

Thursday, January 14. 2010

Scientist fools nude scanner

This is a nice example, why those backscatter airport scanners are not the solution of all problems in airport security. The interesting part starts at 18:05 of this video available in the ZDF mediathek (an public broadcasting network in Germany). Despite being scanned they are not able to find the thermite the scientist is carrying. The guy demoing the scanner doesn't look amused as well as Mr. Bosbach, a german politician who thinks that we should use such scanners, if they are able to protect the privacy of the scanned peoples.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in English, Privacy, Security at 19:40

Termite does not blow up, it just burns very quickly, hotly, and brightly.
Anonymous on Jan 15 2010, 15:36

In essence thermite is burning aluminium. It's used to connect rails when building railroad tracks. I don't want to know what happens in an airplane (made from aluminium) when you ignite some thermite near the wall or on the floor.
Anonymous on Jan 15 2010, 17:23

Do you know what happens when you ignite termite near right above important control lines in a 747 burning through the aluminum? As the maintainance documents of a 747 are note exactly top secret it would be easy to find a location to maximize damage.
Anonymous on Jan 15 2010, 19:12

Even an unbelievable quantity of Termite will burn in seconds... by the time it burns up, you may have a melted seat and a bunch of men beating the stuffing out of someone - but the situation is still manageable.

A bomb is a much greater threat (i.e. very unmanageable because soon after the smoke, large hole exists in the plane removing rigid body integrity.)

Of course, this is not to say that we should not try to test for thermite, but more important things need to be done (i.e. defend against threats which have been demonstrated or have been predicted in captured intelligence from laptops, phone calls, computers, etc.)
Anonymous on Jan 19 2010, 03:44

An unbelievable small quantity of Thermite can crash a plane when it's used at the right location ... for example above the avionics rack .. ?
Anonymous on Jan 19 2010, 17:52