

IN THE NEWS

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World News

China continues to incrementally expand its military dominance. For example, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has effectively prevented Indian troops from patrolling the Line of Actual Control (LaC) separating the two countries [1]. Then the Philippines discovered China's construction in the contested Spratly Islands [2]. Meanwhile, suggesting a military response, China warned Japan not to station any government people on the disputed islands [3]. Then, eight Chinese ships entered Japan-controlled waters near the contested islands [4].

While most eyes are focuses on the Middle-East, things are becoming more dangerous on the Korean peninsula. Case in point, steam was detected coming from the North Korean Yongbyon nuclear reactor indicating the plutonium bomb material plant is nearing an operational state [5]. Once fully operational, the reactor is expected to produce enough plutonium to build one or two nuclear bombs per year [6]. Interestingly, Russia expressed concern over the poor state of the reactor indicating a high likelihood of a manmade disaster [7]. So after years of resisting Western efforts to cut North Korea's nuclear program, now Russia is worried about the unintended consequences.

Elsewhere in Asia, the nuclear arms race between India and Pakistan continues. For instance, the International Institute for Strategic Studies is warning that Pakistan is on the path to overtake Brittan as the fifth largest nuclear power and the ongoing arms race increases the likelihood of nuclear war [8]. Furthermore, there is concern that India's development of ICBMs will in turn fuel an Asian nuclear arms race with China [9].

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Security

Unfortunately, driver's licenses do not provide the same degree of protection that PIV and CAC cards do. Consequently, fake driver's licenses are still problematic. Case in point, three people were arrested in Virginia for making and selling over 25,000 fake IDs [1].

Keeping commercial software updated against security holes continues to be an ongoing challenge. For instance, Microsoft's patch Tuesday consisted of 14 patches, including four critical security vulnerabilities fixes [2]. In total, 47 flaws were patched [3].

Then just two days following patch Tuesday, Microsoft released an update designed to fix installation bugs covering four security bulletins [4]. Later Microsoft released another temporary fix to address a new zero-date attack that is actively being exploited [5]. Then Mozilla's latest web browser, Firefox 24, releases patches to correct 19 vulnerabilities, including 9 considered critical [6].

In other news, biometric fingerprint reading is under fire. It seems there are cases where people have grafted skin to establish a different fingerprint and successfully

defeated biometric readers [7].

1. GSN, *Three arrested in Virginia for allegedly creating more than 25,000 false ID documents*, September 8, 2013.
2. Walker, Danielle, SC Magazine, *Microsoft readies four critical fixes for Patch Tuesday*, September 6, 2013.
3. Walker, Danielle, SC Magazine, *Microsoft delivers 13 patches for 47 flaws, including critical Outlook bug*, September 10, 2013.

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Special points of interest:

- North Korea fires up antiquated nuclear reactor
- 22nd Bank shuttered

*What is food to one man
is bitter poison to others—
Lucretius*

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4. Walker, Danielle, SC Magazine, *Microsoft reissues Patch Tuesday fixes to address install glitches*, September 16, 2013.
5. Walker, Danielle, SC Magazine, *Microsoft releas-*

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- es temporary fix for new IE zero-day exploited in the wild*, September 18, 2013.
6. Walker, Danielle, SC Magazine, *Firefox 24 addresses 19 bugs with 17 patches*, September 19, 2013.
7. Ricanek, Karl, IEEE

Computer, *The Next Biometric Challenge: Medical Alterations*, September, 2013.

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There are concerns that the US is a declining military power. For example, as the US is cutting its submarine force by 30%, the submarine warfare programs of China, Russia, and Iran are increasing [10]. What's more, following leaked information, China is working on technology to jam US military data links [11].

1. Gupta, Shishir, Hindustan Times, *China army not letting Indian troops patrol LaC*, September 3, 2013.
2. Chiang, Chuck, Vancouver Sun, *Asia Pacific: Tensions flare over South China Sea islands*, September 8, 2013.
3. Takenaka, Kiyoshi, and

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- Blanchard, Ben, Reuters, *China warns Japan against stationing workers on disputed isles*, September 10, 2013.
4. Bloomberg, *China's Ships Near Islands Before Japan Purchase Anniversary*, September 11, 2013.
5. BBC News, *North Korea's Yongbyon reactor 'nearing operation'*, September 12, 2013.
6. The Telegraph/AP, *Satellite image shows North Korea nuclear reactor 'probably restarting'*, September 11, 2013.
7. AFP, *Russia warns over N.Korea work at 'nightmarish' reactor*, September 12, 2013.
8. MacDonald, Myra, Reuters, *South Asian arms race raises risk of nuclear war: IISS think tank*, September 12, 2013.
9. Parashar, Sachin, Times of India, *India's development of ICBMs likely to fuel arms race with China*, September 18, 2013.
10. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Declining Power*, September 13, 2013.
11. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Chinese Military Capable of Jamming U.S. Communications System*, September 20, 2013.

Syria

The big news regarding Syria is President Obama's decision to postpone an attack and focus on a Russian crafted peace plan [1]. Furthermore, Secretary of State Kerry is allowing Syria one week to follow the Russian plan that calls for placing chemical weapons under international control or face the threat of an attack [2]. To further complicate matter, Russia is challenging the US military by moving one of its carrier killer ships into the Mediterranean Sea [3].

It seems that China is itching to use its military either in the South China Sea or on the border with India. Yet China claims the US must not use force in Syria and a political solution is the only right way to resolve the issue [4]. So what exactly are we getting in return for a one-sided trade arrangement with China?

