

commit violent acts on their own, independent of the terrorist chain of command. Although they act alone, "they see themselves as belonging to a virtual community, a virtual community of hatred" (Post et al., 2014, p. 321). In the following sections we discuss three notable examples.

Boston Marathon Bombers

The team of brothers responsible for the Boston Marathon bombing in April 2013, appear to qualify as lone wolves. Twenty-six-year-old Tamerlan Tsarnaev (known as "Tim" by his friends) and his 19-year-old brother Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (known as "Jahar" or "Joe") planted twin pressure cooker bombs filled with nails, BBs, and explosives hidden in backpacks near rows of spectators close to the marathon finish line. The bombs detonated, killing an eight-year-old boy and two young women, and injuring more than 260 people, including 17 who lost limbs. Shortly after the incident they killed a campus police officer who may have recognized them from descriptions provided to law enforcement officers. As recently as spring of 2015, one bombing victim lost her second leg following a long period of attempted rehabilitation. (See Box 11-1 for additional discussion of the Marathon bombing.)

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

BOX 11-1 The Marathon Bombing and Beyond

The annual Boston Marathon has for many years been a popular event attracting runners and spectators, many from across the United States and the world. Many of those who converged on this small city on April 15, 2013, experienced horror and sadness that will likely never be forgotten. As noted in the text, two brothers planted bombs near the marathon finish line that resulted in three deaths and injuries to more than 260 others. As the brothers were leaving the area, they carjacked a vehicle and kidnapped its driver, who ultimately escaped. They also shot to death a campus police officer.

Residents of the city and its surrounding suburbs lived in shock and in fear while the brothers—Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev—remained at large. Police released photos of the two captured on video cameras. Images of Dzhokhar wearing a white baseball cap backward and nonchalantly purchasing milk at a convenience store after the event were widely circulated, as were images of terrified victims and individuals coming to the victims' aid. At one point when the brothers were being pursued, they engaged in a gun battle with police; in the course of that battle, Tamerlan was killed and Dzhokhar escaped. The immediate episode had its bizarre ending four days after the marathon when Dzhokhar was found wounded, hiding in a boat in a suburban backyard.

He was ultimately charged with 30 federal criminal counts (e.g., engaging in terrorist activities, murder, kidnapping), 17 of which carried the possibility of a death sentence, and he went to trial in April 2015, two years after the crimes that left the city reeling. Defense lawyers tried unsuccessfully in as many as four pretrial hearings to have the trial moved out of Boston, citing the extensive pretrial publicity about the case. During 16 days of testimony, prosecutors described the defendant as a terrorist who had been radicalized by online extremist Islamist teachings that call for avenging Muslim deaths (Levitz, 2015). Defense lawyers conceded that the defendant was involved, but attempted to show throughout

Questions for Discussion

1. In death penalty cases, juries consider both aggravating and mitigating factors in deciding whether to recommend a death sentence, but one group does not have to outweigh the other. In other words, even two mitigating factors can be enough to spare a person the death penalty, even if there are five aggravating factors. What aggravating and mitigating factors can you identify in this case?
2. The jury in this case was "death qualified," which is a requirement in all capital cases. Psychologists have conducted considerable research on this topic. Discuss the meaning and significance of this term.
3. Does research by Steinberg, cited in earlier chapters, have any relevance to this case? What about research on emerging adulthood, cited in Box 6-1?

he would have been ineligible for the death sentence.

Throughout his trial, including the penalty phase when the jury was deciding whether to recommend death or life without parole, Tsarnaev sat stonefaced and showed no remorse. Only once did he express emotion, when a relative testifying on his behalf broke down on the witness stand. An expression of remorse would have been a mitigating factor, although it alone might not have affected the ultimate outcome of the case. It is interesting to observe, also, that had Tsarnaev been just two years younger at the time of the crime (i.e., 17 as opposed to 19), the world have been ineligible for the death sentence.

tenced to death. Mously in May 2015, that Dzhokhar Tsarnaev should be sentenced to death. A jury rejected those arguments and decided unanimously on his brother and to be more responsible for the radical Islam and was said by the defense to have a strong influence on his brother and to be more responsible for the crimes. A jury rejected those arguments and decided unanimously in May 2015, that Dzhokhar Tsarnaev should be sentenced to death.

