

## MY OPINION

I want to open up by saying about 80% of the stories on the Boston case are driven by speculation, fear, and second hand information by so called experts that have no clue what they are talking about or they are just repeating what someone else has said. If you don't agree with me I suggest a little research around day two and three after the incident. Now why is it that the main stream media does not care about facts? Speculation can be dangerous and put innocent people in harms way, hopefully our media will soon realize this and make corrections to their standard operating procedures and realign their mission statement, if not the headline should read "Breaking Speculation". This paper is going to be based on the IEDs components reported by news outlets so far. I believe if we waited on the chemical analysis and forensics evidence from Quantico and other state of the art labs the picture would be clear and determine if there are links to larger elements. Unfortunately the media has to get that breaking story and try to solve the case, even reporting from Dagestan in the city of Makhachkala near the Caspian Sea a place known for terrorist activities. Well once again this drives speculation which creates more theories and all of a sudden we have a 12 man terrorist cell operating in the US. More fear and media spin almost as dangerous as explosives themselves. Alright enough ranting about the media lets take a look at the reported IED components.

As of last late night reporting on the 22 of April 23, 2013 the Washington Post stated "The FBI affidavit released Monday indicates that authorities recovered the remnants of a nearly identical device, a pressure cooker that "was of the same brand," at the scene of the shootout in Water town, Mass., where the older Tsarnaev brother was killed". The actual article:

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/fbi-suspects-had-several-bombs-left/2013/04/22/014dec6c-ab7d-11e2-b6fd-ba6f5f26d70e\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/fbi-suspects-had-several-bombs-left/2013/04/22/014dec6c-ab7d-11e2-b6fd-ba6f5f26d70e_story.html)

THE REAL FACTS: "Preliminary examination of explosives"<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chicago-dzhokhar-tsarnaev-charges-20130422,0,402562.htmlpage>

With these two sources we can begin to do some homework.

In looking at or investigating an incident such as the one in Boston in my opinion the research of the firing chain should come first. Start with the simple basics. How many possible ways can you detonate such a device in the urban setting without outside help and training? I am only going to talk about three.

First, cannon fuse which is different from mining or military grade time fuse. Green hobby cannon fuse can be purchased locally, on the internet, taken from fireworks not very hard to acquire.

Links: <http://www.cannonfuse.com/store/pc/American-Visco-Cannon-Fuse-p1.htm>

<http://www.skylighter.com/visco-fuse.htm>

Second, Commercial blasting caps either electric or non-electric.



The top picture: Non-Electric Detonators

The bottom picture: Electric Detonators



Third: Homemade Detonators: Constructed several ways, aluminum tubing, flexi-straws, ink pens, just about anything that will house a small charge and a bridge wire. Normally chemicals such as peroxides, hexamine, citric acid, and others are used to manufacture the highly sensitive crystals.

We have now looked at three ways to set off some explosives. So, what exactly are we dealing with here as far as means of initiation? I am about to tell you. First of all hobby fuse or cannon fuse is the most likely culprit why because it's easy to acquire and sets off black powder with ease. Something else to think about is when was the last time a seasoned terrorist used hobby fuse? Well then if we are dealing with black powder and hobby fuse I am definitely not trying to link the suspects to some hardened terrorist organization it's almost laughable in my opinion. "Lone Wolfs" which is a terrible title should be more like "Lone Rodents" driven by what ever (multiple things), is more than likely what you should be looking for.

Secondly are they using commercial detonators? If so, implies they are super connected to underground sources or they stole them from a mine or construction site. These detonators are highly protected by the ATF and professionals in the explosive field.

Lastly, Home made detonators can tell an analyst a lot, this is where the season investigator will come to a fork in the road and will take both paths. One path may lead and may connect to a larger terrorist group or cell. (At this point the media has already solved the case 12 times) The other path may

once again prove to be our own disgruntled people. This stuff is not rocket science and yes it will happen again it's just a matter of time.

This is where I would discuss several explosive fillers but we now know its black powder. Don't get me wrong black powder is highly explosive and was used as the main blasting material before nitroglycerine was made stable enough through Alfred Nobel's invention of dynamite. Still not the choice for seasoned organized terrorist, I'm not saying they won't use it, just unlikely. Don't believe me go ask Boko Haram in Nigeria, who use IEDs almost on a daily basis. The last thing I want to say about black powder is that its not only bought in stores there are several recipes to make your own.

Containers to house the charge: Anything that is waterproof because of the nature of black powder. More than likely a small plastic sports drink container would work just as well as PVC pipe or steel pipe. The mention of plastic containers were used, I'm guessing PVC capped on one end packed with shrapnel and black powder and a cap on the other end with a fuse well drilled in the cap for the green hobby fuse ("Grass Roots" terrorism play). Looking at the pressure cooker it's obvious to me high explosives were not used because the pieces from the left over container were too large, but obviously effective. In constructing such a device there are multiple ways. I will talk about two. First you just haphazardly mix in your shrapnel with your black powder and your done, wham you just created a 360 degree IED. Second a claymore type effect can be achieved by using adhesive such as epoxy or other glues to contain your ball bearings, nuts and bolts or other in a matrix. Placed in the pressure cooker and the charge behind it, if turned on its side the lid and shrapnel matrix becomes a directional weapon.

I am very sad this happened and I am disappointed in the media spin which only creates conspiracy theories, unnecessary work, appears to cause more harm for investigators, not to mention heightens the fear of the public. If that's your thing and like to read junk so be it. I like to have faith in my law enforcement and wait for facts. In the days to come more evidence will come to light and I am hoping its basic and we don't have a bigger problem than what was discussed. I will leave you with a couple more links.

<http://jesterscourt.cc/2013/04/23/boston-marathon-bombing-just-a-hunch/>

<http://www.heavy.com/news/2013/04/pictures-of-boston-bombers-shooting/>