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SIGNIFICANT TERRORIST EVENT REPORT (STER)



Delta Christmas Detroit Attempt
25 Dec. 2009
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Around 1130 local time on 25 Dec. 2009, as a Delta flight designated Northwest Airlines flight 253 was on approach to land in Detroit from Amsterdam, Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, attempted to set off an explosive device made of 80g of PETN and sewn into his underwear in a six-inch plastic bag. The flight landed safely at 1153 local time at Detroit's airport. The device failed to detonate properly, however, reportedly due to an issue with the detonator. Abdulmutallab had spent about 20 minutes in the lavatory before coming back to his seat claiming he did not feel well. He then covered his lap with a blanket and apparently injected a liquid from a syringe into the device as he attempted to detonate it. The man was promptly subdued by another passenger, who was then supported by other passengers and crew. The passengers and crew acted after popping noises and a fire began from the failed device. Abdulmutallab was reportedly sitting in seat 19A, a likely deliberate choice as it positioned him atop the wing, over the fuel tanks and next to the skin of the aircraft. A few people on the plane received minor injuries. Abdulmutallab received 2nd and 3rd degree burns on and around his thighs.

On 28 Dec. 2009, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed the Delta attack in a 2-page written statement dated 26 Dec. The group also threatened further attacks and said they were coming soon.

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OVERVIEW

Around 1130 local time on 25 Dec. 2009, as a Delta flight designated Northwest Airlines flight 253, an Airbus 330-300, was on approach to land in Detroit from Amsterdam, Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, attempted to set off an explosive device made of 80g of PETN and sewn into his underwear in a six-inch plastic bag. The flight landed safely at 1153 local time at Detroit's airport. The device failed to detonate properly, however, reportedly due to an issue with the detonator. Abdulmutallab had spent about 20 minutes in the lavatory before coming back to his seat claiming he did not feel well. He then covered his lap with a blanket and apparently injected a liquid from a syringe into the device as he attempted to detonate it. The man was promptly subdued by another passenger, who was then supported by other passengers and crew. The passengers and crew acted after popping noises and a fire began from the failed device. After he was subdued he was taken to the 1st class section and cuffed until the plane landed, at which point US Customs Border Patrol agents took him into custody. Prior to attempting to detonate the device and afterwards Abdulmutallab was reported by witnesses as remaining calm and not resisting greatly. He was reportedly sitting in seat 19A, a likely deliberate choice as it positioned him atop the wing, over the fuel tanks and next to the skin of the aircraft. A few people on the plane received minor injuries. Abdulmutallab received 2nd and 3rd degree burns on and around his thighs.

Abdulmutallab had first boarded KLM flight 588 at Murtala Mohammed Airport in Lagos, Nigeria to Amsterdam on 24 Dec. He arrived at Schiphol airport in Amsterdam at 0511 local time on 25 Dec. He then had three hours to transfer to Delta/Northwest flight 253 for the flight to Detroit. While at Schiphol he passed standard security checks for a transit passenger which included a search, questioning and passing through a metal detector.

Abdulmutallab said he was directed by al-Qaeda in Yemen to detonate an explosive device aboard a flight over the US. He reportedly said he obtained the device in Yemen with instructions on how to use it. He reportedly said he was acting alone and not part of

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a larger plot. He was most likely referring to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) although his contacts may have involved elements of core al-Qaeda.

Abdulmutallab last apparent communication with his family was when he told them he was breaking ties and that he was now in Yemen studying sharia. This occurred in a text message sent at the end of Oct. or first week of Nov. 2009. It was due to this and growing concerns by his family that he had begun to be radicalized while studying in London that led his father to contact the US Embassy in Lagos, Nigeria on 19 Nov. and pass on his concerns.

On or shortly before 21 Dec. 2009, a video recording was made of an address by an al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) member giving a eulogy for individuals killed in an airstrike conducted in Abyan Province, Yemen on 17 Dec. against a training camp that killed key AQAP figures. The speaker said he has no agenda against Yemeni soldiers, only Americans. He said, "We are carrying a bomb to hit the enemies of God. O soldiers, you should learn that we do not want to fight you, nor do we have an issue with you. We only have an issue with America and its agents. So, be careful not to side with America." He added, "O worshipers of God, you should know that this nation, believers, and pious worshippers of God will score victory."

The video of the address is 14'14". The video was not formally released by the group but rather by an apparent supporter on 21 Dec. While it is not known for certain that the speaker had knowledge of the Delta attack, the possibility is being explored. Planning for the attack likely predated the 17 Dec. strike but it would be plausible for a member with knowledge of the plot to foreshadow a "positive" event in the near future, especially if it was in an address not intended to be broadly released.

The speaker in the video is believed to be Mohammed Ahmad Amir al-Kalwi who may have been killed in another airstrike on 24 Dec. in Wadi Rafd in Shabwah Province, Yemen.

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On 28 Dec. 2009, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed the 25 Dec. Delta attack. The two-page written claim, dated 26 Dec. 2009, included a photo of Abdulmutallab. AQAP said in the statement, "Our brother the mujahid the martyr Omar al-Farouq has conducted a unique operation on board of an American plane on route from Amsterdam to Detriot, during their "Christmas" celebrations on Friday 25 December 2009 AD, with courage he was able to breach all the modern and sophisticated technologies and checkpoints at the airports around the world, putting his faith in God fearing no death, his act has dealt a huge blow to the myth of American and global intelligence services and showed how fragile its structures are. ... It is the unity of doctrine and Islamic fraternity, which prompted a rich young man of Nigerian background Omar Al Farouq to directly retaliate, with the direct coordination of the mujahideen in the peninsula against the unjust American aggression on the Arabian Peninsula, Which fired its fragmentation bombs and Cruise missiles from its warships in the occupied gulf of Aden."

The statement discusses the manufacture of the device. It said, "Our brothers in the manufacturing department, have been able to construct, with God's help, advanced explosives packages, that has been tested against detection systems. Our brother with the help of God was able to reach his goal, but due to God's wisdom, a technical error prevented the explosion. We shall continue the path, God willing, till we reach our goal and religion in its entirety shall be to God."

The group also calls for further attacks. It said, "We call upon every Muslim who cares about his religion and doctrine to assist in expelling the apostasies from the Arabian Peninsula, by killing every crusader who works at their embassies or other places, declare it an all out war against every crusader on Mohammad's peninsula on land, air and sea. We call upon every soldier in the Crusader's army and the collaborating governments to repent to God, and follow our Mujahid brother Nidal Hassan's suit, and kill every crusader with any possible mean in order to support God's religion and establish his will on earth."

