

IN THE NEWS

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World News

The initial Reports from Iraq indicated the Islamic State (IS) was being defeated in city of Tikrit [1]. However, the fighting became fierce slowing the initial progress [2]. Concurrently, Iran's influence continues to expand in Iraq. Case in point, Iran is deploying rocket and missile batteries to help in the fight against the IS [3].

Pakistan continues to expand its nuclear reach. For instance, Pakistan test fired a nuclear capable missile with a range of 2,750 miles [4]. At the same time, Saudi Arabia is in nuclear weapons negotiation with Pakistan [5].

The negotiation is over concerns remain that Iran will obtain a stockpile of nuclear weapons. In a further bid to enhance its nuclear capability, Saudi Arabia is also negotiating with South Korea for construction of two nuclear reactors [6]. Meanwhile, the religious leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei, once again called for the death of America [7].

While many nations are imposing sanctions to slow down North Korea's nuclear program, others are increasing aid. Case in point, China is doubling aid to nearly \$7 billion [8]. Furthermore, one report confirms North Korea's Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile test and indicates China is developing a new multi-warhead road-mobile missile [9]. Adding to the uncertainty is North Korea's claim it can launch a nuclear missile at any time [10].

One thing for certain is the importance for countries to maintain a nuclear weapons capability. The Ukraine found out the hard way what happens when nuclear weapons are dismantled [11]. This lesson is not lost on other countries. Case in point, South Africa has enough bomb grade material to construct 6 nuclear weapons and has resisted pressure to eliminate the stockpile [12].

1. Barnard, Anne, New York Times, *Iraqi and Shiite Forces Seize Large* (Continued on page 2)

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Special points of interest:

- Terror in Tunisia and Yemen

Security

The rush to fix security vulnerabilities in commercial software continues. Case in point, Adobe issued a patch to fix 11 vulnerabilities in the flash player [1]. To highlight the need to patch software, consider the following. The JP Morgan hack attack exploited an unpatched server [2].

Weaknesses in bank securi-

ty are continuing to surface. For instance, the recent cyber-attack that netted bad actors \$1 billion, breached bank security and not the individual customers [3].

To put the threat in perspective, last year officials estimated the number of stolen financial records exceeded 500 million [4].

Meanwhile, medical information breaches continue

in the news. For instance, Advantage Dental in the Oregon area, suffered a security breach putting over 150,000 patient identities at risk [5].

1. Colón, Marcos, SC Magazine, *Adobe issues patches addressing 11 vulnerabilities in Flash Player*, March 12, 2015.

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Security

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2. Goldstein, Matthew, and Roth, Nicole Peri, New York Times, *Authorities Closing In on Hackers Who Stole Data From JPMorgan Chase*, March 15, 2015.
3. Boak, Josh, AP, *The Detroit News*, \$1B bank

hacking could still hurt consumers, February 22, 2015.

4. Erin Kelly, USA Today, *Officials warn 500 million financial records hacked*, October 21, 2014.
5. Greenberg, Adam, SC Magazine, *More than 150K patients impacted in*

Advantage Dental breach, March 17, 2015.

Cyber terrorism could also become more attractive as the real and virtual worlds become more closely coupled, with automobiles, appliances, and other devices attached to the Internet.—Dorothy Denning

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2. Ryan, Missy, Washington Post, *Tikrit battle in Iraq is not over yet, Pentagon warns*, March 19, 2015.
3. Washington Free Beacon, *Iran Deploys Rocket, Missile Batteries in Iraq*, March 18, 2015.
4. AFP, *Pakistan test-fires nuclear capable ballistic missile*, March 9, 2015.
5. Riedel, Bruce, *Saudi Arabia Prepares for Iranian Nuclear Deal*, March 9, 2015.
6. Solomon, Jay, and Al

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Omran, Ahmed, Wall Street Journal, *Saudi Nuclear Deal Raises Stakes for Iran Talks*, March 11, 2015.

7. The Times of Israel, *Khamenei calls 'Death to America' as Kerry hails progress on nuke deal*, March 21, 2015.
8. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free beacon, *China Doubles Aid to North Korea Under Kim Jong-Un*, March 11, 2015.
9. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *U.S. Confirms North Korean Sub Missiles*, March 19, 2015.
10. Holden, Michael, and

Brunnstrom, David, Reuters, *North Korea says can fire nuclear missile at 'any time'*, March 20, 2015.

11. Kearley, Sam, Ukraine Today, *Ukrainian Opinion: Was it a mistake for Ukraine to surrender its nuclear arsenal in the 1990s?*, March 7, 2015.
12. Birch, Douglas, and Smith, R. Jeffrey, Washington Post, *U.S. unease about nuclear-weapons fuel takes aim at a South African vault*, March 14, 2015.

