

U.S. steps up bomb-seeking technology

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- Developing new high-technology techniques to detect bombs in clothing or luggage has a high priority at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Starnes Walker, research director in Homeland Security's Science and Technology division, told USA Today government agencies, private companies and universities are all involved in developing such things as chemical sensors and intelligent camera systems to combat the threat. Randall Larsen of the Institute for Homeland Security told the newspaper Iraq had been "an invaluable battle lab" for bomb-making terrorists. "We should expect to see these extraordinarily lethal devices in future attacks -- not necessarily against traditional targets, such as subways, trains and buses, but against hardened targets such as VIP limousines," Larsen said. Meanwhile, a bill with bipartisan support has been drafted in Washington to authorize \$60 million over three years for Homeland Security's new Office of Bombing Prevention, the report said.

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