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The statement threatens further attacks against the American people. It said, "We inform the American people that since you support the leaders who kill our women and children, you shall receive what will make you fear; we have come to slaughter and prepared men who love to die with the same fervor as you love to live, and God willing, we will strike you with what you have no previous knowledge of, for as you kill you shall be killed, our vengeance is near."

This is the first time AQAP has struck outside of its Saudi Arabian/Yemen area of operations and is great cause for concern in terms of what this means for AQAP going forward but also in terms of how this may reflect ambitions by other regional and affiliate arms of al-Qaeda to attack in the US. In other words, groups like AQAP, al-Qaeda in the Land of the Islamic Maghreb (AQLIM), al-Shabaab, Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) and others may no longer be content to just carry out attacks in their own back yards. They are now in the mix, just as core al-Qaeda has been, as threats to the US both abroad and here on American soil. The terrorist threat environment to the US is more complicated and multi-faceted today than at any point since 9-11.

In the 73-page 11th issue of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's (AQAP) official magazine, Sada al-Malahim [The Echo of the Epic Battles], released on 28 Oct. 2009, an article appeared by AQAP Emir Abu Basir al-Wuhayshi entitled, "The Word of the Emir: War is a Trick". In the article he encourages jihadis to make their own explosive devices. He said, "You do not need a lot of effort nor do you need lots of money to make more or less than 10 grams of explosives. Do not waste so much time on searching for the materials since it is in the kitchen of your mother, in your hands, and in any city you are in. Reach to what Abu-al-Khayr did, may God grant him His mercy. Therefore, make it as a bomb which you throw and detonate by a remote control or a explosive belt, or in an electrical device as a recorder which you hear the sounds of explosives, or an image panel, or a paper file or a letter envelope..."

On targets, al-Wuhayshi said, "detonate it against any tyrant, or intelligence stronghold, or emir, or minister, or Crusader wherever you find them. Moreover, detonate it in the

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airports of the Western Crusader countries which participated in the war on Muslims, or in their aircraft, or residential compounds or in the train tunnels, etc... There will always be a trick if you think, rely on God, and do not fear to reveal it after you hide it very well. It is impossible to be revealed with the help of God. Read the indications on it.”

In the same issue of Sada al-Malahim, an article entitled, "Support Your Religion with Information About Your Enemies" appears. The article is referred to by Emir al-Wuhayshi in his own article. The article calls for information to assist in the group's planning of attacks. It also said, "As for us, we will contact whoever wants to carry out jihad with us and guide him in the appropriate way to kill agents and leaders of infidelity, even if they are in their bedrooms or work locations. Moreover, those who want to support the operations by giving alms and benefactions should contact us through the mail specified for that issue or through the 'Asrar al-Mujahidin' [Secrets of Mujahidin] program, following the right security procedures."

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THE ATTACK

- Photo of Abdulmutallab being taken into custody aboard aircraft shown above
- Suspect attempted to detonate device as plane was on approach in Detroit
- Abdulmutallab had 80 grams of PETN sewn into Abdulmutallab's underwear in six inch plastic packet
 - Was reportedly sewn into his underwear before he left for Yemen for his mission
- Abdulmutallab went to bathroom for about 20 minutes before attack, said he was sick
- Plot was reportedly planned in Yemen and device made by al-Qaeda or AQAP bomb maker
- According to the Criminal Complaint issued on 26 Dec. 2009, "On December 24, 2009, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab boarded Northwest Flight 253 in Amsterdam, Netherlands, which was scheduled to arrive in Detroit, Michigan on December 25, 2009. The flight carried 279 passengers and 11 crew members. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab had a device attached to his body. According to witnesses on the airplane, just prior to the plane's landing, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab set off a device, which resulted in a fire and what appears to have been an explosion. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was subdued and restrained by passengers and flight crew. The airplane landed at Detroit Metropolitan Airport almost immediately after. According to preliminary analysis, the device was identified as containing PETN, which is also

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known as pentaerythritol, high explosive. Much more complete laboratory analysis is ongoing.”

- According to the Criminal Complaint issued on 26 Dec. 2009, “Following arrival at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, agents attempted to interview all passengers and crew members of Flight 253. In general, those individuals who were on the flight and who were able to see Abdulmutallab report that prior to the incident, Abdulmutallab went to the bathroom for approximately twenty minutes. Upon returning to his seat, Abdulmutallab stated that his stomach was upset, and he pulled a blanket over himself. Passengers then heard popping noises similar to firecrackers, smelled an odor, and some observed Abdulmutallab’s pants leg and the wall of the airplane on fire. Passengers and crew then subdued Abdulmutallab and used blankets and fire extinguishers to put out the flames. One flight attendant, Dionne Ransom-Monroe, state that she asked Abdulmutallab what he had in his pocket, and he replied “explosive device”. A passenger stated that he observed Abdulmutallab holding what appeared to be a partially melted syringe, which was smoking. The passenger took the syringe from Abdulmutallab, shook it to stop it from smoking, and threw it to the floor of the aircraft. FBI agents later recovered what appears to be the remnants of the syringe from the vicinity of Abdulmutallab’s seat, believed to have been part of the device. As noted, these statements do not represent the entirety of statements made to investigating agents by passengers and crew, but are merely a portion of such evidence gathered.
- Device apparently failed due to issue with detonator
- CBS News: A high-ranking law enforcement official told CBS News that the suspect apparently used a syringe to inject a chemical into powder located near his groin, a technique not seen in previous attempted attacks.
- Fox News on 27 Dec.: Part of the device contained PETN, or pentaerythritol, and was hidden in a condom or condom-like bag just below Abdulmutallab's torso. PETN is the same material convicted shoe bomber Richard Reid used when he tried to destroy a trans-Atlantic flight in 2001 with explosives hidden in his shoes. Abdulmutallab also had a syringe filled with liquid.

