

## IN THE NEWS

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 13

OCTOBER 1, 2017

### World News

The war tension in Asia continues to rise. Case in point, North Korea is threatening to use its nuclear weapons against Japan [1]. This comes as revised estimates on the North Korean nuclear bomb test's yield are now in the 250 kiloton range [2]. Then on 15 September, the communist North fired another missile over Japan [3]. However, as long as China continues to aid the North, we can expect tension to continue. For instance, North Korea's trade is dominated by with China. By one estimate, 85% of North Korea's imports and 83% of its exports are with China [4]. This trade also includes military equipment. For example, the North Korean trucks used for transporting ballistic missiles were made in China [5]. Another report indicates China is violating its agreed upon UN trade sanctions with North Korea by purchasing coal [6].

Meanwhile, China is building a capability to destroy or neutralize all US satellites [7]. One report indicates Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, singled out China as the main threat to US security [8]. Concurrently, China is slowly asserting control of Japanese claimed islands by increasing military patrols in those areas [9].

1. Sharp, Andy, Bloomberg, *North Korea Threatens to Use Nuclear Weapon to 'Sink' Japan*, September 13, 2017.
2. McIntyre, Jamie, Washington Examiner, *North Korea's nuclear blast is much bigger than first thought, experts say*, September 14, 2017.
3. CBS News, *North Korea missile test over Japan shows Guam in reach*, September 15, 2017.
4. Holodny, Elena, Business Insider, *North Korea's biggest trading partner is China – and it's not even close*, September 20, 2017.
5. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *China Sold Trucks Used With North Korean Missiles*, September 14, 2017.

(Continued on page 2)

### Security

A new report indicates the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) Edgar database was breached and the information possibly used for trades [1]. We also recently learned that Equifax also suffered a breach back in March [2]. Additionally, we learned from the UK media that Deloitte suffered an email breach possibly starting last year that went undetected for months [3, 4]. Once again, the Navy is

looking for crew related causes for the recent collisions. For example, one report indicates the crew did not compensate for loss of steering [5]. The question here is does this explanation pass the red face test? This is reminiscent of the 1988 published paper, *Exploring Computer Viruses*. At the time, one security expert put it succinctly: "Computer viruses will never be more than mere curiosities. You are wasting

your time researching this topic." Déjà vu.

New products releases are often followed by security patches. Case in Point, Apple released a fix for a potential critical vulnerability with iOS 11.0.01 [6].

1. Burns, Janet, Forbes, *SEC Reveals Its EDGAR Database Was Hacked, Maybe Used For Illegal Trades*, September 21, 2017.

(Continued on page 2)

#### Inside this issue:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Terrorism | 3 |
| Economy   | 4 |

#### Special points of interest:

- SEC security breach

## Security

September 27, 2017. .

(Continued from page 1)

2. Shaban, Hamza, Washington Post, *Equifax suffered another data breach in March*, September 18, 2017.
3. BBC News, *Deloitte hit by data breach*, September 25, 2017.
4. Hopkins, Nick, The Guardian (UK), *Deloitte hit by cyber-attack revealing clients' secret emails*, September 25, 2017.
5. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Inside the Ring: 'Steering Casualty' Behind USS McCain Collision*, September 21, 2017.
6. Abel, Robert, SC Magazine, *Apple patches a potentially critical vulnerability with iOS 11.01 update*,

---

*If you don't look you will  
not see—The editor*

---

(Continued from page 1)

6. Shane, Daniel, CNN Money, *Did China just break its promise not to buy North Korean coal?*, September 27, 2017.
7. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Asia Times: China's Great Leap in Space Warfare Creates Huge New Threat*, September 13, 2017.
8. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Asia Times: U.S. Military Chief Dunford: China Is Main Threat to Security*, September 29,
9. Jennings, Ralph, Forbes, *How China is Eroding Japan's Control Of A Disputed Sea*, September 27, 2017.

## World News

2017.

