

Connecting the Dots: Predicting and Averting Disaster

Lay out the cases: random shooters and bombers in businesses and schools and colleges, who kill others and then, often, themselves. Apocalyptic cults that commit suicide en masse. Homicidal, suicidal terrorists who kill themselves in order to kill others, detonating their bombs in crowded malls or navigating passenger jets into buildings. Serial and spree killers who randomly murder.

How can there be any semblance of logic behind such crazed brutality? The knee-jerk reaction is to say that they are insane or evil—neither of which needs a coherent reason. Although some RANDOM ACTORS are time-bombs ticking away, they are also people. And although their crimes play out in different contexts, their core behavioral traits and the texture of their daily lives before they strike are usually consistent and predictable. Identifying the pattern and predictability in their behavior can help us take apart the “wires” before they detonate.

Since 1981, as an independent investigative journalist I’ve watched violent RANDOM ACTOR trends emerge—working cases, researching hundreds of others, and training professionals. I’ve observed and recorded the cult activity of the 1970s and 1980s, the gang activity of the 1980s and 1990s, and RANDOM ACTOR incidents from the 1990s to the present. The progression of unique cases and off-the-beaten-path research were the seemingly disparate threads that helped me connect the dots of RANDOM ACTOR profiles and trends that are the business of this book.

The purpose of this brief chapter is to provide a road map of the rest of the book. First, we’ll look at cases and research that led me to identify the RANDOM ACTOR profile in the early 1990s and specific future trends. Second, we’ll look at some seemingly isolated dots that, when connected, bring the entire picture into focus. And finally, we’ll look at an overview of how this book is organized.

Twenty Years of Cases: Cracking the Code

A pilot charged with improving security at his major airline earnestly said to me, “You’ve cracked the code.” Pilots train for unpredictability, so that when it arises they can deal with it. For him, cracking the code meant

one of his pals might not have died on 9/11. He asked me how I'd found the key to RANDOM ACTOR violence. The truth is that it was a result of seemingly disconnected professional courses I'd pursued that eventually pointed out "the code"—the two behavioral wires that, when they touch, can ignite catastrophic lethal and non-lethal incidents. Here is the progression of unique cases and off-the-beaten-path research—seemingly disparate threads—that helped me connect the dots of the RANDOM ACTOR profile as well as future trends.

Suicidal cult-like leader (1981–83)—I investigated my first RANDOM ACTOR case just three years after the 1978 Jonestown Massacre, in which over 900 followers of cult leader Jim Jones committed suicide. James Hydrick, the focus of my investigation, was forming a cult-like group in Salt Lake City, Utah. Hydrick regularly made suicidal/homicidal threats and used a contrived religious dogma and claims of power, similar to Jim Jones, to snare a following. My 18-month undercover investigation resulted in the documentary, "Psychic Confession," which presented the first "confession" of a cult-like leader. I observed intimately how people develop the RANDOM ACTOR traits and how these types of aberrant groups form.¹ This insight was invaluable when considering suicidal terrorist activity. (More on this case in Chapters 5 and 12).

Suburban gangs (1987–94)—Shortly after the 1983 airing of "Psychic Confession," I predicted that gangs were going to form in affluent, non-inner-city communities in sizable numbers for the first time in U.S. history. This was based upon observations of how Hydrick's cult-like group formed. By 1987, gangs started appearing across North America and Europe in suburbs and small towns, locales that were statistically safe from crime. Seven years of research in eleven countries led to my book, *Suburban Gangs—The Affluent Rebels* (1994). My time in these communities helped me understand (and predict in the early 1990s) why virtually every RANDOM ACTOR bombing or shooting in North America or Europe occurred in a small town or suburb.

Korem Profiling System (1988–93)—The presidents of a number of large companies, members of the Young Presidents Organization, asked me to develop a system for behavioral profiling that didn't rely upon a written test. Their intent was to use this hip-pocket skill to improve productivity, negotiations, hire staff, lead teams, promote positive relationships, and successfully communicate in multi-cultural interactions. Research and development with behavioral experts culminated in the development of the *Korem Profiling System*. A component of the system identified two specific behavioral traits that, combined, identified the RANDOM ACTOR profile, which proved to be useful in averting RANDOM ACTOR incidents in organizations.

