

Headlines:

DOJ – former MSC official sentenced to 96 months in prison;
OFAC – North Korea sanctions;
DOE – application to export LNG;
Court – discovery request denied, for now; and
Collection of Duties Act – 31 July 1789.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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DOJ – former MSC official sentenced to 96 months in prison



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that, following his guilty plea, the former Afloat Programs Manager at the Military Sealift Command (MSC) was sentenced to serve 96 months in prison for receiving bribes in exchange for favorable treatment for contractors. (7/29/14).

OFAC – North Korea sanctions



The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued a **notice** stating that the two North Korean companies involved with the vessel caught attempting to transit the Panama Canal with illegal weapons have been placed on the Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list, (along with all vessels operated by those companies). (7/30/14).

DOE – application to export LNG



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a notice stating that it received an application from Gasfin Development USA, LLC requesting authorization to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) by vessel from a facility to be built along the Calcasieu River in Louisiana. Comments on the application must be received by 29 September. [79 Fed. Reg. 44439](#) (July 31, 2014).

Court – discovery request denied, for now



The US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit issued a summary order affirming the denial of plaintiffs' motion for discovery relating to certain witness declarations made in the case of *Reino de Espana v. American Bureau of Shipping* regarding the 2002 sinking of the tanker *Prestige* and the subsequent oil spill. The appellate court found that the district court had not abused its discretion in denying discovery based on plaintiffs' assertions. Because the circumstances for which discovery is sought are subject to change, the dismissal is without prejudice and defendants are ordered to refrain for five years from destroying, altering, or removing from the United States any records reasonably subject to discovery. [Mare Shipping v. Squire Sanders \(US\) LLP](#), No. 13-4426-cv (2nd Cir., 7/30/14).

Collection of Duties Act – 31 July 1789



Getting a new nation started is a complex operation. After the adoption of the Constitution by the various states of the United States, there were elections for President and for the House of Representatives, as well as appointments to the Senate. Then, these august gentlemen (august gentlewomen were not invited) got together and began enacting legislation. On 4 July 1789, in one of their first official actions, they assessed duties on arriving vessels. It then occurred to someone that they had failed to provide for the payment of those duties. Therefore, on 31 July 1789, Congress adopted the [Collection of Duties Act](#), which required vessels arriving in ports of the United States to actually pay the previously imposed duties. President George Washington appointed the various Collectors of Customs in August 1789.

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