

# How U.S. spooks failed to connect the dots

The 16 agencies which comprise the U.S. Intelligence Community have access to an FBI watch list of 550,000 suspected terrorists. The database contains a "selectee" list of 14,000 people that require additional security screening before boarding an airplane and a "no-fly" list of 3,400 people

**Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab**  
Nigerian student allegedly tried to blow up airliner bound for Detroit on December 25.  
**2008:** British Security Service MI5 monitors Abdulmutallab's contacts with Islamic extremists while at university. **May 2009: Refused UK visa, put on MI5 terror watch list**



**Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**  
Responsible for penetrating national and transnational networks that threaten national security.

**Nov 20:** NCTC fails to forward CIA alert to FBI's **Terrorist Screening Centre** which manages terrorism watch list. **Failure leads to Abdulmutallab's name being excluded from no-fly list**

**Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**  
Leads national effort to prevent terrorist attacks on United States



**Dec 24:** Details on every passenger on U.S.-bound flights, including suspicious ticket purchases and baggage details, are forwarded to DHS before take-off.  
**DHS ignores fact that Abdulmutallab paid \$3,000 in cash for ticket and had no luggage for two-week trip**

**Other agencies within America's 16-member Intelligence Community**

- Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA)
- National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)
- National Security Agency (NSA)
- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
- Department of Energy Intelligence
- Bureau of Intelligence and Research
- Department of the Treasury
- Intelligence organizations of Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marines



**Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Dennis C. Blair** is head of Intelligence Community (IC) and chief advisor to President Obama on national security. **In charge of collaboration between IC and foreign security services**



**Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)**  
Collects, analyzes, and evaluates foreign intelligence to assist White House make decisions on national security.

**Nov 19:** Abdulmutallab's father warns two CIA officers at U.S. embassy in Abuja that his son has fallen under "influence of religious extremists based in Yemen". **CIA alerts DNI's National Counterterrorism Centre (NCTC)**