Terrorism

The Islamic state (IS) continues to expand its activities beyond the Syria/Iraq area. For instance, the IS claimed responsibility for a car bomb attack in Tripoli [1]. In West Africa, the Islamic State (IS) accepted a pledge of allegiance from Boko Haram [2].

The IS fighters are taking their toll on the Iraqi military. Case in point, the battle for the city of Tikrit stalled as Iraqi forces suffered heavy casualties [3].

In Tunisia, terrorists attacked a museum killing at least 19 people [4]. The IS claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack [5]. One piece suggests two of the museum terrorists received their training in Libya [6]. What's more, the IS has an estimated 1,000–3,000 fighters in Libya [7].

The IS acts of terrorism include inter-rival attacks. For instance, in Yemen, three suicide attacks against two mosques controlled by Shiite

rebels resulted in at least 46 deaths and over 100 others injured [8].

Once again, we are reminded of the risk of terrorism on US soil. Case in point, at the New Orleans airport, a man carrying six gasoline bombs and a machete was killed by law enforcement officials [9]. This highlights the fact, there are plenty of materials readily available for terrorists.

1. VOA, *Islamic State Militants Claim Bomb Attack in Libyan Capital*, March 12, 2015.
2. NBC News, *ISIS Expands Into West Africa, Welcoming Boko Haram Allegiance*, March 12, 2015.
3. Morris, Loveday, Washington Post, *Iraqi offensive for Tikrit stalls as casualties mount*, March 16, 2015.
4. Onyanga-Omara, Jane, USA Today, *Tunisia museum gunman known to intelligence services*, March 19, 2015.
5. Amara, Tarek, Reuters, *Islamic State claims Tunisia attack*, March 19, 2015.
6. Karimi, Faith, and Lister, Tim, CNN, *Official: 2 suspects in Tunisia museum attack got weapons training in Libya*, March 20, 2015.
7. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Islamic State Rises in Libya*, March 20, 2015.
8. Al-Haj, Ahmed, AP, *46 killed, 100 injured in suicide attacks on 2 Yemen mosques*, March 20, 2015.
9. Fox News, *Suspect in New Orleans airport machete attack dies; explosives found in bag*, March 22, 2015.

There are two kinds of people in America today: those who have experienced a foreign cyber attack and know it, and those who have experienced a foreign cyber attack and don't know it.—
Frank Wolf

Economy

According to the Labor Department, the number of first time unemployment claims for the week ending March 7 was 289,000 [1]. Then for the week ending March 14, the number rose slightly to 291,000 [2].

In a further sign of China's global importance; the UK decided to become a founding member in the Chinese led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank [3].

Overall, the price of gas is down and the stock market is up [4]. However, during the October–December quarter, the US trade deficit was \$113.6 billion [5]. This whole-

sale export of jobs, wealth, and technology will have far reaching impacts in the future. What's more, the cheap imports are forcing US industry to rely more on robotics to replace workers [6]. So what becomes of the American worker that is unemployed?

1. Dow Jones Business News, *U.S. Jobless Claims Fall by 36,000*, March 12, 2015.
2. Bloomberg, *Jobless Claims for Payroll Survey Weak Signal U.S. Hiring Gains*, March 19, 2015.
3. Dyer, Geoff, and Parker, George, *Financial Times*, *US attacks UK's 'constant accommodation' with China*, March 12, 2015.
4. Cassidy, John, *The New Yorker*, *Obama's Well-Earned Victory Lap on the Economy*, March 20, 2015.
5. Crutsinger, Martin, AP, *US current trade deficit widens to US\$113.5 bil.*, March 20, 2015.
6. Martin, Patrick, *Washington Free Beacon*, *The Grim Future of the American Worker*, March 22, 2015.

*China and Russia are regarded as the most formidable cyber threats.—
Barton Gellman*

Changes in a small town

Years ago, in the small town of Palmer, Massachusetts two movie theaters (the Strand and Five Star) operated and the town had a bustling main street. Various mills lines the rivers and employed most anyone that wanted a job. The houses had well-manicured lawns and fresh coats of paint. Driveways typi-

cally sported at least one new car.

To be sure, trade was not the only factor in town's decline. However, with the one-sided trade, the mills closed down. Essentially, the town slowly degraded. In a recent visit, houses were mostly in disrepair. Driveways typically had

cars up on cinderblocks. No movie theaters remain. Weeds replaced grass. Buildings that burned were replaced with parking lots. Many street lights are off at night to save money. In essence, the town lost its character. So it's not just cities such as Detroit that suffer from unfair trade, this story is playing out in a number of places.