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- Washington Post on 25 Dec. 2009: Federal authorities have been told that Abdulmutallab allegedly had taped some material to his leg, then used a syringe to mix some chemicals with the powder while on the airplane, one official said.
- Passenger Dutch filmmaker Jasper Schuringa, 32, who was seated on the opposite side of the plane climbed over other passengers to subdue Abdulmutallab. He was then aided by other passengers and crew members
- BBC: Jasper Schuringa said, “He was actually a normal person, he was very scared, he had a very frightened look, he wasn't resisting or anything... I also spoke later to one of the Dutch people who was sitting next to him and they said he was a really nice and polite man. So he was someone you wouldn't expect to commit a crime like this.”
- Abdulmutallab suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns on and around his thighs
- Abdulmutallab was detained by US Customs Border Patrol (CBP) agents when flight landed
- Flight was a Delta flight designated as Northwest Flight 253, was an Airbus 330-300 wide body
- The flight was carrying 278 passengers and 11 crew
- As of 1630 local time most passengers were still being held at the airport according to Delta spokeswoman Susan Elliott as reported by Free Press
- Free Press: Syed Jafry of Holland, Mich., said people ran out of their seats to tackle the man. Jafry was sitting in the 16th row when he heard “a pop and saw some smoke and fire.” Jafry said there was a little bit of commotion for about 10 to 15 minutes.
- Free Press: Passengers Richard Griffith of Pontiac said he was unaware of the incident until departing the plane. He said he was sitting in the back of the plane and did not “see or hear anything.”
- Clickondetroit.com: Passenger Syed Jafri, a US citizen who had flown from the United Arab Emirates, said the incident occurred during the plane's descent. Jafri said he was seated three rows behind the passenger and said he saw a glow, and noticed a smoke smell. Then, he said, ‘a young man behind me jumped on him.’
- Jafri was in 16G and said he thought suspect was in 19A during interview on CNN on 25 Dec.

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- Fire indicator light was triggered by device while plane was on approach to landing at Detroit Metro
- Fire from device required fire extinguisher to put it out
- Delta said in a statement on 25 Dec.: “Upon approach to Detroit, a passenger caused a disturbance onboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253. The passenger was subdued immediately and the crew requested that law enforcement meet the flight upon arrival. The flight, operated by Northwest using an Airbus 330-300 aircraft with 278 passengers onboard, landed safely. The passenger was taken into custody and questioned by law enforcement authorities. Delta is cooperating fully with authorities and additional questions should be directed to law enforcement officials who are leading the investigation.”
- Passengers were rushing to get water, blankets and fire extinguisher to put out fire from device according to Jafri
- According to some reports the attack occurred 20 minutes from the airport
- AP: Melinda Dennis, another passenger who was seated in the front row of the plane, said the man involved was brought to the front row and seated near her. She said his legs appeared to be badly burned and his pants were cut off. She said he was taken off the plane handcuffed to a stretcher.
- Abdulmutallab reportedly said he was acting alone and that it was not part of a larger plot
- Sunday Times on 27 Dec.: Stephanie van Herk, a 22- year-old Dutch passenger sitting one row in front of Abdulmutallab in seat 18B, thought the popping noise she heard might have been one of the plane's tyres bursting. Then she turned and saw flames leaping behind her. ‘It was higher than the seat,’ she said. ‘Then everyone started screaming.’”
- Began flight at Murtala Mohammed airport in Lagos, Nigeria aboard KLM flight 588. He arrived at Schiphol airport in Amsterdam at 0511 local time on 25 Dec. He had three hours before he changed to his connecting flight, Delta/Northwest Airlines flight 253
- Sunday Times on 27 Dec.: Dutch antiterrorism spokeswoman Judith Sluiter said, “Abdulmutallab had been subjected to "standard security checks". However, she confirmed that the procedure for transit passengers is "different" from that for other

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passengers. "He was searched, questioned and went through a metal detector -- but such devices are not capable of detecting all kinds of explosive devices," she said. "Transit passengers who do not enter or leave the Netherlands, but rather remain in the transit area, are not submitted to the same scrutiny such as passengers boarding their first plane at the airport. The procedures are slightly different."

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EXPLOSIVE DEVICE

- Contains 80g of PETN and was sewn into underwear of Abdulmutallab
- Photos of device obtained by ABC News are below.

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UMAR FAROUK ABDULMUTALLAB [a.k.a. ABDUL MUDALLAD]

- Photo of Abdulmutallab is shown above, left photo is mugshot released by US Marshals
- Nigerian male, 23-years-old, from northern Nigeria
- Speaks English
- Born 22 Dec. 1986
- Full name is Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (a.k.a. Abdul Mudallad)
- Was mechanical engineering student at Univ. College of London between Sep. 2005 to Jun. 2008
- Suspect said he was directed by al-Qaeda to detonate explosive device aboard flight over US
- Was admitted to Univ. of Michigan Medical Center at Ann Arbor, MI for treatment for 2nd and 3rd degree burns he suffered in his thigh area after his explosive device failed to detonate
- Suspect was released from hospital on 27 Dec. and taken to secure location by US Marshals
- Son of chairman of First Bank of Nigeria from 1999 to Dec. 2009, Alhaji Umaru Mutallab

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- Lived in building where flats cost US\$3-4 million, lived in basement flat in the Marylebone District of London near the Oxford Circus shopping area
- After returning from school in London, Abdulmutallab wanted to go to study in Saudi Arabia or Cairo but his parents had concerns that he had begun to be radicalized in London, so they decided to send him to Dubai instead
- During first week of Nov. 2009 [conflicting report(s) said this occurred in Oct.], Abdulmutallab sent his parents a text message telling them that he was already in Yemen and studying sharia law for next seven years and that he would be hard to reach after this message and he was destroying his SIM card.
- Abdulmutallab's father contacted the US Embassy in Lagos, Nigeria on 19 Nov. and notified them that he believed his son may have been radicalized. Information was passed onto US NCTC and file opened.
- Abdulmutallab was apparently listed in US NCTC Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment as far back as 2-years ago according to some reports
- AFP: London's Metropolitan Police spokeswoman said, "We are in liaison with the US authorities and searches in London are being conducted as part of ongoing enquiries. The searches are being carried out at more than one address."
- Netherlands NCTB said on 26 Dec., "A check has been carried out into the security controls conducted at Schiphol Airport on the Northwest Airlines flight. The man in question arrived at Schiphol Airport from Lagos and transferred to a flight to Detroit. An initial investigation has revealed that the passenger list containing passengers' personal details, including those of the suspect, was transmitted to the American authorities in accordance with standard procedures before the flight departed for Detroit. The American authorities issued a clearance for the passenger list. The Nigerian who has been detained was in possession of a valid visa for the United States."
- Sunday Times on 27 Dec.: By some accounts Abdulmutallab was a hothead from an early age. Yesterday a friend who knew him at school, but asked not to be named, said: "He was not a party boy. He'd never go to the disco. I remember one time during Ramadan, a group of us were going to the disco to have fun. He gently but firmly told us that this would be un-Islamic." Abdulmutallab attended the British

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School in Lome, Togo. The friend added: "About three years ago we were talking about 9/11. I was saying under no circumstances could it ever be okay to kill all those innocent people. He was much more equivocal. "He said 9/11 was an act of war -- that American troops were on Saudi soil and had humiliated Muslim countries so these actions might be necessary."