Postal shooter & RANDOM ACTOR connection (1994)—While reviewing random postal shooting cases, which first occurred in 1983, I asked the question: *Why are there random shooters in the US Post Office but not at UPS? Both are in the delivery business.* I discovered that virtually all the shooters had the RANDOM ACTOR profile. That discovery enabled me to identify a similar pattern in random company shootings and to make a series of durable predictions regarding where RANDOM ACTORS would and wouldn't strike, including: 1. Types of organizations that are especially susceptible 2. The areas in an organization that are more and less likely to experience a RANDOM ACTOR incident 3. Why small towns and suburbs—traditionally safe communities—are especially at risk for a RANDOM ACTOR terrorist incident.

RANDOM ACTOR school shootings, bombings, and stopping threats (1997–2002)—In June of 1997 my book *The Art of Profiling—Reading People Right the First Time*, was published. In that book I had written that catastrophic RANDOM ACTOR terrorist events using explosives were likely to be committed by suburban high school and university/college students. That prediction was based upon the large number of youths I'd observed from low-crime neighborhoods with the RANDOM ACTOR traits while researching *Suburban Gangs*. Three months later, on October 7, 1997, in Pearl, an upscale suburb of Jackson, Mississippi, the first RANDOM ACTOR mass shooting that established a school trend occurred, followed by similar slayings—all in small towns and suburbs across North America and Europe that have persisted to the present.

Concerned education and law enforcement associations sought help and training to prevent incidents, and the next years were a flurry of activity for me, including numerous state and national addresses where I surveyed attendees for additional data. (As needed, adjunct faculty were added to my company's training cadre, each a specialist with proven experience.) Through 2002, over 15,000 educators received training and best practices were established with their feedback, including identification without stereotyping and a three-point intervention that helped guide most youths out of their destructive profiles within weeks. Many incidents were averted and not even a letter of complaint was filed as a result of inappropriate application.

Most important, training was provided to over 2,000 educators in a region of a major state. *It is the only known region in the United States that didn't have bomb threats in schools after 9/11.*² This was significant for many reasons, including the potential to thwart suicidal terrorist incidents, here and abroad. In other countries, RANDOM ACTOR youths are regularly recruited by adults to commit catastrophic acts. Domestically, the Muhammad-Malvo duo is an example.

Law enforcement and military training (1996–2004)—I trained several thousand law enforcement and military professionals, including elite cadres, regarding identification skills and engagement tactics to prevent incidents. One fact that surfaces throughout this book is the number of young teens and adults who are RANDOM ACTORS. (For the last 20 years, most suicide bombers were 17–24.) When you consider that most RANDOM ACTOR school shooters also commit or threaten suicide, it's not much of a leap to imagine U.S. youths like Charles Bishop being recruited by domestic or foreign groups or individuals to commit similar acts. One military professional noted that he originally thought that the “youth and young adult factor” training he received would be of little real-time value in combat. He changed his mind, though, when he was deployed to Iraq and many of his insurgent arrests were in that age range.



Charles Bishop.

Random Actors take aim on statistically safe communities (2001–2002)—Like the Muhammad-Malvo duo, who killed randomly selected



Joseph Konopka.

targets, other RANDOM ACTOR incidents continued to surface in unlikely places and by people not perceived as violent, like three RANDOM ACTOR students who lived within miles of each other in statistically safe small towns in Wisconsin. The incidents they committed were unrelated.

