

Al-Qaeda's bombmaker Ibrahim al-Asiri

U.S. intelligence officials are concerned that Al-Qaeda's top bombmaker is developing a bomb that could go undetected through airport security

Apr 1982: **Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri** born into military family in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Al-Asiri has four brothers and three sisters

2007: Al-Asiri and younger brother, **Abdullah**, join Al-Qaeda in Yemen

Al-Asiri, known by alias **Abu Saleh**



Jan 2009: Al Qaeda's Yemeni and Saudi wings merge into **Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)**

Aug: Attempted assassination of Saudi Arabian Minister of Interior by body-cavity bomb using PETN plastic explosive. Suicide bomber, Al-Asiri's brother Abdullah, is blown to pieces

Oct 2010: Two packages, each containing printer cartridge packed with PETN, found on separate planes en route from Yemen to Chicago. Bombs discovered at stop-overs at East Midlands Airport in UK and Dubai

Apr 2012: Metal-free version of "underwear bomb" intercepted in CIA sting operation

Dec 2009: Christmas Day bomber, **Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab**, attempts to destroy U.S.-bound aircraft with bomb sewn into underpants. Bomb fails to explode – FBI recover Asiri's fingerprint from bomb

Jul 2014: Airport security increased. More than 250 airports around world offer nonstop flights to U.S.

Security: 1. Backscatter scanner uses X-rays that penetrate clothes but stop at skin
2. Millimetre scanner uses radio waves similar to microwaves. **Neither can detect cavity bombs**

