

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

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IMPROVED SCANNER -- With international terrorists resorting to plastic guns, explosives and knives to avoid airport detection, improvements over existing X-ray screeners are needed. The Model Z, an X-ray system developed by American Science and Engineering Company in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is one solution. Conventional X-ray of a suitcase (top) reveals only typical travel items. The Model Z image below, however, reveals a disassembled Glock 17 pistol, a handgun made largely of plastic. The new system also is able to detect smuggled narcotics and gemstones as well as contraband foodstuffs concealed in luggage.

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