



January 2, 2010

**Statement by the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC)
Mr. Michael E. Leiter**

The failed attempt to destroy Northwest Flight 253 is the starkest of reminders of the insidious terrorist threats we face. While this attempt ended in failure we know with absolute certainty that Al-Qa'ida and those who support its ideology continue to refine their methods to test our defenses and pursue an attack on the Homeland. Our most sacred responsibility is to be focused on our mission – detecting and preventing terrorist attacks from happening on our soil and against U.S. interests. The American people expect and deserve nothing less.

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