



Talking about terror

Experts on Obama's comments

By MATT NEGRIN | 12/28/09 1:40 PM

Share this story [BOOKMARK](#) [Print](#) [Email](#)



The Delta-Northwest Airlines plane is pulled back to the terminal at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport on Dec. 26. AP

President Obama, in Hawaii, plans to comment Monday on the attempt to blow up a plane on Christmas. Here's what some experts on foreign policy and homeland security were thinking about what Obama should say:

— John Campbell, the American ambassador to Nigeria from 2004 to 2007, told POLITICO: "If I were advising the president, I would say that where the presidential concern is is at an attempt, apparently Al Qaeda supported and possibly directed, on the U.S., and the issue of the extent to which the security procedures succeeded or failed.

"It looks like this Nigerian gent was thwarted, stopped, by the passengers on the plane who saw what was happening," he said. "If I was the president, I would make reference to their heroism."

— Benjamin Friedman, a research fellow for defense and homeland security at the Cato Institute, told POLITICO: "In general, I think that when presidents talk about terrorism, they ought to calm people down a little.

"This guy was somewhat pathetic in his attempt to blow up the airplane. It obviously didn't work," he added. "I think the president ought to pour a little bit of cold water on this.

"This is a failed terrorism attempt, and we ought to treat it like a failed terrorism attempt, not a successful one," he said.

— James Carafano, a senior fellow for homeland security at the Heritage Foundation, told POLITICO: "He could say that this is failure. It's a failure on the part of my administration. We failed to protect Americans.

"I do think the administration — the odds are not with these guys," he added. "We've

Search:



Monday Dec. 28, 2009
All Times Eastern

- 8:00 AM
- 9:00 AM
- 10:00 AM
- 11:00 AM
- 12:00 PM
- 1:00 PM
- 2:00 PM
- 3:00 PM
- 4:00 PM
- 5:00 PM
- 6:00 PM

December 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