- Abdulmutallab traveled through Ghana before arriving back in Lagos for flight to Detroit via Amsterdam
- Abdulmutallab attempted to return to UK for a 6-month course in May 2009 using a bogus college on his visa application. His visa request was denied by UK Border Agency. Whitehall said, "He was refused entry on grounds that he was applying to study at an educational establishment that we didn't consider to be genuine."
- He reportedly told investigators that there are others just like him in Yemen who will strike soon
- According to Fox News on 28 Dec. he traveled to the UK, the Netherlands and another European country within a year of the attack and also traveled to Nigeria and Togo.
- Was reportedly a major follower of Anwar al-Awlaki based on analysis of his web habits
- A picture of Abdulmutallab's father is below

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ABDULMUTALLAB'S PREVIOUS VISIT TO US

- Reportedly visited Houston, Texas for 11 days in August 2008
- Received US visa in Jun. 2008 that was valid through 2010
- Visa indicated he was traveling from Nigeria to US for religious seminar
- Was listed on Terrorist Screening Data Base (TSDB)
- Was not listed on “no-fly” list banning entrance into US
- Abdulmutallab’s father reportedly is frequent traveler to US
- Had reportedly travelled to US at least twice before

ABDULMUTALLAB'S TIME IN YEMEN

- The Yemeni Foreign Ministry said the Yemeni Immigration and Passports Dept. has confirmed that Abdulmutallab was in Yemen from early Aug. 2009 to early Dec. 2009 after he received a visa to study Arabic at one of the Arabic language institutes in Sanaa, which he had reportedly studied at previously
- According to a Fox News report on 28 Dec. 2009, he traveled to Yemen around the end of 2008 or beginning of 2009 and was there for several weeks or months

ABDULMUTALLAB'S POST YEMEN TRAVEL

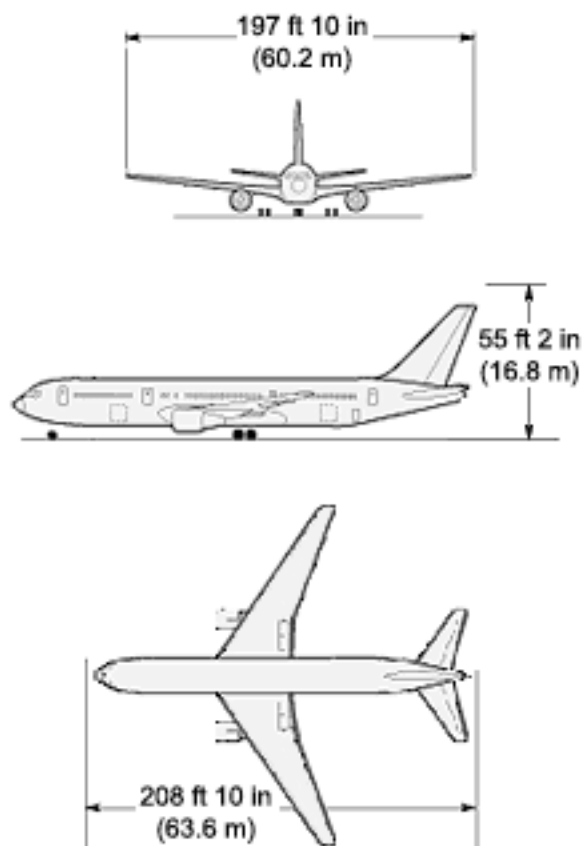
- Abdulmutallab purchased round-trip airline ticket from Lagos to Detroit via Amsterdam at a KLM office in Accra, Ghana on 16 Dec. 2009

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FLIGHT

- Above are diagrams of an A330-300
- Spokeswoman for the Netherlands Anti-Terrorism Coordinator Judith Sluiter said the man arrived at Amsterdam-Schiphol airport on a connecting flight

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- Abdulmutallab's entry visa reportedly indicated he was flying from Nigeria to the US for a religious seminar. His visa was issued on 16 Jun. 2008 and was good until 12 Jun. 2010. It was a multi-year, multi-entry visa. He obtained it while a student in London.
- His ticket was one-way
- Flight left Amsterdam's Schiphol International Airport at 0845 local time, flight landed in Detroit at 1153 local time on 25 Dec. 2009
- Attacker boarded KLM flight from Lagos, Nigeria to Amsterdam and transferred to Delta flight to Detroit
- Flight carried Northwest designation but due to merger all flights are in process of being rebranded as Delta, which accounts for varying accounts calling it a Northwest or Delta flight
- Airplane ticket was round trip
- Paid cash for ticket (cost approx.) 2,831 USD
- Planned return date was 8 Jan. 2010
- Details on A330-300
 - Suspect did not go through secondary screening in Amsterdam
 - Seat Width: BusinessElite®: 20 in/60 in (51 cm/152 cm), Economy class: 17.5 in/31-33 in (44 cm/79-84 cm)
 - Capacity 298 passengers
 - Cruising speed 541mph
 - Range: 6,524 miles
 - Engine: 2 jet engines, wing mounted
 - Cargo Capacity 15 tons
 - Below is a seat map for an A330-300.

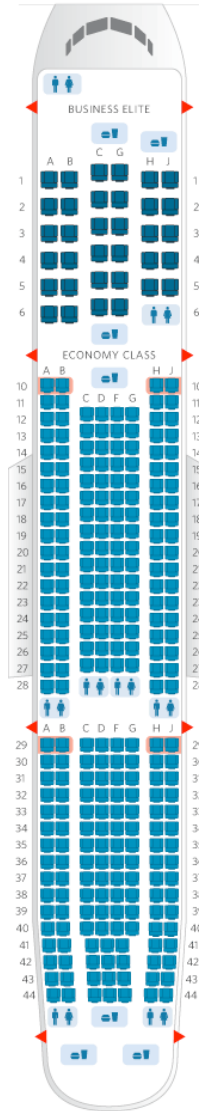
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AQAP CLAIM OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR DELTA ATTACK

On 28 Dec. 2009, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed the 25 Dec. Delta attack. The two-page written claim, dated 26 Dec. 2009, included a photo of Abdulmutallab. On the photo the words “al-Malahim Exclusive” appear, causing some to believe this photo was from a news organization. This is not the case. Al-Malahim is the name of the group’s media arm. AQAP said in the statement, "Our brother the mujahid the martyr Omar al-Farouq has conducted a unique operation on board of an American plane on route from Amsterdam to Detroit, during their “Christmas” celebrations on Friday 25 December 2009 AD, with courage he was able to breach all the modern and sophisticated technologies and checkpoints at the airports around the world, putting his faith in God fearing no death, his act has dealt a huge blow to the myth of American and global intelligence services and showed how fragile its structures are. ... It is the unity of doctrine and Islamic fraternity, which prompted a rich young man of Nigerian background Omar Al Farouq to directly retaliate, with the direct coordination of the mujahideen in the peninsula against the unjust American aggression on the Arabian

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Peninsula, Which fired its fragmentation bombs and Cruise missiles from its warships in the occupied gulf of Aden."