In early 2002, Joseph Konopka, 25, had amassed a cache of sodium and potassium cyanide, which he stored in a storage closet in a downtown Chicago subway tunnel, where he lived for months. Aided by Chicago-area teens, Konopka lived in the subway after he jumped bail in Wisconsin for committing acts of violence and sabotage, targeting energy, telecommunications and air navigation systems. These attacks caused more than \$800,000 in damage and 28 power outages, affecting more than 30,000 Wisconsin residents. Teenagers he recruited for his “Realm of Chaos” said that Dr. Chaos, Konopka’s preferred moniker, was going to unleash the cyanide on the Windy City. Chicago Police arrested Konopka before his attack, and Commander Ed Goss warned, “If there were disbelievers that there could be a threat to our system [which serves 500,000 per day], they are believers now.”²⁴

Another RANDOM ACTOR attack was launched by John Helder, a 21-year-old art and industrial design student at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie, Wisconsin, a few miles from where Konopka grew up. In April, a month after Konopka’s arrest, Helder



John Helder. Mail carriers across five states delivered mail only to open mailboxes.

randomly placed bombs in mailboxes in rural communities across Illinois, Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, and Texas. His goal was to create a “smiley face” on the map using explosives. Sounds ludicrous? It is until you talk to people who were innocently maimed getting their mail, the hundreds of thousands of who only opened their mailbox using a long stick or broom or rake handle, and the mail carriers who delivered mail only if boxes were opened. In a third near-incident, a high school attack was averted when school administrators applied RANDOM ACTOR identification and intervention skills.

Reverse Engineering to Connect the Dots

When researching a new threatening trend, I often *reverse engineer* the trend. For example, to find solutions that stopped gang recruitment, I asked gang members: Who left your gang and why? Is there a pattern? Can it be replicated? If there are two similarly at-risk people, why does one person join a gang and another doesn't? Can the “deterrent” that stopped one person be replicated to stop another? Regarding the RANDOM ACTOR issue, I asked: “Why do RANDOM ACTORS commit shootings at the post office but *not* in organizations that are in the same business, like UPS and FedEx? The answer to the UPS-FedEx riddle, explained in Chapters 4 and 21) helped me to start asking the right questions and connect other dots.

In a terrorist environment, one of the most powerful questions you can ask is, “Where are bombs *not* going off and *why*?” If you answer those questions, then you can try replicating those strategies in high risk areas.

For example, all RANDOM ACTOR school shootings in North America and Europe since 1997 have occurred in suburbs and small towns. An important question: Why aren't inner-city youths from tough neighborhoods committing the same kind of crimes? In other words, what wires are touching in the suburbs and small towns that don't make contact or aren't present in the inner-city? Once answered, you can not only stop incidents from occurring, but other strands—dots—that help in other areas present themselves.

The inner-city question, for example, led me to investigate what is happening in the poorest countries. Do they have RANDOM ACTOR school shootings there? Then you find out that the 49 poorest countries⁵ in the world not only don't have RANDOM ACTOR school incidents, they also *don't* have terrorist acts. You find out that terrorism is a rich man's game. Most suicidal terrorists, like the 9/11 terrorists, aren't poor, but mostly educated—a requirement for Atta's gang to enroll in flight schools (there is also speculation, though, that only the attackers who commandeered the cabins knew of the suicidal plot—the others may have just thought it was a hijacking). Is there a connection between no school shootings and

no terrorist acts in poor countries?

And related to suicide bombers, which requires that one commit suicide, you look at the statistics of who does and doesn't commit suicide. Then you find out that black youths commit suicide at a much lower rate than their white counterparts. Is this a strand that tells us something about why there aren't inner-city RANDOM ACTOR school shootings? Virtually every RANDOM ACTOR school shooter either did commit or threaten suicide. Is there a connection? For example, during the Muhammad-Malvo duo incident, I monitored European countries that had high suicide rates, like affluent Finland. Three weeks into the duo's attacks, Petri Gerdt blew himself up at an upscale Helsinki mall, an unprecedented act in Finnish history. If the Finns had realized they were at risk for a major incident, perhaps heightened vigilance might have saved Gerdt's life and those he killed.

After the Littleton Massacre and 9/11, the United States experienced an unprecedented number of Americans—thousands—who simultaneously launched threats on other Americans. I asked three questions: Which communities *didn't* experience threats, why didn't they have threats, and can what they did be replicated?

