



Mark Steven Domingo

- Age 28 at time of Sentencing
- Resided in Reseda, CA
- Former U.S. Army Infantryman assigned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky
- Deployed to Afghanistan from September 10, 2012 to January 16, 2013.

CASE STUDY

Providing material support to terrorists Attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction

WHAT HAPPENED

Mark Steven Domingo expressed his desire to seek violent retribution for attacks against Muslims in internet posts and forums. Domingo also stated willingness to become a martyr for the Islamic faith. Following an attack on Muslims in New Zealand in March 2019, Domingo called for violent retribution. In another online post, Domingo called for a mass shooting event similar to the October 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas.

After considering various attacks including targeting Jewish people, churches and police officers with shootings or bombing, Domingo decided to bomb a white supremacist rally scheduled to take place on April 26, 2019 in Long Beach, California. Domingo asked a confederate, who actually was working with the FBI as part of an investigation, if he knew a bomb-maker who could be brought into the scheme. Domingo also purchased several hundred 3½-inch nails to be used as shrapnel for the bombs and provided them to his confederate with the intent of giving the nails to the bomb-maker. Domingo specifically chose those nails because they were long enough to penetrate organs in the human body.

In April 2019, Domingo drove his confederate and the undercover officer to Long Beach to scout the location he planned to attack. While there, Domingo looked for the most crowded areas to place the bombs so he could maximize the number of casualties.

On April 26, 2019, Domingo received what he thought were two live bombs, but were actually inert explosive devices delivered by an undercover law enforcement officer. He was arrested that same day with one of the bombs in his hands.

At trial, Domingo testified that he intended to commit mass murder. He testified that he was the one who chose to attack the rally, chose to use the bombs, and chose to go through with the plot to commit mass murder.

Domingo was convicted of providing material support to terrorists and attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction and sentenced to 25 years in prison.

INDICATORS



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- **Criminal, Violent, or Abusive Conduct - Threatening violence**
In multiple online posts and conversations, Domingo described his support for violent jihad and his aspiration to conduct an attack in the Los Angeles area. In another post, Domingo wrote, “~~im jus enraged atm5 [.] these _____ do need to bleed [.] one way or another.[sic]”
- **Violent Extremist Mobilization**
Domingo purchased several hundred 3½-inch nails to be used as shrapnel for the bombs. Domingo also personally scouted the location he planned to attack.

IMPACT

Domingo admitted during cross-examination, that the only reason his attack was unsuccessful was because the FBI arrested him when they did. Domingo repeatedly stated that he was intent on killing innocent Americans and would have done so had he not been stopped. He intended to commit mass murder to vent his own anger at the world, to avenge the shooting of Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand, and to sow civil unrest that would weaken America's ability to fight ISIS and other Jihadist groups. He repeatedly expressed his desire to kill various groups of Americans: police officers, Jews, Christians, military personnel, and ultimately, attendees at a political rally in Long Beach. He admitted on the stand that he led and fully intended to carry out a plot to detonate bombs at that rally to commit mass murder. Had he not been stopped, he planned to commit further terrorist attacks to kill more innocent people and attempt to divide and weaken the United States.

ADDITIONAL INFO

- In 2011, Domingo joined the United States Army and volunteered to serve as an Infantryman in Afghanistan. While serving, he was mocked, disciplined, criticized, and ostracized from and by his platoon and his anger grew until he began writing the names of those he felt aggrieved by on his rifle ammunition. He was subsequently separated from the military.
- After his return home, Domingo found acceptance amongst Alt-Right communities on Facebook and other social media. At the same time, he began studying Islamic history and he identified with their victimization. It was in Islam-related chatrooms (and with other self-professed Muslims) that Domingo demonstrated his vulnerabilities, sadness, and depression and espoused violent and offensive statements. Gradually he became self-radicalized and prepared to take violent action.
- Prosecutors recommended a sentence of life in prison stating, "He admitted that the [confidential informant] stopped him from committing at least one murder in April 2019 by encouraging him to be patient. Finally, he admitted that he was excited when he learned that the [confidential informant] had access to an individual who could construct a bomb, and that he was the one who chose to attack the rally, chose to use the bombs, and chose to go through with the plot to commit mass murder, right up until the moment of his arrest."

Questions to consider:

- Could Domingo's self-radicalization have been mitigated while serving in the military? If so, how?

Resources for further exploration:

- [FBI Lone Offender Terrorism Report](https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/lone-offender-terrorism-report-111319.pdf)
<https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/lone-offender-terrorism-report-111319.pdf>
- [Homegrown Violent Extremist Mobilization Indicators](https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaids/insider/homegrown-violent-extremist-mobilization-indicators.pdf)
<https://www.cdse.edu/Portals/124/Documents/jobaids/insider/homegrown-violent-extremist-mobilization-indicators.pdf>
- [FBI Monograph: Making Prevention a Reality](https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/making-prevention-a-reality.pdf)
<https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/making-prevention-a-reality.pdf>

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

Contact the appropriate POC to report any observed potential risk indicators:

Name: _____
Title: Supervisor/Security Officer/ITP

Agency/Department: _____
Senior Official/ITP Manager