The statement discusses the manufacture of the device. It said, "Our brothers in the manufacturing department, have been able to construct, with God's help, advanced explosives packages, that has been tested against detection systems. Our brother with the help of God was able to reach his goal, but due to God's wisdom, a technical error prevented the explosion. We shall continue the path, God willing, till we reach our goal and religion in its entirety shall be to God."

The group also calls for further attacks. It said, "We call upon every Muslim who cares about his religion and doctrine to assist in expelling the apostasies from the Arabian Peninsula, by killing every crusader who works at their embassies or other places, declare it an all out war against every crusader on Mohammad's peninsula on land, air and sea. We call upon every soldier in the Crusader's army and the collaborating governments to repent to God, and follow our Mujahid brother Nidal Hassan's suit, and kill every crusader with any possible mean in order to support God's religion and establish his will on earth."

The statement threatens further attacks against the American people. It said, "We inform the American people that since you support the leaders who kill our women and children, you shall receive what will make you fear; we have come to slaughter and prepared men who love to die with the same fervor as you love to live, and God willing, we will strike you with what you have no previous knowledge of, for as you kill you shall be killed, our vengeance is near."

The full statement is below:

BEGIN STATEMENT

The Operation of Our Brother the Mujahid Omar al-Farouq the Nigerian

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In Retaliation against the American Aggression Against Yemen

Thank God for his saying: “and fight them so that there shall no discord and religion be only to God”

Prayers and peace be upon the Prophet who said: “you have render victorious, through horror, what would have taken a months’ work”.....

There After:

Our brother the mujahid the martyr Omar al-Farouq has conducted a unique operation on board of an American plane on route from Amsterdam to Detroit, during their “Christmas” celebrations on Friday 25 December 2009 AD, with courage he was able to breach all the modern and sophisticated technologies and checkpoints at the airports around the world, putting his faith in God, fearing no death, his act has dealt a huge blow to the myth of American and global intelligence services and showed how fragile its structures are.

It is the unity of doctrine and Islamic fraternity, which prompted a rich young man of Nigerian background Omar al-Farouq to directly retaliate, with the direct coordination of the mujahideen in the Peninsula against the unjust American aggression on the Arabian Peninsula which fired its fragmentation bombs and Cruise missiles from its warships in the occupied gulf of Aden at the honorable Yemeni tribes in Abyan, Arhab and Shabwa, they have killed tens of Muslim women and children, annihilated entire families, those attacks have taken place with the collaboration of Yemen, Saudi Arabia and neighboring countries.

Our brothers in the manufacturing department, have been able to construct, with God’s help, advanced explosives packages, that have been tested against detection systems. Our brother with the help of God was able to reach his goal, but due to God’s wisdom, a

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technical error prevented the explosion. We shall continue the path, God willing, till we reach our goal and religion in its entirety shall be to God.

We call upon every Muslim who cares about his religion and doctrine to assist in expelling the apostasies from the Arabian Peninsula, by killing every crusader who works at their embassies or other places, declare it an all out war against every crusader on Mohammad's peninsula on land, air and sea.

We call upon every soldier in the Crusader's army and the collaborating governments to repent to God, and follow our Mujahid brother Nidal Hassan's suit, and kill every crusader with any possible means in order to support God's religion and establish his will on earth.

We inform the American people that since you support the leaders who kill our women and children, you shall receive what will make you fear; we have come for slaughter and have prepared men who love to die with the same fervor you love to live, and God willing, we will strike you with what you have no previous knowledge of, for as you kill you shall be killed, our vengeance near...

And those who have been unjust shall know the results of their actions

Oh God, set our brother Omar al-Farouq on the path of truth, and give him calmness, patience and steadfastness more than the predicaments that shall befall him, Oh God, calm his fears and relax his mind, and let the end of his predicament be near and his release come from an unexpected place, Oh God, may you bring freedom to him and every Muslim across the world, those who are steadfast and not changing, set on the path of truth and mercy, Oh God, render your mujahideen worshippers victorious every where and defeat apostasy and our last prayer, thank you God, lord of the World.

al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula
Saturday 9 Mouharam 1431 Hijra

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DETROIT METROPOLITAN WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT

Imagery from 635ft



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AL-QAEDA IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA (AQAP) THREAT

On or shortly before 21 Dec. 2009, a video recording was made of an address by an al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) member giving a eulogy for individuals killed in an airstrike conducted in Abyan Province, Yemen on 17 Dec. against a training camp that killed key AQAP figures. The speaker said he has no agenda against Yemeni soldiers, only Americans. He said, "We are carrying a bomb to hit the enemies of God. O soldiers, you should learn that we do not want to fight you, nor do we have an issue with you. We only have an issue with America and its agents. So, be careful not to side with America." He added, "O worshipers of God, you should know that this nation, believers, and pious worshippers of God will score victory."

The video of the address is 14'14". The video was not formally released by the group but rather by an apparent supporter on 21 Dec. While it is not known for certain that the speaker had knowledge of the Delta attack, the possibility is being explored. Planning for the attack likely predated the 17 Dec. strike but it would be plausible for a member with knowledge of the plot to foreshadow a "positive" event in the near future, especially if it was in an address not intended to be broadly released.

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The speaker in the video is believed to be Mohammed Ahmad Amir al-Kalwi who may have been killed in another airstrike on 24 Dec. in Wadi Rafd in Shabwah Province, Yemen.

Stills from the video are shown above.

