IN THE NEWS

World News

In the South China Sea, a Chinese coast guard ship reportedly used a satellite jammer against an Indonesia warship [1]. So if China is operating electronic jammers that can block satellite communications, what will this do to drone aircraft? Concurrently, China has indicated it will ignore the decision of an international arbitration panel decision regarding the Philippines lawsuit over China's territorial claims [2],

Meanwhile, North Korea continues to enhance its military capability. One report indicates the communist country has restarted a Plutonium producing reactor [3]. This comes as the North continues ramping up its conventional military force [4]. For its part, South Korea is developing a 310 mile range ballistic missile for its 3,000-ton Jangbogo-III submarine [5].

Once again we look into the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in our systems going forward. Readers may recall, back in 2009, a centrally controlled D.C. metro train crashed into another train resulting in nine dead [6]. The NTSB reported, failure of track circuit modules caused the automatic train control system to no longer detect the first train [7]. So if the centrally controlled system observes a train going into a station, then the train disappears' can we conclude the system was okay with this condition? In other words, the fail-safe system to prevent train crashes, failed [8]. Given fail-safes sometimes fail, it is reasonable to ask how weapons in the future will operate with AI. One piece indicates the difference between human controlled and fully autonomous weapon systems can be reduced to single line of code [9]. However, autonomous operations are more likely in environments where wireless communications are vulnerable. For instance, there are low cost devices readily available that interfere with GPS systems [10].

Inside this issue:

Special points of interest:

- Chinese coast guard ships jam satellite communication

Security

Microsoft issued a warning of self-propagating ransomware capable of infections via removable media [1]. In turn, such risks force the race to fix security holes with patch management the major focus. For instance, Chrome issued 42 security fixes [2]. Google issued patches to correct 36 security flaws [3].

Meanwhile, state sponsored cyber-attacks continue in the news. For instance, one piece suggests North Korea may have been involved with recent SWIFT banking attacks [4].

As noted in the World News section, commuter rail systems have been known to be vulnerable to technology problems. If the system was designed to ignore disappearing trains, that's a serious problem. Likewise, a cyber-attack to the centrally controlled computer system is equally a problem. But the risk to critical infrastructure systems is not limited to light rail transportation. Case in point, one hacker described cyber-attacks that could potentially shut down the power grid for months [5].

1. Olenick, Doug, SC Magazine, *Microsoft warns of new, self-propagating ransomware in the wild*, May 27, 2016.

2. Robinson, Teri, SC

Security

Magazine, *Chrome 51 serves up 42 security fixes, $65K in bug bounties*, may 29, 2016.

3. Davis, Jeremy Seth, SC Magazine, *Google patches 36 critical-severity and high-severity flaws*, June 7, 2016.

4. Bridgwater, Adrian, SC Magazine, *North Korea link surfaces in SWIFT banking attacks*, June 1, 2016.

5. Szoldra, Paul, Tech Insider, A hacker told us how someone could take down the power grid without using a cyberattack, June 9, 2016,

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The attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 completely crippled our Pacific Fleet–Jerry Costello

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World News

1. Beckhusen, Robert, The National Interest, *China's New South China Sea Weapon: Super Coast Guard Ships*, June 1, 2016.

2. Joshi, Vijay, and Liang, Annabelle, AP/ABC News, *China Says It Will Ignore South China Sea Lawsuit Decision*, June 4, 2016.

3. Landay, Jonathan, et. al., Reuters, *Exclusive: North Korea restarts plutonium production for nuclear bombs - U.S. official*, June 7, 2016.

4. Fifield, Anna, Washington Post, *North Korea's military buildup isn't limited to nukes*, June 8, 2016.

5. Gady, Franz-Stefan, The Diplomat, *South Korea to Develop Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile*, June 2, 2016.

6. Goodall, Noah J., IEEE Spectrum, *Can You Program Ethics Into a Self-Driving Car*, June, 2016

7. Ferguson, Amber, NBC Washington, *Saturday Marked 4 Years Since Deadly Red Line Crash*, June 21, 2013.

8. Sun, Lena H., and Layton, Lyndsey, Washington Post, *Malfunction In Key Circuit To Prevent Crashes Was Missed*, July 2, 2009.

