

(Continued)

Firefighters visited an apartment in Manila, Philippines (later determined to belong to Ramzi Yousef) after local residents complained about a strange smell and a fire in the apartment. After the firefighters responded to the scene, the firefighters reportedly questioned two of the residents who told the firemen to stay away from the apartment and fled shortly thereafter. Firefighters found bomb making precursor elements and equipment at the apartment, to include hot plates, chemical soaked cotton batting, and loops of three types of electrical wire. The small fire supposedly started in the kitchen sink after one of the terrorists poured water on an unknown substance; the fire went out without the firefighter's assistance.

Filipino police arrested Abdul Hakim Ali Hashim Murad when he returned to the apartment after the fire to collect a laptop computer. Murad gave the police the name of Ahmed Saeed and reportedly stated that firecrackers had gone off in the apartment and caused the incident. The reported fire and Murad's arrest resulted in a full search of the apartment, which uncovered additional evidence and bomb making precursor chemicals. The apartment was purportedly used to make bombs and stage the plotting of the attack. The Filipino firefighters were credited for the initial suspicion of the incident that developed into the discovery of the large-scale plot and gave U.S. law enforcement an indication of an attack, with distinctive similarities to 9/11.

*TLO Note: Fire and emergency personnel may often come into contact with buildings that have "strange smells" or fires that go out without firefighter assistance. TLOs must use their knowledge of pre-incident indicators along with their assessment of the entire situation to determine whether the incident is suspicious and warrants reporting to JTTF.*

### *Terrorists Target First Responders With Secondary Devices*

Secondary explosive devices can be used after a terrorist bombing of a primary location to create further panic, a diversion, and cripple a response effort to the primary attack. As stated above, Barot Dhiren and possibly four other groups of men are suspected of conducting preoperational planning/targeting of fire stations. The concept of the second-stage tactic aimed at domestic first responders is not a recent development. As early as the late 1970s and early 1980s, a Puerto Rican pro-independence group used the tactic against first responders.

The case of anti-abortion extremist Eric Robert Rudolph illustrates the targeting of first responders in a secondary attack. In 1997, Rudolph bombed a facility in Georgia. The first blast was at 9 a.m. in front of a clinic followed by a secondary charge detonated an hour later where first responders had historically staged for previous incidents (e.g. during actual calls or suspected hoax calls); the secondary blast injured 57 people.