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AQAP EMIR IN OCT: ATTACK PLANES & AIRPORTS & RECRUITMENT

In the 73-page 11th issue of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's (AQAP) official magazine, Sada al-Malahim [The Echo of the Epic Battles], released on 28 Oct. 2009, an article appeared by AQAP Emir Abu Basir al-Wuhayshi entitled, "The Word of the Emir: War is a Trick". In the article he encourages jihadis to make their own explosive devices. He said, "You do not need a lot of effort nor do you need lots of money to make more or less than 10 grams of explosives. Do not waste so much time on searching for the materials since it is in the kitchen of your mother, in your hands, and in any city you are in. Reach to what Abu-al-Khayr did, may God grant him His mercy. Therefore, make it as a bomb which you throw and detonate by a remote control or a explosive belt, or in an electrical device as a recorder which you hear the sounds of explosives, or an image panel, or a paper file or a letter envelope..."

On targets, al-Wuhayshi said, "detonate it against any tyrant, or intelligence stronghold, or emir, or minister, or Crusader wherever you find them. Moreover, detonate it in the airports of the Western Crusader countries which participated in the war on Muslims, or in their aircraft, or residential compounds or in the train tunnels, etc... There will always

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be a trick if you think, rely on God, and do not fear to reveal it after you hide it very well. It is impossible to be revealed with the help of God. Read the indications on it.”

The participation of AQAP in attacks or even the call for such attacks outside the Yemen/ Saudi Arabia area of operation is a significant escalation in the group's activities and is part of a larger series of operational changes since the merging of the regional al-Qaeda arms in Saudi Arabia and Yemen into al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

In the same issue of Sada al-Malahim, an article entitled, "Support Your Religion with Information About Your Enemies" appears. The article is referred to by Emir al-Wuhayshi in his own article. The article calls for information to assist in the group's planning of attacks. It also said, "As for us, we will contact whoever wants to carry out jihad with us and guide him in the appropriate way to kill agents and leaders of infidelity, even if they are in their bedrooms or work locations. Moreover, those who want to support the operations by giving alms and benefactions should contact us through the mail specified for that issue or through the 'Asrar al-Mujahidin' [Secrets of Mujahidin] program, following the right security procedures."

The cover of the magazine and a photo of Abu Basir al-Wuhayshi are shown above.

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AQAP STATEMENT ON 17 DEC ABYAN STRIKE

On 27 Dec. 2009, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) issued a 1-page written statement about the 17 Dec. strike against its training camp in Abyan Province in Yemen. This is the first communication from the group since the 25 Dec. attack on the Delta flight in Detroit. In the statement AQAP said, "Everyone has followed how the head of the Crusade Barack Obama and the Arab Pharaoh Hosni Mubarak congratulated the black Yemeni president for the bloody massacre in the state of Abyan [17 Dec. strike], and God willing we will provide you with more details at a later time. ... We shall avenge, God willing, the blood of innocent Muslim women and children."

The full statement is below.

BEGIN STATEMENT

There is no God but God, Mohammed is God's Prophet
al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

In the name of God, the most compassionate

[A Release concerning the massacre of Muslims in the state of Abyan]

Thank God, who has blessed Islam with his glory and has vanquished the apostates with his might, the manager of issues with his wisdom, the attractor of the infidels with his slyness, he who, with his wisdom, has assigned days into segments and will reward those who fear him. Peace and prayer to the ones who has elevated the bacon of Islam with their sword... there after:

Following the morning prayers on Mouharam 1, 1431 Hijra, 5 American fighters have conducted a bloody attack on the peaceful and innocent Muslims of the Bakzim tribes in the village of al-Mou'ajala in the Mahfid Area in the state of Abyan, a military campaign

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was also conducted, in congruence with the air strike, under the pretense of anti-terrorism (Islam), in order to destroy the Jihadist avon guard of the honorable Yemeni tribes.

Facing this grave incident, we express our sincerest condolences to our Islamic Uma, and specially the Bakzim tribes, and ask God to accept their martyrs, and provide them [the tribes] with patience and steadfastness on the path of the true religion, there is only one God, and we all shall return unto him.

The Muslims have seen the American spy planes hovering above the Yemeni states months prior to the massacre, and it still does, violating Muslim sanctuaries with the support of the collaborative treacherous Yemeni government.

This massacre has taken place with the support and collaboration of Yemen, American, Egyptian, Saudi and other neighboring countries.

Everyone has followed how the head of the Crusade Barack Obama and the Arab Pharaoh Hossni Mubarak congratulated the black Yemeni president for the bloody massacre in the state of Abyan, and God willing we will provide you with more details at a later time.

In the face of this merciless act we confirm the following:

1. The Zionist-Crusader war against our countries continues unabated, it aims to destroy Islam and its followers in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Chechnya, Waziristan and other Muslim lands.
2. The incident uncovers the lies of the alleged Western democracy, and its lack of concern to human rights as it [Western democracy] kills innocent people by planes and annihilates entire groups.
3. This massacre shows the extent of the Yemeni Government and the rulers of the Arabian Peninsula's collaboration with the Zionist-Crusader campaign, they [Yemeni

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Government and the rulers of the Arabian Peninsula] have become a malleable tool to kill the Muslim population.

4. The Yemeni government issued contradictory statements concerning the Abyan massacre; where as they announced that Yemeni forces conducted the attacks, the Americans confirmed their responsibility.
5. The lies the Yemeni government has spread by claiming that the air strike did not kill any civilians while the whole world have seen, through satellite channels, corpses belonging to women and children, as did the Manager of the Governorate (Mahfid) confirm: “the number of women and children killed reach 49”.
6. The joint campaign to annihilate the Mujahedeen in the Arabian Peninsula in Abyan, Sana’a, and Arhab has failed.
7. We salute the honorable Arhab Tribes for their glorious stand that resulted in the defeat of the campaign on Arhab.
8. We call upon the nation’s scholars to do their duty by calling for truth, to support and avenge the Muslims who died in this massacre, and show the people how the rule of the American collaborators facilitates the assault on Muslim lands.
9. We shall avenge, God willing, the blood of innocent Muslim women and children.

And finally, we call on all the proud Yemeni tribes, people of support and sustenance, and the people of the Arabian Peninsula to counter the Zionist-Crusader campaign and their collaborators on Mohammed’s, peace be upon him, peninsula, by attacking their military installations, their spying embassies, their ships in the waters of and on the land of the Arabian Peninsula, until they cease repetitive mascararas in Muslim lands.

And all those who have been unfair shall know, how their situation shall turn.

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al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula
Sunday/4/ Mouharam/1431H

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DELTA STATEMENT

Delta issued a statement on 25 Dec. 2009 saying:

ATLANTA, Dec. 25 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Delta Air Lines (NYSE: DAL) today issued a statement regarding the incident onboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253 bound for Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport from Amsterdam.