9. Guizzo, Erico, and Ackerman, Evan, IEEE Spectrum, *When Robots Decide to Kill*, June, 2016.

10. Batey, Angus, Aviation week & Space Technology, *Stopping Spoofers*, June 6, 2016.

Terrorism

In Iraq, the Army is fighting the Islamic State in Falluja [1]. Note: the City of Fallujah has been under IS control for two years [2]. Meanwhile, at least 25 people were killed in Baghdad following two terrorist suicide bombings [3].

In Turkey, acts of terrorism are increasing. At least 4 were killed by a roadside bomb attack against Turkish police [4]. Additionally, a car bomb attack against a police bus in Istanbul killed at least 7 people [5]. Then a police station bombing in Southeast Turkey killed at least three people [6]. Kurdish terrorists claimed responsibility for the attacks [7].

It has been some time since Israel was in the news. However, Palestinian terrorists used guns and attacked a market in Tel Aviv, resulting in at least 4 deaths [8]. The Palestinian terrorists were dressed as Hasidic Jews [9].

The risk for additional terrorist acts against the US is in-creasing. For instance, one report indicates illegals from terrorist controlled locations are entering the US via the porous border with Mexico [10].

1. Nazeh, Maher and Hameed, Saif, Reuters, *Iraqi army storms to edge of Islamic State-held Falluja; fresh bombings hit Baghdad*, May 30, 2016.

2. Abdul-Zahra, Qassim, AP/Washington Times, *Iraqi forces in Fallujah repel ISIS attack in city's south*, May 31, 2016.

3. Rasheed, Ahmed, Reuters, *Baghdad bombings kill 25 as Falluja siege continues*, June 9, 2016.

4. Soguel, Dominique, and Fraser, Suzan, AP, *4 killed in bomb attack targeting police in southeast Turkey*, May 30, 2016.

5. BBC News, *Istanbul bomb attack on police bus kills 11*, June 7, 2016.

6. Cakan, Seyhmus, Reuters, *Car Bomb at Police Station in Southeast Turkey Kills Three Wounds Many*, June 8, 2016.

7. Taylor, Guy, The Washington Times, *Kurdish militants claim responsibility for Turkey blast*, June 10, 2016.

8. Jerusalem Post, *Four killed in central Tel Aviv terror shooting; two attackers nabbed*, June 8, 2016.

9. Black, Phil, et. al., *2 suspects, 4 victims in Tel Aviv terror attack identified*, June 9, 2016.

10. Dinan, Stephen, Washington Times, *Smuggling network guided illegals from Middle East terror hotbeds to U.S. border*, June 2, 2016.

Terrorism has become the systematic weapon of a war that knows no borders or seldom has a face—
Jacques Chirac

Economy

According to the Labor Department, for the week ending May 28, the number of first time unemployment claims was 267,000 [1]. Then for the following week, the number of claims reported was 264,000 [2]. For May, the Labor Department reported an overall unemployment rate of 4.7% [3]. This reduced number was made possible by the further reduced labor participation rate of just 62.6 % [4]. That is, 458,000 left the work force in May. So once again, a clearly dismal employment report is made to look rosy.

In another sign of weakness, a Uranium mine in Wyoming will lay off a dozen people [5]. While this is a small number, it indicates a weakness in the nuclear energy sector. Meanwhile, Ralph Lauren announced plans to close 50 stores, cutting 1,000 employees [6].

1. RTT News, *U.S. Weekly Jobless Claims Edge Down To 267,000*, June 2, 2016.

2. Chandra, Sho, Bloomberg, *Jobless Claims in U.S. Unexpectedly Fell to 264,000*, June 9, 2016.

3. Mui, Ylan Q., Washington Post, *Hiring dropped sharply in May, the weakest in 6 years; unemployment rate fell to 4.7 percent*, June 3, 2016.

4. Cohen, Patricia, and Appelbaum, Binyamin, New York Times, *Sharp Fall in U.S. Hiring Saps Chance of Fed Rate Increase in June*, June 3, 2016.

5. AP/Washington Times, *Wyoming uranium producer announces layoffs*, June 9, 2016.

6. Malcom, Hadley, USA Today, *Ralph Lauren to close 50 stores, cut jobs in bid for profitability*, June 7, 2016.

The Internet knows no national borders–Alan Dershowitz