



## INEFFECTIVENESS OF INVASIVE PAT-DOWN

By Rana Odeh

Once upon a time, U.S. airports were content with metal detectors until the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) deemed them incompetent, so they are being replaced with body scanners. Americans are complaining about the body scanners, so U.S. airports are implementing pat-down security measures. Americans are now complaining about the pat-downs, so where do we go from here?

I do not think the TSA could go any further than using X-ray technology and intimate pat-downs to make our airports safer. The problem is figuring out how to deal with the invasion of privacy. You are given two options; you can either choose to display your nude image on a screen that is viewed by a security official, or you can choose to get felt up by a security official. It does not sound like we have much of an option here.

My dilemma, however, lies in the fact that metal detectors have proven to be incompetent and I think our security is of prime importance. In 2006, Congress requested the testing of metal detectors in U.S. airports and found that federal investigators were able to carry a combination of explosive materials that are strong enough to destruct an airplane without setting off any alarms in 21 U.S. airports across the nation.

The test was not conducted once or twice, but multiple times, and security at the time was unable to detect any threat. The Office of Inspection frequently conducts tests to determine the vulnerability of metal detectors and security officials at airports.

While I am a strong supporter of strict airport security, the exposure to X-rays from the body scanners could be harmful to frequent flyers and the only other option, the pat-downs, are not fool-proof. With the human involvement of pat-downs, I would weigh out their effectiveness vs. the invasion of privacy they may create.

In Tampa, Florida, a middle-aged white male, who works for the Office of Inspection, hid a mock bomb in between the small of his back and his jeans. The man set off the alarm, but not because of his nonmetal bomb, but because of his metal knee, so the security official ran a wand over the man's body and softly patted him down, including a patting of his back. When the wand set an alarm, the covert tester explained that he has a bad knee and a bum back and was then allowed through into the airport. This man was now free to roam around the airport and board his flight with a mock bomb in his pants.

This raises very important questions about the vulnerability of the security officials, the effectiveness of pat-downs, and the security officials' bias or judgment on who can pass with a simple explanation after setting off an alarm.

After considering the importance of human faultiness, training procedures for security officials, and widespread ideologies, the pat-downs prove to be faulty and perhaps not worth the discomfort they create.

While I understand the body scanners and personal pat-downs may be uncomfortable or an

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invasion of privacy, I question why people are suddenly so reluctant to help the security situation of our nation. Our privacy went out of the window with the Patriot Act anyway and I believe there should be a unified willingness to support our safety regardless of our own privacy issues.

I am not concerned with the pat-downs because of their invasiveness, rather because of their human bias-led ineffectiveness. I am greatly troubled by the fact that a middle-aged white man can pass into our airports with a mock bomb because he does not fit the racial profiling of a suspicious person.

My concern is that the average American that is complaining about the pat-downs is complaining because he/she does not feel like they deserve to be inspected so closely, or think they are entitled to pass because they do not fit the suspicious racial profiling either. The people who complain about the pat-downs are the same people who are afraid of terrorism and want tight security ... just not security measures that affect them.

It seems that they may be the same people who prefer racial profiling as a security measure and would be totally content with a sign directing certain racial groups to the pat-down area. They want “others” to be closely monitored, thoroughly checked and patted down, but they are offended that they, too, are subject to strict security procedures.

People are bringing into question human rights issues with the scanners and pat-downs, but I think there should be human rights questions regarding the biases and unequal treatment that are embedded in the question of security. If some people are getting patted down (and we know one racial group has been and will continue to get patted down), then every passenger should have to pick between a body scanner and pat-down until different, hopefully more effective and healthy, security measures are implemented.

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## RESISTING TSA PERVERTS A TEST OF AMERICAN CHARACTER

By Mark Luedtke



Imagine if armed thugs forced you to strip naked while they took pictures. Worse, imagine they did the same thing to your spouse and children, and you were helpless to stop them. Imagine if they lewdly molested your children while they forced you to watch. Imagine if they chuckled while they told you it was for your own good and offered a choice between the nude pictures and the grope. Does having that choice make you free?