9. Jennings, Ralph, Forbes, *How China is Eroding Japan's Control Of A Disputed Sea*, September 27, 2017.

---

*Unless more efforts based upon long-range planning are put into military preparations and operations, it will be very hard to win the final victory.—Isoroku Yamamoto*

---

Afghanistan has been a harbor for religious terrorism. In the months before the 9/11 attack against the US, the Taliban Islamic terrorist group was busy destroying statues of the Buddha [1]. While the world was shocked, nothing was done. Then, during the 9/11 attacks, Osama Bin Laden freely lived and operated in Afghanistan 9/11 [2]. At that time, the Islamic religious Taliban controlled most of Afghanistan. Today they have returned with fresh acts of terrorism. For example 3 government workers previously captured were executed [3]. In another incident, Taliban fighters killed 8 police at a checkpoint [4]. Now as bad as the Taliban are, the new player to Afghanistan is the Islamic State (IS). For example, the former Bin Laden cave complex reportedly fell to the IS last June [5]. One article describes the Taliban as horrified at the savagery of the IS during the fight [6].

The lesson from this turmoil

## Terrorism

is should all international forces leave Afghanistan, the violence will continue along religious versions of Islam. Case in point, a suicide bomber killed at least six people near a Shiite mosque, March 12, 2001 [7].

In London, a terrorist attack included the use of an improvised explosive device set off on a mass transit subway train [8]. Since the attack, the Islamic State (IS) has claimed responsibility [9].

1. Rashid, Ahmed, Telegraph (UK), *After 1,700 years, Buddhas fall to Taliban dynamite*, March 12, 2001.
2. O'Connor, Tom. Newsweek, *ISIS Moves Into Osama Bin Laden's Old Home in Afghanistan*, June 14, 2017.
3. AP, *Afghan official: Taliban kill 3 abducted government workers*, September 19, 2017.
4. Gulf Times, *Eight police killed in Taliban raid on Afghan checkpoint*, September 17, 2017.
5. Nordland, Rod, and Abed, Fahim, New York Times, *ISIS Captures Tora Bora, Once Bin Laden's Afghan Fortress*, June 14, 2017.
6. Loyd, Anthony, Sunday Times (UK), *ISIS savagery horrifies Taliban fighters in Tora Bora*, September 30, 2017.
7. Totakhil, Habib Khan and Nelson, Craig, Wall Street Journal, *Suicide Bomber Kills at Least Six Near Shiite Mosque in Afghanistan*, September 29, 2017.
8. BBC News, *Parsons Green: Underground blast a terror incident, say police*, September 15, 2017.
9. Reuters, *Islamic State claims responsibility for London blast: Amaq news agency*, September 15, 2017.

## Economy

In a rare move, the US blocked the sale of the US semiconductor company, Lattice, to Chinese interests [1]. Perhaps there is hope for the integrity of the US semiconductor supply chain.

For the week ending September 9, the number of first time unemployment claims reported by the Labor Department was 284,000 [2]. For the next week, the number was 259,000 [3]. Finally, for the week ending September 23, the number reported was 272,000 [4].

The Commerce Department reported the US growth rate was 3.1% for the April through June quarter [5]. While this is an improvement, the growth needs to be at a higher rate. Case in point, China's growth rate is ex-

pected to be above 6% [6]. Continuing to feed China's economy at the expense of the US will not have a happy ending. Especially in light of the expanded military operations ongoing by China.

1. Bloomberg, *Trump Blocks China-Backed Lattice Bid as Beijing Urges Fairness*, September 13, 2017. .
2. Reuters, *U.S. jobless claims fall, but impacted by Harvey and Irma*, September 14, 2017.
3. Wiseman, Paul, AP, *Claims for U.S. jobless aid fall as hurricane impact recedes*, September 21, 2017.
4. Mutikani, Lucia, Reuters, *U.S. second-quarter economic growth revised higher; jobless claims rise*, September 28, 2017.
5. Mutikani, Lucia, Reuters, *U.S. economy accelerates in second quarter; hurricanes expected to slow growth*, September 28, 2017.
6. Reuters/CNBC, *China aims for around 6.5 percent economic growth in 2017*, March 4, 2017.

---

*You win battles by  
knowing the enemy's  
timing, and using a timing  
which the enemy does not  
expect.—Miyamoto  
Musashi*

---