

Another Yemen-hatched bomb plot foiled

The CIA says it stopped a bomb plot near the one-year anniversary of the killing of Osama bin Laden by al-Qaida's affiliate in Yemen. The plot was designed to destroy an airliner bound for America with an upgraded form of "underwear bomb" using an improved detonation system.

Air bomb attempts

Dec. 25, 2009

Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab tried to set off underwear bomb as flight approached Detroit; it ignited but did not explode



Cargo planes plot, Oct. 29, 2010

Two boxes packed with laser printers and modified toner cartridges containing plastic explosives were intercepted on cargo jets bound for the U.S. from Yemen, via England and the United Arab Emirates; the explosives used were similar to those in the underwear attempt; al-Asiri's involvement suspected



Central Intelligence Agency
Seized the new device before the would-be suicide bomber could choose a destination and flight



Anwar al-Awlaki
Former chief of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) killed in U.S. drone airstrike in Yemen on Sept. 30, 2011



Ibrahim al-Asiri
AQAP master bomb maker; believed killed with Awlaki; Yemeni officials later confirm he was not among dead

Latest plot

Like others, device seized was totally nonmetallic, but with a redesigned detonation mechanism; U.S. officials say AQAP has been trying to design surgically implanted bombs to defeat airport security scans

Terror attacks or plots involving Yemen

Oct. 12, 2000

USS Cole attack; 17 sailors killed

June 2001

Failed attack on U.S. embassy in Yemen

Sept. 17, 2008

Car bomb detonated near U.S. embassy; attackers and Yemeni police exchange fire

2009

Underwear bomb fails

2010

Air cargo plot fails

Recently

New bomb plot foiled

Officials: Al-Qaida Bomber Was CIA Informant

BY EILEEN SULLIVAN, MATT APUZZO AND ADAM GOLDMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The CIA had al-Qaida fooled from the beginning.
Last month, U.S. intelligence learned that al-Qaida's Yemen branch hoped to launch a spectacular attack using a new, nearly undetectable bomb aboard an airliner bound for America, officials say.
But the man the terrorists were counting on to carry out the attack was actually working for the CIA and Saudi intelligence, U.S. and Yemeni officials told The Associated Press on Tuesday.
The dramatic sting operation thwarted the attack before it had a chance to succeed.
It was the latest misfire for al-Qaida, which has repeatedly come close to detonating a bomb aboard an airliner. For the United States, it was a victory that delivered the bomb intact to U.S. intelligence.
The officials spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the operation. The cooperation of the would-be bomber was first reported Tuesday evening by *The Los Angeles Times*.
The FBI is still analyzing the explosive, which was intended to be concealed in a passenger's underwear. Officials said it was an upgrade over the bomb that failed to detonate on board an airplane over Detroit on Christmas 2009. This new bomb contained no metal and

used a chemical — lead azide — that was to be a detonator in a nearly successful 2010 plot to attack cargo planes, officials said.
Security procedures at U.S. airports remained unchanged Tuesday, a reflection of both the U.S. confidence in its security systems and a recognition that the government can't realistically expect travelers to endure much more. Increased costs and delays to airlines and shipping companies could have a global economic impact, too.
"I would not expect any real changes for the traveling public," said House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Mich. "There is a concern that overseas security doesn't match ours. That's an ongoing challenge."
While airline checks in the United States mean passing through an onerous, sometimes embarrassing series of pat-downs and body scans, procedures overseas can be a mixed bag. The U.S. cannot force other countries to permanently adopt the expensive and intrusive measures that have become common in American airports over the past decade.
The Transportation Security Administration sent advice to some international air carriers and airports about security measures that might stave off an attack from a hidden explosive. It's the same advice the U.S. has issued before, but there was a thought that it might get new attention in light of the foiled plot.
The U.S. has worked for years to try to improve security for U.S.-bound flights originating

at international airports. And many countries agree that security needs to be better. But while plots such as the Christmas attack have spurred changes, some security gaps that have been closed in the U.S. remain open overseas.
Officials believe that body scanners, for instance, probably would have detected this latest attempt by al-Qaida to bring down a jetliner. Such scanners allow screeners to see objects hidden beneath a passenger's clothes.
But while scanners are in place in airports nationwide, their use is scattershot overseas. Even in security-conscious Europe, the European Union has not required full-body imaging machines for all airports, though a number of major airports in Paris, London, Frankfurt and elsewhere use them.
All passengers on U.S.-bound flights are checked against terrorist watch lists and law enforcement databases.
In some countries, U.S. officials are stationed in airports to offer advice on security matters. In some cases, though, the U.S. is limited to hoping that other countries follow the security advice from the Transportation Security Administration.
"Even if our technology is good enough to spot it, the technology is still in human hands and we are inherently fallible," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., a member of the House Intelligence Committee. "And overseas, we have varying degrees of security depending on where the flight originates."

