

U.S. VOWS TIGHTER AIR SECURITY

IN WAKE OF FAILED AIRLINE BOMBING OVER DETROIT, PRESSURE MOUNTS TO COUNTER TERROR PLOTS

2nd scare in Detroit rattles travelers

By CATHERINE ANN HILL, ESPN
The Detroit News

DETROIT — About 10 hours after officials responded to an attempted terrorist act on Christmas Day, a 2nd major scare in the Detroit area on the same day rattled travelers on the same flight — sparking fear and confusion about the city's security.

Although the FBI and airport officials said the incident was "non-threatening" and no charges were filed, it raised a new wave of concern about the city's security.

"We were all scared," said one local resident, who was surprised to see the flight on the news. "We didn't know what was going on."

The FBI said it received a tip from a source that a person had placed a bomb on a Northwest Airlines flight from Detroit to London on Christmas Day. The person was arrested and charged with terrorism. The FBI said it is still investigating the case.

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BY PHIL BORN, DENVER POST/STAFF WRITER

The Obama administration's decision to allow a Christmas Day terrorist incident aboard an airplane flying to Detroit, but not to prosecute the suspect, will raise a new wave of concern about the city's security.

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Investigators: Northwest Bomb Plot Planned by al Qaeda in Yemen



By RICHARD ESPOSITO and BRIAN ROSS (@brianross)
Dec. 26, 2009

The plot to blow up an American passenger jet over Detroit was organized and launched by al Qaeda leaders in Yemen who apparently sewed bomb materials into the suspect's underwear before sending him on his mission, federal authorities tell ABC News.

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Hundreds of people in Detroit area were almost killed by This Christmas M Bomber Investigators say Abdul Farouk Umar Abdulmutallab, a 23-year-old Nigerian Muslim student whose birthday was last Tuesday, has provided detailed information about his recruitment and training for what was supposed to be a Christmas Day suicide attack.

According to the authorities, Abdulmutallab says he made contact via the internet with a radical imam in Yemen who then connected him with al Qaeda leaders in a village north of the country's capital. Authorities say they do not yet know if the imam was the same one who was in contact with Maj. Nidal Hasan prior to his alleged attack on soldiers at Fort Hood last month. American-born Anwar Awlaki has lived in Yemen since 2002 and is considered a major recruiter for al Qaeda by U.S. authorities. Authorities say the combination of the liquid in the syringe with the powder created the flash bomb, which was extinguished by passengers and air crew.