

From: Thomas Eblen
Sent: Thursday, July 01, 2004 11:01 AM
To: rfidworkshop
Subject: RFID Chips Could Help our Troops and their Families

If RFID chips are used on retail merchandise in the AAFES installations to prevent attempted thefts, mistakes, and inadvertence, our troops and their families would be spared \$200.00 fines that have been authorized by the DOD in 2002 in Sec. 335. Civil Recovery for Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentality Costs Related to Shoplifting. S.1438 from the 107th Congress.

These \$200 fines which appear to have been DOD developed policy were authorized by an amendment to Section 3701 (b)(1)B of title 31, United States Code by inserting "before the comma at the end the following ", including actual and administrative costs related to shoplifting, theft detection, and theft prevention."

The federal government does not have a statute for "shoplifting" but developed this administrative fine on the basis of state laws that permit minimum punitive damages ranging from \$25.00 (Vermont) to \$200.00 (Florida and Washington, and others). I guess it is not surprising that the DOD opted for the highest minimum punitive damages that they call administrative fines for the troops and their dependents.

This quiet manipulation of the law to support new policy initiatives is not new, of course. But, I would like to think that the members of the Armed Forces Committee of the US Senate and the House were not aware of the mean consequences to our troops and their families, some of whom are on food stamps to survive. I intend to write to them.

It is impossible for the public to watch government and our elected officials and the regulators fail us because when they are finished regulating, they go to work for the people they have regulated.

who often look kindly upon them because they were so kind to them in the past.

I sincerely hope the FTC will investigate the merits of regulating RFID chips to require retail corporations to render ordinary diligence and prevent attempts against their merchandise by requesting payment for items that they will know for certain are in the possession of the shoppers before they depart the stores.

If the legalized extortion of the past twenty to twenty-five years can, in anyway, be justified, it cannot be justified in the future and the FTC who is charged with regulating commerce, etc. on behalf of the people could put an end to this ugly status quo.

This would be a moral solution to the problem of shoplifting for the retailers and for the consumers of this country and the world. MIT will have produced technology that will be used for the good of humanity and the FTC will be doing their job for all of the people -- not just the people who run the corporate entities for profits.

Sincerely,

Carol Eblen