As dots were connected and perspective shared with professionals, who added their expertise, extraordinary results emerged from the "frontlines" where the concepts were tested and refined after training and best practices developed.

Issues & Connections, Solutions & Results

These are the issues, solutions, results, and "connections" covered in this book and the chapters in which they are amplified.

Issues and Connections

1. The two RANDOM ACTOR traits of the RANDOM ACTOR profile. (Chapter 3)
2. Why there is an unprecedented number of people (per capita) with the RANDOM ACTOR traits, and the specific behavioral shift on planet earth that collided with a specific social trend that brought this about. (Chapter 5)
3. Who RANDOM ACTORS inherently like and don't like and why—and who they frame their rage against. (Chapter 4)
4. Crimes rates are a poor predictor of RANDOM ACTOR incidents. Fact: The RANDOM ACTOR school shooting/bombing trend appeared just as the violent juvenile crime rate was *dropping*. (Chapter 20)
5. Virtually every RANDOM ACTOR school shooting/bombing in North America and Europe has occurred in affluent suburbs and small towns, the statistically safest communities. Why does this correlate with the fact that most suicide-homicide terrorist attacks occur in affluent and rarely the poorest countries—and most attackers are educated from middle- and upper-middle-class communities? (Chapters 20–24)

6. Which university and college campuses are greatest at risk for RANDOM ACTOR incidents. (Chapter 21)
7. The *Bunker Syndrome*—Why, when cornered, do RANDOM ACTORS often commit suicide. (Chapter 11)
8. Is there a connection between psychopathic behavior and the RANDOM ACTOR profile? (Chapter 6)
10. Not all RANDOM ACTORS are potentially violent. Fact: The *New York Times* was the victim of one of the highest profile non-lethal RANDOM ACTOR incidents. Why was this incident avoidable? (Chapter 18)
11. Which communities, organizations, and areas in an organization are greatest at risk for RANDOM ACTOR incidents and why? (Chapters 4 and 18)
12. Is there a specific type of person who is a RANDOM ACTOR attracter? (Chapter 16)
13. Over 80% of RANDOM ACTORS who kill, don't just kill—they spiritualize their rage; this is not limited to Islamic extremists or cults. Why is this common? (Chapter 12)
14. During WWII, the world's most famous female test pilot tried to persuade Hitler to launch a German version of the Japanese *kamikaze*. What did she have in common with Mohammed Atta? (Chapter 23)
15. How Islamic extremist groups in London suburbs recruit middle-class British youths who are *not* of Middle-Eastern or Asian heritage. (Chapter 19)
16. The assassination of President John F. Kennedy and its aftermath was the result of the actions of three RANDOM ACTORS: Oswald, Ruby, and Garrison. (Chapter 17)
17. Timothy McVeigh, John Muhammad, and Robert Flores, Jr.—three mass killers—were all RANDOM ACTORS and Desert Storm vets. (Chapter 8)
18. Why youths with one of the RANDOM ACTOR traits may be misdiagnosed as having Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder—ADHD. (Chapter 16)

Solutions and Results

1. In one region of a major state, youths discovered with bombs and plots were regularly a threat to schools. Over 2,000 educators were trained and provided intervention to students with the RANDOM ACTOR traits. It was the only known region in the United States *that did not have bomb threats directed at schools following the 9/11 attacks*. Similar school districts around those school systems *did* have threats. (Chapters 4, 13–15, 20, and 21)
2. Kids from suburbs and small towns have committed most RANDOM ACTOR shootings—not inner-city youths. How does this correlate to the fact that black inner-city students *are less likely* to commit suicide than white students, and how can this be used to deter incidents? (Chapter 11)
3. There are two specific groups of schools that *rarely, if ever, have RANDOM ACTOR attacks*. What are they doing that is similar to UPS and FedEx—companies that don't have RANDOM ACTOR shootings? Why didn't these schools have bomb and shooting threats after Columbine and 9/11, but all other school groups did? (Chapters 4 and 21)
4. The *Missing Protector Strategy*—a proven strategy that stops almost all

