

Headlines:

White House – US policy toward Cuba;
USN – Fitzgerald marine casualty investigation begins;
DOJ – former Naval Attaché sentenced to prison;
National Academies – maritime alignment study;
Panama Canal – Transit Reservation System changes;
UK – VTS centres; and
Summer/winter solstice – 0424 UTC, 21 June 2017.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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White House – US policy toward Cuba



The White House posted the [National Security Presidential Memorandum](#) on Strengthening the Policy of the United States toward Cuba. (6/16/17) [<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/06/16/national-security-presidential-memorandum-strengthening-policy-united>]. The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) posted [frequently asked questions](#) regarding the new policy. (6/16/17) [https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba_faqs_20170616.pdf].

USN – Fitzgerald marine casualty investigation begins



The US Navy issued a [news release](#) concerning the 17 June collision off the coast of Japan between the USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) and the container

ship ACX Crystal. Fitzgerald suffered severe damage. Seven sailors lost their lives and three were injured. Heroic efforts prevented the flooding from catastrophically spreading, which could have caused the ship to founder or sink. The US Coast Guard will take the lead on the marine casualty investigation. (6/18/17) [http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=101098]. *Note: Unofficial sources indicate that the Japanese Coast Guard and Philippine authorities will also conduct investigations.*

DOJ – former Naval Attaché sentenced to prison



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a **news release** stating that the former Naval Attaché at the US Embassy in the Philippines has been sentenced to 41 months in prison for his role in a massive bribery and fraud scheme involving foreign defense contractor Leonard Glenn Francis and his firm, Glenn Defense Marine Asia (GDMA). (6/16/17) [<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-us-naval-attach-and-military-advisor-us-ambassador-philippines-sentenced-taking-bribes>].

National Academies – maritime alignment study



The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) of the National Academies issued a **notice** stating that it has been retained by the Maritime Administration (MARAD) to provide a qualified, independent review of its core functions, its role within the US Department of Transportation (DOT), and its benefit to the nation. The study is expected to take at least six months. (May 2017) [<http://www.napawash.org/images/WorkInProgress/MARAD-Work-In-Progress-6.9.17.pdf>]. *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my good friend Denise Krepp of **EMR Group**.*

Panama Canal – Transit Reservation System changes



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory announcing changes to its Transit Reservation System. **Advisory 20-2017** (6/16/17) [<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2017/a-20-2017.pdf>].

UK – VTS centres



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued a Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN) advising stakeholders regarding UK Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) and listing the designated VTS Centres. **MSN 1796 (M+F)** (6/19/17) [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/620273/MSN_1796_Amend_3_-_Designation_of_VTS_Stations_in_the_UK_-_Final.pdf].

Summer/winter solstice – 0424 UTC, 21 June 2017



The summer/winter solstice, marking the first day of summer in the northern hemisphere and the first day of winter in the southern hemisphere, occurs at 0424 UTC on Wednesday, 21 June 2017. This represents the sun's furthest progression northward for the year. Some flights into the Phoenix airport are being cancelled in commemoration.

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