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THE FORTNIGHTLY DELIGHTFULLY BRIEF, PITHY AND WHOLLY IDIOSYNCRATIC NEWSLETTER.



Delightfully Brief

The dog days of summer are upon Washington early-- even without Sirius rising. The only thing serious happening has been the continuation of *The Recalcitrants*, a long-running soap opera on cable television starring the dull-witted minions and knuckle-dragging oafs of the Transportation Security Administration. Yet again, the TSA insulted the Congress. Some will recall how it has stood up the Congress on several occasions and just not appeared. Its leaders went to the famous Woody Allen School of Philosophy and learnt that 90% of life is showing up and

then perverted even that. Just as well, one supposes. The TSA would simply have repeated The Lie and told how well it is doing keeping America "safe." The TSA has a habit of telling The Lie and defending itself through its mouthpiece, the risible former FBI-hack show director Airport Johnny Pistole or his producer, the Rosa Krebs of transport and the untitled Secretary of Xenophobia and Chauvinism, DHS Sec. The Hon. Janet Napolitano of Maritime Arizona. We recall that some states bestow honorary medals. Others bestow honorary secretariats. Let us turn now to the most recent episode: *Fahrenheit 105°: The Infuriated Congressman*. Before, let us consider a thought experiment: Can you honestly say you have felt safer having paid for the privilege of boarding an airplane, being genitally groped, *de facto* criminalized and sprayed with ionizing radiation?

Pithy

In This Issue

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- The TSA Big TWIC Lie
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How may Cartner & Fiske help you?

Bring your maritime law, engineering, operations, management or economics problem to us. It is likely that we have succeeded in solving a similar problem elsewhere.

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Book Sale

Defending Against Pirates is now on sale! We are offering the PDF

One thing one does not want to do if one expects a long, happy, prosperous and financially rewarding life as a bureaucrat and thereafter as a contractor is to get on the wrong side of a Congressman interested in what one is doing. We now turn to the TWIC, the infamous and useless piece of plastic surrounding an equally useless chip. TWIC is the equally risible and pompously named Transportation Worker Information Credential. In the overwhelming love of Americans for linguistic redundancies, it is commonly called The TWIC Card. Congressman John Mica is not the most powerful member of Congress but on matters of the TWIC he is the most honest and understanding. He has said that for purposes of port security a library card would work as well as a TWIC. On June 29 he chaired a meeting of the House Transportation and Infrastructure committee of the House of Representatives. The committee invited an assistant administrator from the TSA to testify. That worthy yet again stood up the committee. Chairman Mica in a shocking statement for family television used the S-word: subpoena. Others who did show either were unprepared or ready with variants of The Lie. About half an hour in, Rep. Mica said in barely contained fury, "I'm fed up with this" and recessed the committee while striking the gavel with equal if displaced fury. A staffer was overheard telling the ranking member, "Yes sir, [the witnesses] have no idea what's going on, sir." See the recording [here](#) on Maritime TV and go to minute 29, put on some popcorn and watch the show.

I comment on the matter in a interview with Mr. Dave Gardy. It can be viewed [here](#).

Wholly Idiosyncratic

Watching a government program hated by most of us but defended by our betters is fun. The TWIC is circling the drain. I predicted this two years ago in another journal. I have pointed out here and elsewhere – and I am not alone – that the TWIC is merely a refuge for the True Believers in the TSA Lie who are unemployable elsewhere. The TWIC was conceived in panic and contracted by the ignorant in haste to a cynical and well-experienced defense crowd who saw the way to milk the government of billions and return nothing – and did. The TWIC was and is incompetently executed and managed on the government side – and in great secrecy to hide the incompetence. The only honesty in the TWIC is the so-called computer dashboard which revealed over time that the 750 thousand people who were supposed to have this useless weight in the hip pocket were really 2.1 million. Reliable sources are estimating three million when every Tom, Dick and Suzie who takes a car to work in a modal office - transportation - must sign up. Of course in this tissue of lies, the contractor lied to get the contract. The TWIC has failed to increase port security in any legitimate fashion. It is hoax, farce and opéra bouffe rolled into one. It is a Subway hoagie ticket served with one chip. It is run by the Keystone Kops with real guns and abusive practices. It is managed by a set of wannabe Rambo's in dark suits and white shirts and socks. It is an utter failure and should be stopped now before the unnecessary effusion of more billions merely to save face for the most useless of government agencies – the TSA. The TWIC program makes FEMA's behavior during and after

version for \$75.00, and the PDF and hardcover book bundle for \$125.00. That is a 35% discount just for my long-suffering readers! Click [here](#) to place your order!

Hurricane Katrina look competent and well-run. Kill it now to relieve its agony. Kill it now to rid maritima of its stench. We will all be better off without it.

Urgings

If you are not a member, sign up for [FOB](#) -- the dedicated networking site. It is a lot better than the infinite number of groups in LinkedIn -- and the more than infinite numbers of conversations and discussions.

Watch [Maritime TV](#). Come see that 80% of what we know comes from visual input and Maritime TV is the best maritime visual input. Give it a try!

If you like good law reporting, sign up for [Maritime Advocate](#) put out by my good friends Sam Ignarski and Humphrey Hill in London. They also include funny stories from time to time which we all need the current shipping vale of tears.

Smooth sailing, fair winds and a following sea.

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Cartner & Fiske, LLC consults in maritime and related law, naval architecture and marine engineering and maritime economics and trade.

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