

IN THE NEWS

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World News

In Syria, the war is expanding in scope. For instance, the US is committing up to 50 Special Forces warfighters inside Syria [1]. Moreover, the US backed rebel forces launched an offensive against the Islamic State (IS) [2].

While flying over the Sinai Peninsula, A Russian operated Airbus A321-200, broke up at approximately 30,000 feet [3]. One report indicates a satellite detected a heat flash at the time the Russian plane went down [4]. At the time of this newsletter, the leading theory causing the crash was a bomb explosion [5].

There are those that believe man's burning of fossil fuels is leading to global climate change and there are those that do not [7]. For instance, in Russia, the theory of climate change is not supported [7]. What's more, a new NASA study suggests Antarctica is gaining ice in contradiction to other climate change models [8]. This comes after the discovery that China has been burning up to 17% more coal per year than was previously reported [9]. This calls into question the validity of current computer models that are used to predict the consequences of climate change. That is, if the addition of China's actual consumption are applied to current computer models, the resulting predictions are not in evidence. Nevertheless, China remains the dominate consumer of coal.

China is continuing to enhance its military capability. One report suggests the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has a combined surveillance with weapon command systems [10]. This comes as more US technology firms are partnering with companies linked to the Chinese military [11].

1. BBC News, *Syria conflict: Obama to send Special Forces to fight IS*, October 30, 2015.

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Security

Within the cyberspace environment, finding the right talent is a challenge. For example, one piece indicates the USAF is adding special duty pay for cyber warfare operators [1]. This comes after a report the US may be falling behind Russia on cyber-warfare capabilities [2].

Back in the 2008 Russian-Georgia demonstrated the ability of cyber-attacks to determine the outcome of armed conflict [3]. This

included the ability to penetrate Georgia's military computer, that helped them win the conflict [4]. With the past history, it comes as no surprise that cyber-warfare continues to be recognized as a viable weapon [5].

Financial institutions continue to suffer from cyber-attacks. For instance, the First National Bank in Omaha is issuing new debit cards following a large data breach [6].

1. Olenick, Doug, *Aviation Week & Space Technology, U.S. Air Force adds extra pay for cyberspace specialists*, November 2, 2015.
2. SC Magazine, *Russia overtaking US in cyber-warfare capabilities*, October 30, 2015.
3. Markoff, John, *New York Times, Before the Gunfire, Cyberattacks*, August 12, 2008.

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Special points of interest:

- The IS claims responsibility for downing Russian commercial plane

Security

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4. Swaine, Jon, The Telegraph (UK), *Georgia: Russia 'conducting cyber war'*, August 11, 2008.
5. Viebeck, Elise, Washington Post, *U.S. wants spectrum for 5G; lethal cyber weapons in the works; pro-Palestine hackers claim to*
6. Abel, Robert, SC Magazine, *First National Bank of Omaha issuing new debit cards after large breach*, October 30, 2015.

Beware of little expenses.

*A small leak will sink a
great ship—Benjamin*

Franklin

World News

(Continued from page 1)

2. Davison, John, Reuters, *New U.S.-backed Syrian rebel alliance launches offensive against Islamic State*, October 31, 2015.
3. Mullen, Jethro, et. al., CNN, *Russian plane crash: Theories on why jet disintegrated in midair*, November 3, 2015.
4. AP/CBS, *Satellite detected heat flash at time Russian jetliner went down*, November 2, 2015.
5. Starr, Barbara, CNN, *U.S. official: '99.9% certain' Russian plane was felled by bomb*, November 7, 2015.
6. Karabell, Shellie, Forbes, *Climate Change: Have We Already Gone Too Far?*, November 8, 2015.
7. New York Times/Reuters, *Russian Media Take Climate Cue From Skeptical Putin*, October 29, 2015.
8. Christian Science Monitor, *Antarctica is actually gaining ice, says NASA. Is global warming over?*, November 1, 2015.
9. Buckley, Chris, New York Times, *China Burns Much More Coal Than Reported, Complicating Climate Talks*, November 3, 2015.
10. Fisher, Richard D., Jr., Aviation Week & Space Technology, *China Fine-tunes Offensive Strike Capabilities*, November 6, 2015.
11. Wisner, Daniel, Washington Free Beacon, *U.S. Tech Companies Partner with Firms Linked to Chinese Military*, November 5, 2015.