- at-risk youth behavior, and is especially effective with RANDOM ACTOR youths. (Chapter 21)
5. How do you prevent someone from becoming a RANDOM ACTOR? (Chapters 5 and 13–15)
 6. The two most common reasons that people with the RANDOM ACTOR traits in North America guide themselves out of the destructive RANDOM ACTOR profile without direct intervention. (Chapter 15)
 7. Specifically, how do you lower the *potential* for a RANDOM ACTOR incident in a community or organization? (Chapters 4 and 13)
 8. How employers can successfully work with a person who has the RANDOM ACTOR traits. (Chapters 13 and 18)
 9. The *Psych Ward Effect*—A unique form of contagion of fear that affects RANDOM ACTORS. After the Littleton Massacre at Columbine High School and 9/11, thousands of Americans leveled unprecedented threats and attacks against Americans, including anthrax attacks, attacks on transportation, and threats directed at schools. What did specific communities do that *stopped their threats*? (Chapter 10)
 10. In 2004, a specialized combat unit in Iraq over a period of several months, made over 50 arrests of insurgents, *mujahideen*, *fedayeen*, and *jihadists*, “without a firing a shot.” (Chapter 24)
 11. Why do women rarely commit violent RANDOM ACTOR incidents, and how do you prevent a female teen or adult from becoming a suicide bomber? (Chapter 11 and 24)
 12. What is the most common reason why Palestinian suicide bombers and Japanese Kamikaze pilots *chose not to complete their mission*? How can this be used to thwart attacks? (Chapter 24)
 13. What are the most common reasons that male and female suicide bombers change their minds and *don't kill*? (Chapter 24)
 14. What did Mohammed Atta, the leader of the first Japanese *kamikaze* squadron, and the Pearl, Mississippi mass school shooter all have in common? How can this knowledge be used to prevent incidents? (Chapter 5, 22, 24)
 15. Why successful application of behavioral recognition skills *reduces* the likelihood of false identifications and stereotyping, like racial stereotyping (Chapter 3). Examples are presented of cases solved and people released who were *falsely* accused. (Chapter 10)

Content Notes

The first three sections of this book provide an overview of the RANDOM ACTOR profile, why the trend is here, whom they inherently like and don't like, whom they frame their rage against, solving cases and avoiding stereotyping, and other important observations. The fourth section, “Solutions,” reviews a three-point intervention strategy that, when applied, not only “takes the wires apart” and deters a person's rage, but also guides one out of the destructive profile. Case studies are provided. The fifth section, “Contexts for Rage,” examines RANDOM ACTOR incidents,

intervention, and future trends as they occur in specific contexts, including examples from history; workplace; gangs, cults, and extremist groups, “RANDOM ACTOR armies” like the suicidal *jihadists* in Iraq (2003–2005); K–12 schools and colleges and universities; suicide attackers.

Most of the chapters in this book could have been volumes in their own right. It was difficult to contain the dimensions of this book. Almost weekly, as I wrote, new and escalated RANDOM ACTOR incidents appeared—more data, more loss of life. With an eye on the future, I’ve selected cases for the insight they provide into specific issues and current and future trends, and not necessarily for their notoriety. The emphasis is always directed at *both* laymen and professionals using these insights and interventions to thwart incidents and provide relief.

For those who prefer more detail, please refer to the Source Notes and the website update at www.ifpinc.com, which serves as a “live addendum” that updates trends, provides the full text of some interviews, presents examples that were not included in the text, and errata that inevitably creep into all texts. The Appendix defines a handful of terms that have a very specific meaning in this text (usually noted by all caps). While those terms are defined in the first few chapters, the Appendix is provided as a convenient reference.

Additional technical data: A specific term, *suicide-homicide bomber*, is simply rendered *suicide bomber*. Suicide-homicide or homicide-suicide bomber is an appropriate approach to this type of attacker, as not all who try to kill others complete the task. The attacker, though, usually dies. With this in mind, *suicide bomber* or *suicide attacker* will be used for simplicity’s sake.

In some cases, the names of individuals, especially juveniles, or affected communities have been changed to protect identities and ensure their safety.