You don't have to imagine. All you have to do is take a flight out of Cincinnati, Columbus or many other U.S. airports.

At least if the assailants weren't employed by the government, there's a chance these perverts would be arrested, prosecuted and imprisoned as sex offenders. But because these sexual predators wear government uniforms, they are legally molesting adults, children and the elderly constantly at dozens of airport security checkpoints.

Because government is funded by theft and wields a monopoly on violence, it already attracts the most power-hungry and depraved individuals to government jobs. Now that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) molests Americans as a matter of policy, TSA

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is also attracting the most perverted individuals in the country. Joining the TSA enables every freak that ever dreamed of molesting a child, or anybody else, to do so with impunity and to get your drivers license info for future stalking. And anybody who would be surprised to find that pretty, young women seem to be singled out for “secondary screening” more frequently than others is hopelessly naive.

TSA told us to trust them. They told us the nude-scanners took blurry pictures and couldn't store images. Both were quickly exposed as lies. U.S. Marshalls in an Orlando court house have been busted for storing 35,000 lo-res nude-scanner images. You can bet TSA perverts are sharing high-res nude pictures and notching their tasers after every grope. Nude pictures of you or your child will be available on the internet soon. TSA tells us this is for our safety. The Israelis, who know a thing or two about thwarting terrorists know better. The same government that gave us the Tuskegee experiment tells us the nude-scanners are safe. Doctors disagree.

The horror stories are piling up fast. One pretty, young woman frequently gets singled out for molestation. When she complained, agents handcuffed her to a chair and tore up her ticket. TSA molested an old woman in wheelchair. The most sickening video I've seen is one of a mother holding her petrified three-year-old daughter while a TSA agent molests her and her father videos it. Government-worship has so thoroughly corrupted many Americans that

parents now betray their children by assisting government molesters. Anybody predicting this ten years ago would have been dismissed as paranoid. Now it's normal.

I can't help but see a parallel to the humiliating, dehumanizing tactics of the TSA to the way the Nazis stripped and dehumanized Jews before they exterminated them. Granted our government isn't exterminating us, yet, but the Nazis did not appear out of the blue. As author Friedrich von Hayek explained in *The Road to Serfdom*, the rise of the Nazis was a consequence of the collapse of the socialist society before them. The rise of the strongman is the last stop on the road to serfdom. The Weimar Republic put in place the tools the Nazis used to enslave the Germans and subsequently exterminate the Jews. Those tools included creation of the total welfare state, government control of health care, and a money-printing system that destroyed the German currency, collapsing the economy and government. The parallels to modern America are terrifying including how Germans thought they were free just as Americans do.

Those who say it can't happen here are delusional. It is happening here with frightening speed, and it will get worse until we stop it or it's too late to stop.

Stopping our rampaging government is the ultimate test of American character. The government wants to use TSA tactics on the streets, in businesses and at sporting events.

Mobile scanners are already in operation. Over the last decade, the government built the legal and physical infrastructure it needs for the final transformation of the U.S. into Nazi Germany or the Soviet Union. Cameras watch from every street corner. President Obama claims the power to murder any American by presidential fiat, and Ben Bernanke is destroying the dollar and dragging us deeper into the Greatest Depression. Government courts uphold oppression. If Americans don't reject government oppression fast, the strongman will soon rise here if he hasn't already.

Because its abuses are so gratuitous, the TSA has become the focus of resistance. Pilots and flight attendants unions and the press are complaining, but they only want a narrow exemption for the rich, powerful and politically connected like themselves. Because businesses must satisfy customers, unlike government, many resistance sites advocate writing travel companies and boycotting airline travel. Travel companies are feeling the heat. But in order for our country to survive, Americans must overcome all government oppression. Refuse to submit, force TSA to retreat and then let's build on that victory.

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