

Los Alamos Monitor (Op-ed)

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The attempted Christmas Day attack on Northwest Airlines Flight 253 in Detroit demonstrates the need for constant vigilance in confronting the evolving nature of the threats to air travel security. As we work to address the vulnerabilities this plot has exposed, we must institute systems and technologies that would prevent the specific security breaches we saw on Flight 253, while having the vision and flexibility to deter future threats. An overarching objective of these applications is to get the traveling public through airport security in a rapid, efficient manner, while keeping our airways safe.

While we look for ways to improve our intelligence capabilities, augment our human capabilities and advance security technology, I believe that our federal government can address many of the threats to our national security with Los Alamos National Laboratory's expertise, technology, and research.

Los Alamos National Laboratory has been studying the threats to our nation's infrastructure and developing the cutting-edge technology needed to confront them for decades. One such technology is the MagViz program. This system adapts the same Magnetic Resonance Imaging techniques used by medical professionals to examine the human body to identify concealed liquids. The goal is to identify the chemical composition of liquids and whether or not they could be a threat.

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