Europe's Political Consequences Could Spread To The U.S.

JIM KUHNHEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The elections that drove Nicolas Sarkozy out of power in France and left Greece scrambling to build a coalition government pose a financial threat to the United States that could undermine President Barack Obama's efforts to cast himself as the agent of a U.S. economic revival.
For Obama, the danger is that any economic turmoil unleashed by the French and Greek elections will spill over to the United States, slow the recovery even more and, ultimately, further jeopardize his re-election, adding him to the recent roster of politicians whose careers have been short-circuited by economic anger.
At the same time it has shifted Europe's political balance to the left and in favor of the type of economic growth policies that Obama has advocated both for Europe and for the United States.
For Mitt Romney, the all-but-certain Republican presidential challenger, the results in Europe underscore how deeply economic unease affects politics. They feed his camp's underlying storyline: that Obama's economic policies would not safeguard the United States from a widening European recession.
But as a rejection of austerity measures, the European elections also present a cautionary tale for the type of belt-tightening that Romney and congressional Republicans have embraced.
"It is clear there is a lot of economic anxiety in the EU that is affecting world markets, and how that affects the economy will have an impact on voters throughout this summer and into the fall," Romney adviser Kevin Madden said.
Obama senior campaign adviser David Axelrod has said repeatedly that the biggest challenge to Obama's re-election is economic developments beyond

Obama's control.
"As has happened several times before, when our economy gets going, events elsewhere can intervene and throw a monkey wrench in the works," he said. "We're not hoisting a 'Mission Accomplished' banner. We know there is a lot of work left to be done and the headwinds are part of that equation."
While economic crises appear to be taking their political toll across the Atlantic, the United States is not Europe.
The anti-incumbent mood that swept through France, Greece and Italy in the past three days was fed by grievances that have little resemblance to the anxiety percolating here. Across the Atlantic, voters rebelled against deep austerity measures designed to address the 17-nation eurozone debt crisis. In the U.S., government belt-tightening has been far less severe and the debate has centered on Obama's calls for more short-term spending to stimulate a weak economic recovery.
"The debate we're having here in the United States is different than the one they're having in Europe," Madden said, "but the economy is still the premier issue that voters are using to consider their vote for president in November."
Obama advisers are quick to note the difference, saying Obama has pressed for an approach to debt reduction that includes cuts and increased revenue, such as higher taxes on wealthier taxpayers and the elimination of some tax breaks for corporations.
If the elections in Europe represented voters recoiling to austerity measures, Axelrod said, "I don't think we'll get caught up on the wrong side of that debate."
Still, the U.S. economic recovery has been weak and erratic. With millions out of work, the unemployment rate remains above 8 percent, and polls show more people disapproving of Obama's handling of the economy than approving.

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Celebrating National Nurses Week MAY 6 – 12

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In May, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital celebrates National Nurses Week — a time during which we express deep appreciation for our diversified team of talented nurses.

Inset: Pamela J. Rezac, President/CEO, EdD, RN

Pictured: Marvin Olmes, RN, Medical; Jan Johnson, RN, Infection Control; Jan Jans, RN, Utilization Review; Wanda Schieffer, RN, Dialysis; Nancy Cuka, RN, ED/Trauma; Cheryl Slowey, RN, Nurse Supervisor; Megan Marsh, RN, Avera Sr. James Nursing Home; Jenny Cole, RN, Rehab/Swingbed; Tom Viereck, RN, Director Surgical Services; Nicole Vastenhout, RN, nurse anesthetist; Ron Pesek, RN, Clinical Documentation Specialist; Tiffany Weeks, RN, Same Day Surgery; Mary Pistulka, RN, Home Health/Hospice; Deb Pinkelman, RN, Cardiology; Janine VanOsdel, RN, OB/GYN; Lori Pietz, RN, Clinical Informatics; Lynette Bruening, Director Staffing/Clinical Support; Linda Schweitzer, RN, Avera Yankton Care Center; LouAnn Creekmore, RN, ICU; Barbara Larson, RN, VP Patient Care Services; Mary Frick, RN, Same Day Surgery; Stacy Kotalik, RN, Surgical; Liz Healy, RN, Float.

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