Terrorism

In southeast Turkey a fire-fight with Islamic State (IS) killed at least 2 police officers and 7 militant [1]. In Baghdad, at least 7 Shi'ite pilgrims were killed in a suicide attack [2].

Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, the Taliban overran a northern district [3]. The Taliban are able to maintain control of conquered areas by applying harsh religious law. For instance, the Taliban stoned to death a 22-year old woman they accused of adultery [4].

In the Middle-East, a Russian commercial plane crashed killing everyone onboard [5]. An off-shoot of the IS claimed responsibility for downing the Russian passenger jet that broke up over the Saini [6]. Separately, one piece suggests the plane was likely brought down by a bomb [7]. This is supported by what is described as an explosion heard on the plane's voice recorder [8]. Meanwhile, in an unusual request Russian crash investigators requested FBI participation [9].

Chemical weapons in the hands of terrorists is a continuing fear. What's more, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons confirmed insurgents used outlawed mustard gas in Syria [10].

While terrorism is expanding overseas, the US is not without incident. For example, a knife attacker at the University of California, Merced, appears to be rooted in Islamic terrorism [11]. As a side note, knife attacks are a new terrorist tool being used against Israeli citizens [12].

1. Cakan, Seyhmus, and Sezer, Can, Reuters, *Two policemen, seven Islamic State militants killed in Turkey*, October 26, 2015.
2. Reuters, *Bomb attack on Shi'ite pilgrims in Baghdad kills seven: sources*, October 26, 2015.
3. Harooni, Mirwais, Reuters, *Taliban overrun district in quake-hit northern Afghanistan*, October 28, 2015.
4. CBS News, *Woman accused of adultery stoned to death in Afghanistan*, November 4, 2015.
5. MacFarquhar, Neil, New York Times, *Mystery Deepens Over Russian Plane Crash in Egypt*, November 2, 2015.
6. El-Ghobashy, Tamer, Wall Street Journal, *Islamic State Offshoot Invites Russian Plane Crash Investigators to 'Prove it Wasn't Us'*, November 4, 2015.
7. Chalfant, Morgan, Washington Free Beacon, U.S. *Intelligence: Islamic State Bomb Likely Brought Down Russian Plane*, November 4, 2015.
8. Steinbuch, Yaron, and Fears, Danika, New York Post, *Russian jet's black boxes support bomb theory*, November 6, 2015.
9. Fahim, Kareem, et. al., New York Times, *Gaps in Egyptian Airport Security Face Scrutiny After Crash*, November 7, 2015.
10. Corder, Mike, AP/Washington Post, *OPCW confirms insurgents in Syria used sulfur mustard*, November 6, 2015.
11. Zimmerman, Malia, and McKay, Hollie, Fox News, *Campus stabber's manifesto included 'praise for Allah,' plan for beheading*, November 7, 2015.
12. Alster, Paul, Fox News, *Blade of jihad: Extremists embrace the knife as tool of terror*, November 5, 2015.

Asymmetrical warfare is a euphemism for terrorism, just like collateral damage is a euphemism for killing innocent civilians—Alan Dershowitz

Economy

Once again, the unfair trade practices used by Japan are benefiting its domestic industry. Case in point, for the third quarter (2015) Toyota regained the title as the world's largest automaker [1]. What's more, Toyota reported a \$5 billion quarterly profit; based on the unfair trade practice of currency devaluation (weak yen) [2].

According to the Labor Department, the number of first time unemployment claims for the week ending October 24 was 260,000 [3]. Then for the week ending October 31, the number of first time claims reported was 276,000 [4]. Additionally, the unemployment rate was reported at 5.0% with a labor participation rate at 62.4% [5]. So while the 5.0% rate looks good, the 38-year low participation rate clouds the actual job picture.

1. Bomey, Nathan, USA Today, *Toyota recaptures title of world's largest automaker from Volkswagen*, October 26, 2015.
2. Kageyama, Yuri, AP, *Toyota quarterly profit rises to \$5 billion on weak yen*, November 5, 2015.
3. Mutikani, Lucia, Reuters, *U.S. jobless claims rise, four-week average lowest since 1973*, October 29, 2015.
4. Mutikani, Lucia, Reuters, *U.S. jobless claims rise; third-quarter productivity posts surprise gain*, November 5, 2015.
5. Schwartz, Nelson D., New York Times, U.S. *Economy Added 271,000 Jobs in October; Unemployment Rate at 5%*, November 6, 2015.

*All the Federal Reserve
can do is make loans
against collateral—Ben
Bernanke*