After building expectations of an attack on Syria, the President has decided instead to seek a political solution [5]. However, with this decision Israel is warning that Iran will now realize the treats of a US response are hollow [6].

In other troubling news, one article suggests the al Qaeda linked rebels are gaining more support and strength than

other rebel groups [7]. For instance, one report indicates, of the 100,000 estimated rebels, 10,000 belong to al Qaeda with the total hardline Islamist and jihadists combined representing 50% of the rebel force [8].

In a further sign of regional expansion, Turkish warplanes shot down a Syrian helicopter that strayed into Turkey's airspace [9]. One report indicates an F-16 was used to down a Russian-built Mi-17 helicopter [10]. Turkey also closed a crossing after al Qaeda linked fighters overran a Syrian border town [11].

1. Landler, Mark, and Weisman, Jonathan, New York Times, *Obama Delays Syria Strike to Focus on a Russian Plan*, September 10, 2013.
2. Wintour, Patrick, The Guardian (UK), *John Kerry gives Syria week to hand over chemical weapons or face attack*, September 9, 2013.
3. Fox News, *Russia's 'carrier killer' ship enters Mediterranean*, September 12, 2013.
4. Beech, Hannah, Time, *China's View on Syria Crisis: America's "Hidden Motivations" Are Leading It Astray*, September 13, 2013.
5. Morris, Loveday, Washington Post, *U.S. ties in Persian Gulf at risk as Obama allows space for Russian-Syrian plan*, September 12, 2013.
6. Keinon, Herb, Jerusalem Post, *Shalom: Syria case sets worrying precedent for Iran*, September 13, 2013.
7. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Former CIA leader: Syria's Islamist Rebels Gaining Power*, September 13, 2013.
8. Farmer, Ben, The Telegraph (UK), *Syria: nearly half rebel fighters are jihadists or hardline Islamists, says IHS Jane's report*, September 15, 2013.
9. Tawfiq, Saif, Reuters, *Turkish warplanes shoot down Syrian helicopter*, September 16, 2013.
10. Fahim, Kareem, and Arsu, Sebnem, New York Times, *Turkey Says It Shot Down Syrian Military Helicopter Flying in Its Airspace*, September 16, 2013.
11. Burch, Jonathon, and Dziadosz, Alexander, Reuters, *Turkey shuts Syria crossing after Qaeda group storms border town*, September 19, 2013.

Already, China has undermined U.S. foreign policy in efforts to gain access to oil resources in Iran and Sudan. We simply cannot separate the political and economic values of oil.—Jo Ann Emerson

Economy

While the US continues to struggle through a weak economy, China is still going strong. For example, the communist giant announced a \$28.52 billion August trade surplus, the highest level this year [1]. In contrast, the Commerce Department released July numbers indicating a \$39.1 billion trade deficit that includes a record \$30.1 billion with China [2].

For the week ending September 7, the number of first time unemployment claims reported by the Labor Department was 292,000 [3]. Later it was determined the reported number was too low because two states under reported [4]. The number was later revised to 294,000 and for the week ending September 14, the number reported was 309,000 [5].

One of the factors determin-

ing the future of the US is education. However, one article indicates over 50% of US graduate students in engineering, computer science, and mathematics are foreign students with China and India leading in number [6].

Regulators have again started shuttering financial institutions. For example on September 13, the First National Bank in Texas and Community Bank in Connecticut were closed; bringing the number of failed banks this year to 22 [7].

1. Bradsher, Keith, New York Times, *Economic Reports Ease Concerns in China*, September 8, 2013.
2. Mutikani, Lucia, Reuters, *U.S. trade deficit widens, little impact seen on third-quarter growth*, September 4, 2013.
3. Brooks, Rodney, USA Today, *Jobless claims fall to 292,000*, September 12, 2013.
4. Portlock, Sarah, and Mitchell, Josh, Wall Street Journal, *Reporting Anomaly Drives Plunge in Jobless Claims*, September 12, 2013.
5. Stilwell, Victoria, Bloomberg, *Jobless Claims in U.S. Increase Less Than Forecast*, September 19, 2013.
6. Nawaguna, Elvina, Reuters, *More foreigners enter U.S. grad schools as citizen enrollment lags*, September 12, 2013.
7. AP/ABC News, *Regulators Close Banks in Texas and Connecticut*, September 14, 2013.

China Pollution

As more industry is exported to China, the consequences of poor environmental standards is impacting the people. For instance, Following 20 students suffering nose bleeds believed to be caused by pollution from nearby industry; a primary school in Beibaixiang township, China, was temporarily shuttered [1]. Additionally, approximately 100 children suffered from chest pains and vomiting [2].

However, China continues to advertise its plans to curb pollution. For instance, to combat air pollution, China is planning to cut some coal burning along with taking some high polluting vehicles off the road [3].

1. Stout, David, Time, *Chinese Authorities Close School After Pollution Triggers Mass Nosebleeds*, September 10, 2013.
2. Ya, Wen, Global Times, *Polluting children*, September 11, 2013.
3. Wong, Edward, New York Times, *China's Plan to Curb Air Pollution Sets Limits on Coal Use and Vehicles*, September 12, 2013.

That level of trade deficit throttles real growth in our country and continues the unfortunate path of selling out America. We are not winning the global trade war, we are losing it badly.

—Marcy Kaptur