Regarding current terrorism cases, many facts are sealed and unavailable, or aren’t appropriate for release during on-going military engagements. Thus, I have reported only what is available and useful for perspective and have resisted speculation, except where noted.

Throughout the book, the word *terrorism* is used. For years, the U.S. State Department and federal agencies have officially used the term to denote acts of violence that had political motivation. Since the early 1990s, I’ve applied the word “terrorism” to specify the random killing of innocents. When RANDOM ACTOR school bombers, al Qaeda 9/11 suicide attackers, or the Muhammad-Malvo duo killed, the effect on the psyche was the same. RANDOM ACTOR violence is especially unsettling because you realize it can kill you even when you’re not looking for trouble. That’s why law enforcement, for example, will quickly declare publicly that a particular crime that *does* appear to be a random attack isn’t random. After a Washington, Kansas man was injured by a homemade bomb planted in a package he opened, the first thing that a USPS official declared was, “I can assure you

this wasn't a random act of terrorism. People shouldn't be worried about randomly receiving packages like this."⁶ At the present, federal officials are softening their use of the term terrorism as they are confronted with increasing incidents in a variety of contexts.

Regarding cases and patterns of human behavior, there are always variations, and examples are provided throughout the text that slightly veer off the narrow path. As one colleague put it, sometimes if you look too closely, you miss the big picture. Consider the concepts in this text as a topological map, rather than something seen through the lens of a microscope. By taking a step back when looking at a map, you may see a gully in a mountain, but you still know its part of a mountain. Please resist the impulse to make every case fit tightly into the patterns and trends I've reported. For example, black inner-city youths have not committed a RANDOM ACTOR school shooting; however, that doesn't mean that a black youth couldn't be recruited to commit a RANDOM ACTOR incident directed at schools. Lee Malvo, for example, a Jamaican teen living in the United States recruited by a former military veteran, shot a junior high student in front of his school. Or, women are rarely involved in lethal RANDOM ACTOR incidents, but there are females from a specific type of background who have been recruited by suicide terrorist cells. Recognition of identified patterns has saved and restored lives, but rigid application in the absence of evidence, is stereotyping. Therefore, to avoid redundancy, qualifiers such as *typically* and *usually* should be applied to any of the concepts presented.

If you are reading this book during an emergency and looking for perspective, please *don't* skip to and read one of the later chapters without *first* reading Chapters 3–16, or you will misread specific terms like UNPREDICTABLE, *Psych Ward Effect*, etc. Also, few people read a book cover to cover in a few sittings. To help you navigate quickly, I note where a specific idea or case will be or has been amplified in the text to provide you with useful links in addition to the Index.

With Solutions in Mind

Isolated RANDOM ACTOR incidents don't unbalance a nation. What can destabilize are sustained conditions that foster significant numbers of people with the RANDOM ACTOR traits and an attendant increase in incidents. This book has been written because the conditions that allow the RANDOM ACTOR trend to exist will persist for at least another 20 years.

If you doubt that, input the word "scare" or "school bomb" while schools are in session into an Internet news reporting engine that notifies you daily of related articles. Stories will be delivered to your inbox at an unimaginable frequency. This isn't because of improved reporting mechanisms; rather, we are witnessing unprecedented acts and an increased threat assessment. In our schools, for example, the most conservative estimate of the number

of youths who have the RANDOM ACTOR traits, from a student population of about 55 million,⁷ is one-half million students. This is less than half of a percent, but an intolerable number at a time when the ability to make explosive devices has replaced model making for many kids. And then, they become adults . . .

Consider this: The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor resulted in over 2,300 deaths and 1,100 wounded. The December 7, 1941 attack was carried out by over 350 pilots, 10,000 seaman, 6 aircraft carriers, 2 battleships, 3 cruisers, 11 destroyers, 35 submarines, 100,000 pounds of explosives, etc.⁸ The 9/11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 were carried out by only 19 RANDOM ACTOR attackers using box knives, cunning, and hand-to-hand combat tactics—turning four passenger jets into human-guided bombs. The message is clear. A handful of RANDOM ACTORS armed with even the simplest of technology can create a result drastically out of proportion to their numbers—like a man and a teenager, the Muhammad-Malvo duo, armed with rifles, who altered the daily lives of millions in an entire region of the United States.

