

**TABLE 15.3**

## Definitions of Terrorism by Four U.S. Government Agencies

### **DEFINITIONS OF TERRORISM**

1. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): "Terrorism is the use of force or violence against persons or property in violation of the criminal laws of the United States for purposes of intimidation, coercion, or ransom."<sup>57</sup>
2. U.S. State Department: Terrorism "means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents"<sup>58</sup>
3. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI): Terrorism is defined as "the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof in furtherance of political or social objectives."<sup>59</sup>
4. Department of Defense: Terrorism is "the unlawful use of violence or threat of violence, often motivated by religious, political, or other ideological beliefs, to instill fear and coerce governments or societies in pursuit of goals that are usually political."<sup>60</sup>