Supreme Truth (Aum) a.k.a. Aum Shinrikyo Aleph. (n.d.) [http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/aum.htm](https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/files/consequence_management_in_the_1995_sarin_attacks_on_the_japanese_subway_system.pdf)Frontline. (2011). The Anthrax Files <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/anthrax-files/> CNS. (2002). The Moscow Theater Hostage Crisis: Incapacitants and Chemical Warfare by CBWNP[https://nonproliferation.org/the-moscow-theater-hostage-crisis-incapacitants-and-chemical-warfare/](https://www.oshonews.com/2012/11/16/oregon-experience-rajneeshpuram/) Linder, D. (2006). The Oklahoma City Bombing & The Trial of Timothy McVeigh [http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/mcveigh/mcveighaccount.html](http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/aum.htm)Silverstein, K. (1998). The Radioactive Boy Scout: When a teenager attempts to build a breeder reactor <http://harpers.org/archive/1998/11/the-radioactive-boy-scout/>  |
| **Explanation (10 min)** Prepare a report: Identify natural radioactivity sources in your local community and possible exposure risks to the local population. |
| **Elaboration (20 min)**Prepare to discuss the David Hahn incident and the danger it posed to the community. What responsibility did the local authorities have for those risks? |
| **Formative Assessment:** The elaboration activities |
| **Summative Assessment:**As required by the curriculum and school system |