"Upon approach to Detroit, a passenger caused a disturbance onboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253. The passenger was subdued immediately and the crew requested that law enforcement meet the flight upon arrival. The flight, operated by Northwest using an Airbus 330-300 aircraft with 278 passengers onboard, landed safely. The passenger was taken into custody and questioned by law enforcement authorities. Delta is cooperating fully with authorities and additional questions should be directed to law enforcement officials who are leading the investigation."

DHS STATEMENT - 25 DEC. 2009

December 25, 2009

5:30 p.m. EST

WASHINGTON D.C. – Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has been briefed on the incident aboard Northwest Airlines flight #253 and is closely monitoring the situation.

Passengers may notice additional screening measures put into place to ensure the safety of the traveling public on domestic and international flights.

As always we encourage the traveling public to be observant and aware of their surroundings and report any suspicious behavior or activity to law enforcement officials. We encourage those with future travel plans to stay in touch with their airline and to visit www.tsa.gov for updates.

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DHS STATEMENT - 26 DEC. 2009

Statement by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano

Release Date: December 26, 2009

For Immediate Release

Office of the Press Secretary

Contact: 202-282-8010

"I am grateful to the passengers and crew aboard Northwest Flight 253 who reacted quickly and heroically to an incident that could have had tragic results. The Department of Homeland Security immediately put additional screening measures into place—for all domestic and international flights—to ensure the continued safety of the traveling public. We are also working closely with federal, state and local law enforcement on additional security measures, as well as our international partners on enhanced security at airports and on flights.

The American people should continue their planned holiday travel and, as always, be observant and aware of their surroundings and report any suspicious behavior or activity to law enforcement officials.

Passengers flying from international locations to U.S. destinations may notice additional security measures in place. These measures are designed to be unpredictable, so passengers should not expect to see the same thing everywhere. Due to the busy holiday travel season, both domestic and international travelers should allot extra time for check-in."

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DHS STATEMENT ON 27 DEC. 2009 INCIDENT - 27 DEC. 2009

Statement by Department of Homeland Security Press Secretary Sara Kuban

Release Date: December 27, 2009

For Immediate Release

Office of the Press Secretary

Contact: 202-282-8010

"A passenger on today's Northwest flight 253 from Amsterdam to Detroit spent an unusually long time in the aircraft lavatory. Due to this unusual behavior, the airline notified TSA and the agency directed the flight to taxi to a remote area upon landing to be met by law enforcement and DHS. The passenger in question, a Nigerian national, was removed from the flight and interviewed by the FBI; indications at this time are that the individual's behavior is due to legitimate illness, and no other suspicious behavior or materials have been found. Though this does not appear at this time to be a security incident, in an abundance of caution, the aircraft was fully screened, with negative results, and all baggage is being rescreened before the aircraft taxis to the gate."

TSA STATEMENT - 25 DEC. 2009

December 25, 2009

4:30 p.m. EST

WASHINGTON D.C. - Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is aware of an incident that occurred onboard Northwest flight 253 from Amsterdam to Detroit. The flight landed safely in Detroit at approximately 11:53 a.m.

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All passengers have deplaned and out of an abundance of caution, the plane was moved to a remote area where the plane and all baggage are currently being rescreened. A passenger is in custody and passengers are being interviewed.

TSA will continue to monitor the situation and update this information as necessary.

NETHERLANDS NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM (NCTB) STATEMENT - 26 DEC. 2009

Initial findings of investigation into security procedures at Schiphol
News item | 26-12-2009

A check has been carried out into the security controls conducted at Schiphol Airport on the Northwest Airlines flight. The man in question arrived at Schiphol Airport from Lagos and transferred to a flight to Detroit. An initial investigation has revealed that the passenger list containing passengers' personal details, including those of the suspect, was transmitted to the American authorities in accordance with standard procedures before the flight departed for Detroit. The American authorities issued a clearance for the passenger list. The Nigerian who has been detained was in possession of a valid visa for the United States.

A security check was carried out before the flight to Detroit left Schiphol. The initial investigation shows that the security check was carried out according to the rules, and no irregularities were observed. Even when a security check is properly conducted, however, the possibility cannot be ruled out of potentially dangerous objects being brought on board, particularly in the case of objects that are difficult to trace with existing security technology, such as metal detectors.

In response to the incident on board the Northwest Airlines flight, the American authorities have asked airlines to take additional measures worldwide in dealing with

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flights to the US. These additional measures will be applicable everywhere in the world to all flights to the US, starting today and remaining in effect indefinitely.

WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT

- White House issued statement saying “[President] instructed that all appropriate measures be taken to increase security for air travel. The President is actively monitoring the situation and is receiving regular updates.”

UK PM GORDON BROWN

- UK PM Gordon Brown said, “The security of the public must always be our primary concern. We have been working closely with the US authorities investigating this incident since it happened yesterday. ... Because of the serious potential threat posed by the incident, I have spoken to the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, whose officers have been carrying out searches of properties in London. ... We will continue to take whatever action is necessary to protect passengers on airlines and the public.”

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DOJ STATEMENT - 26 DEC. 2009

Department of Justice

Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, December 26, 2009

Nigerian National Charged with Attempting to Destroy Northwest Airlines Aircraft

WASHINGTON - A 23-year-old Nigerian man was charged in a federal criminal complaint today with attempting to destroy a Northwest Airlines aircraft on its final approach to Detroit Metropolitan Airport on Christmas Day, and with placing a destructive device on the aircraft.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, a Nigerian national, boarded Northwest Flight 253 in Amsterdam, Netherlands on December 24, 2009 and had a device attached to his body. As the flight was approaching Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Abdulmutallab set off the device, which resulted in a fire and what appears to have been an explosion. Abdulmutallab was then subdued and restrained by the passengers and flight crew. The airplane landed shortly thereafter, and he was taken into custody by Customs and Border Patrol officers. A preliminary FBI analysis found that the device contained PETN, also known as pentaerythritol, a high explosive. Further analysis is ongoing. In addition, FBI agents recovered what appear to be the remnants of the syringe from the vicinity of Abdulmutallab's seat, believed to have been part of the device.

"This alleged attack on a U.S. airplane on Christmas Day shows that we must remain vigilant in the fight against terrorism at all times," Attorney General Eric Holder said.

"Had this alleged plot to destroy an airplane been successful, scores of innocent people would have been killed or injured. We will continue to investigate this matter vigorously, and we will use all measures available to our government to ensure that anyone responsible for this attempted attack is brought to justice."

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Abdulmutallab required medical treatment, and was transported to the University of Michigan Medical Center after the plane landed. He will make his initial court appearance later today.