Within days of Coalition troops taking Baghdad in April 2003, White House Press Secretary, Ari Fleischer, stated: “General Franks told the president that major combat operations have ended and that the next phase has begun, which is the reconstruction of Iraq.”⁹ In fact, the greatest loss of life for Coalition troops occurred during the “reconstruction” effort, daily battling *fedayeen* and insurgents flooding into Iraq from other countries—a RANDOM ACTOR ad hoc army, characterized as uniquely “unconventional.” Two months later, I trained a military special mission unit, and I emphasized the RANDOM ACTOR connection as related to new wars we will have to fight. Some were chagrined over the time spent, but when they returned from Iraq in 2004, they expressed thanks and said it widened their field of vision and saved lives. Similar to their law enforcement counterparts, they also expressed that preemptive work must be every citizen’s fervent commitment.

Understanding the RANDOM ACTOR traits and how to identify them without stereotyping is like identifying a fault line where pressure is building in the earth’s crust. You can see the fault line and measure the build up, you just can’t predict the day or the hour when an earthquake will strike. Unlike a fault line, most people who have the RANDOM ACTOR traits will respond to intervention. Not only will their internal pressure—and rage—dissipate, but the fault line will eventually disappear and potential threats cease as a possibility.

As you read this book, please ask yourself: *Who do I personally know with these traits? What can I do so that someone is less likely to become a RANDOM ACTOR? What can I do so that catastrophic RANDOM ACTOR incidents are less likely to occur? What can I do to assist someone who has the RANDOM ACTOR traits?*

Then resolve to find a way to do your part to help in your neighborhood, school, business, house of worship, organization, government agency, etc. You may be able to take action, provide assistance, or direction on your own, or you may need professional assistance. Regardless of how you lend a hand, sometimes even the thinnest sliver of assistance can yield an extraordinary transformation—out of proportion to the time and effort provided.

One man, who read the few pages included on RANDOM ACTOR behavior in *The Art of Profiling*, realized he had the traits. For him, it was revelatory that he could actually change and defeat his desolate tendencies. After acting upon the spartan advice provided in the text, he wrote: *I had read in your book that RANDOMACTORS CAN change . . . I can now manage my emotional thunderstorms without a “crutch” . . . I WILL use this to “treat people right the FIRST time.”* If you realize while reading this book that you have the extreme RANDOM ACTOR traits, know that shedding the destructive elements of this profile is not only possible, but it is something over which you *do* have direct control, and guidance is provided in Chapters 13–16.

I’ve videotaped interviews with adults and youths who have gone through similar transformations, and they are a reminder that *people* commit violent acts, not just abstract ideologies. Yes, we must strategically secure our infrastructures. Yes, we must tactically fight terrorist threats. But, as my colleague, Captain Steve Luckey, the national security chairman of the Airline Pilots Association, told me: *There is absolutely no way that we will ever be able to separate the terrorist from the items that they need to do us harm, with any predictable degree of accuracy and/or reliability.* Today, just a few RANDOM ACTOR terrorists leveraged with technology can cause massive devastation.

But, it is a person . . . a specific type of person . . . who typically kills innocents randomly. That’s why those like Captain Luckey have beat the drum that understanding who these people are and preemptive effort is central to any sane, long-term solution. As you learn about interventions that work, please consider where you or someone you know can provide assistance to someone—in the work place, at home, school, place of worship, youth organization, etc.

Finally, don’t become “fascinated” or dwell too long on the darker themes I’ve presented here. Stare too long into the heart of evil and it can swallow you whole and discourage courageous action. Instead, take to heart and be encouraged that there truly is a way to thwart the impulse of committing random catastrophic acts and be compelled to be one who nobly does one’s part for another. And, do it quickly, because the global carnivorous RANDOM ACTOR rage is hungry and desires to consume.