Interviews of all of the passengers and crew of Flight 253 revealed that prior to the incident, Abdulmutallab went to the bathroom for approximately twenty minutes, according to the affidavit. Upon returning to his seat, Abdulmutallab stated that his stomach was upset, and he pulled a blanket over himself. Passengers then heard popping noises similar to firecrackers, smelled an odor, and some observed Abdulmutallab's pants leg and the wall of the airplane on fire. Passengers and crew then subdued Abdulmutallab and used blankets and fire extinguishers to put out the flames. Passengers reported that Abdulmutallab was calm and lucid throughout. One flight attendant asked him what he had had in his pocket, and he replied "explosive device."

These prosecutions are being handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan, with assistance from the Counterterrorism Section of the Justice Department's National Security Division.

The investigation is being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, US Customs and Border Protection, and the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

The public is reminded that criminal complaints contain mere allegations and a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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09-1383

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YEMEN STRIKE ON 24 DEC. 2009

- On 24 Dec. 2009, an airstrike was executed in Wadi Rafd, Shabwa Province, targeting a high-level AQAP gathering, believed to be at the home of radical Yemeni-American cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, who has ties to al-Qaeda and also exchanged emails with Maj. Nidal Hasan, the Fort Hood shooter, before the Fort Hood attack on 5 Nov. 2009.
 - The meeting was being held in order to plot a response to the 17 Dec. cruise missile attack on al-Qaeda training camps in Sana'a and Abyan, according to Saba News.
- At least 30 suspected AQAP members killed, including Yemeni and foreign nationals, according to initial reports from Yemeni officials.
 - Among those initially reported killed were Emir Abu Basir Nasir al-Wuhayshi, Abu Sufyan al-Azidi (a.k.a. Sa'id al-Shihri) and Anwar al-Awlaki.
 - Later reports indicated the al-Wuhayshi likely survived the strike, but the whereabouts of al-Awlaki and al-Shihri remain unknown.
 - An official said 15 bodies were unidentified and in need of DNA testing, although it was unclear whether he was referring to the 17 Dec. or 24 Dec. strike.
- On 28 Dec. 2009, AQAP released a written statement claiming responsibility for the Delta attack. The statement said the attack was conducted in revenge for US strikes in Yemen.
 - The statement said, "It is the unity of doctrine and Islamic fraternity, which prompted a rich young man of Nigerian background Umar al-Farouk to directly retaliate, with the direct coordination of the mujahideen in the Peninsula, against the unjust American aggression on the Arabian Peninsula which fired its fragmentation bombs and cruise missiles from its warships in the occupied Gulf o Aden at the honorable Yemeni tribes in Abyan, Arhab and Shabwa, they have killed tens of Muslim women and children, annihilated entire families".
- As of 28 Dec., the group has not been observed to comment on whether its top leaders survived the strike.

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YEMEN STRIKE ON 17 DEC. 2009

- On 17 Dec. 2009, suspected US forces carried out a strike on al-Qaeda training camps in Sana'a and Abyan using air-launched cruise missiles, according to US officials.
- The target in Abyan was a location where officials believed "an imminent attack against a US asset was being planned", according to ABC News.
- Yemeni officials said the members were planning multiple suicide bombings at the time of the strike.
- Officials said eight of the rebels were preparing suicide vests at the time of the strike.
- Thirty-four AQAP members were killed, according to Yemeni officials.
- Among those reported killed were Abu Salih al-Kazimi, two wanted Saudi nationals, two Egyptians and two Chechens.
- Al-Kazimi was the leader of a training camp in Abyan.
- He also oversaw a rebel group that attacked and killed eight Spanish tourists in Marib in Jul. 2007.
- On 26 Dec., a Yemeni Interior Ministry official said the only confirmed death in the strike was Saudi national Ibrahim al-Najdi.
- The official said 15 bodies were in need of DNA testing, although it was unclear whether he was referring to the 17 Dec. or 24 Dec. strike.
- Seventeen rebels were arrested, according to Yemeni officials.
- On 27 Dec. 2009, AQAP released a written statement vowing revenge for the 17 Dec. strike.
- The statement said, "Everyone has followed how the head of the Crusade Barack Obama and the Arab Pharaoh Hosni Mubarak congratulated the black Yemeni president for the bloody massacre in the state of Abyan, and God willing we will provide you with more details at a later time... We shall avenge, God willing, the blood of innocent Muslim women and children."
- The statement continued, "This massacre has taken place with the support and collaboration of Yemen, American, Egyptian, Saudi and other neighboring countries."

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ANWAR AL-AWLAKI

- Wahhabi Muslim lecturer and spiritual leader
- Born 22 Apr. 1971 in Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Believed to located in Yemen's Shabwa or Mareb regions
- Possibly killed in 24 Dec. 2009 airstrike by Yemeni air forces
- Believed to be a senior al-Qaeda recruiter who targets young US/Western Muslims using online lectures to encourage jihadist activity
- Links to Muslim Brotherhood
- Arrested by Yemeni officials on 31 Aug. 2008 on charges related to al-Qaeda kidnapping and released on 12 Dec. 2009
- Three 9/11 hijackers attended al-Awlaki lectures
- Links to Ali al-Tamimi, an Islamic teacher convicted of inciting terrorism in connection with Virginia Jihad Network
- Exchanged at least 18 emails with Fort Hood shooter Nidal Malik Hasan
- House Intelligence Committee Ranking Minority Member Pete Hoekstra said Abdulmutallab "may have been in contact with...al-Awlaki. There are reports that he had contact and that he was recently in Yemen. The question we'll have to raise is was this imam in Yemen influential enough to get some people to attack the US again"
- University of Oxford Professor Mark Almond said Abdulmutallab was on US watch lists "because of his links with al-Awlaki"

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RICHARD REID ATTEMPT

- Richard Reid attempted to ignite an explosive device comprised of PETN with a tracetone triperoxide detonator hidden inside the lining of one of his shoes while on board an American Airlines flight from Charles de Gaulle airport to Miami International on 21 Dec. 2009
- Convicted on charges of terrorism and is currently serving a life sentence without parole
- Member of al-Qaeda (AQ) reportedly sent on mission by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed
- Reportedly conspired with fellow British national Saajid Badat
- Similarities to present situation: European flight inbound to major US city, incident occurred on/around Christmas, both Reid and suspect apparently tied to AQ, no evidence of involvement in larger plot, use of explosive device that is ignited/detonated manually, both Reid and suspect lived for significant period in London, both were restrained by passengers/crew who detected smoke-like smell

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