

IN THE NEWS

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World News

The war drums calling for a military response to North Korea are getting louder. One piece claims the Secretary of Defense, has informed the military to be prepared for North Korea [1]. This comes as news reports indicate the assassinated half-brother of the North Korean leader had 1.4 times the lethal dose of VX nerve agent on his face [2]. One piece points out the use of a banned chemical weapon is a sign of supreme confidence the North Korean leader can get away with any crime [3]. Meanwhile, North Korea's deputy U.N. ambassador is warning, nuclear war can break out at any moment [4]. Concurrently, South Korea's top diplomat issued a warning that North Korea is nearing nuclear weapons capability [5].

North Korea is not the only Asian threat. According to one piece, China has developed a military plan to invade Taiwan by 2020 [6]. This comes as China has reasserted it will not allow an independent Taiwan [7]. Moreover, China has started deploying its new J-20 stealth fighter [8]. One article indicates the J-20 is a long range, high speed aircraft designed to attack airborne support systems such as the AWACS and refueling aircraft [9].

The technology used in combat is rapidly evolving. For instance, one report indicates the Ukraine will deploy offensive robots by next year [10]. In the race for militarized robots, one piece suggests the US lags Russia in this area [11]. However, another article suggests the US will have more combat robots than people by as early as 2025 [12].

1. Rutz, David, Washington Free Beacon, *Mattis Tells Military to 'Be Ready' Regarding North Korea*, October 9, 2017.
2. Ng, Ellen, AP/Chicago Tribune, *Chemist says Kim had 1.4 times lethal dosage of VX on face*, October 10, 2017.
3. Swenson, Kyle, Washington Post, *A gruesome North Korean murder*

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Security

As we rely more on single product security solutions, how do we know how secure they are? Case in point, one report indicates the popular anti-virus product, Kaspersky Software, was used by Russian hackers to steal NSA data [1]. This should also serve as a supply chain red flag for the multitude of products made in China.

The news from Equifax continues to evolve. Case in point, the company in-

creased the number affected by 2.5 million for a revised update of 145.5 million people [2]. One piece indicates Equifax could have averted the breach by properly applying a readily available security patch [3]. As Equifax teaches us, the race to fix security flaws in commercial software continues. Case in point, Oracle released patches to fix 252 bugs [4].

North Korea has been un-

der focus for its nuclear weapons program and threats to use such weapons. However, one piece points out the North Korean state sponsored hackers have been causing significant damage [5].

1. Heretik, Jack, Washington Free Beacon, *Russian Hackers Used Kaspersky Software to Steal NSA Data on U.S. Cyber Defense*, October

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Special points of interest:

- DJIA 23,000
- Seventh bank shattered

Security

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- 5, 2017.
2. Olenick, Doug, SC Magazine, *Equifax adds 2.5M to total affected by breach as its former CEO heads to Washington*, October 3, 2017.
3. Wiczner, Jen, and Roberts, Jeff John, *Fortune*, *The Equifax Breach Could End the Credit Industry as We Know It*, Octobers 20, 2017.
4. Barth, Bradley, SC Magazine, *Oracle patches 252 bugs, as researchers note increase in E-Business Suite and PeopleSoft flaws*, October 18, 2017.
5. Naughton, John, *The Guardian* (UK), *North*

Korea's deadliest weapon? Its hackers, October 22, 2017.

Hollywood is not suited for me, and I am not suited for it.—Dr. Seuss

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- plot: Trial sheds new light on assassination of Kim Jong Un's brother*, October 17, 2017.
4. Lederer, Edith M., *AP/Washington Post*, *North Korea says 'a nuclear war may break out any moment'*, October 17, 2017.
5. *The Korean Herald*, *Seoul's top diplomat says NK quickly approaching completion of nuke armament*, October 22, 2017.
6. Gertz, Bill, *Washington Free Beacon*, *China's Secret Military Plan: Invade Taiwan by 2020*, October 3, 2017.
7. Johnson, Natalie, *Washington Free Beacon*, *China's Xi Jinping Slams the Door on Taiwanese Appeals for Independence*, October 19, 2017.
8. Jennings, Ralph, *Forbes*, *China's New J-20 Fighter Jets Outclass Regional Rivals*, October 3, 2017.
9. Lockie, Alex, *Business Insider*, *The real purpose behind China's mysterious J-20 combat jet*, January 24, 2017.

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10. Tucker, Patrick, *Defense One*, *Armed Ground Robots Could Join the Ukrainian Conflict Next Year*, October 10, 2017.
11. Freedberg, Sydney J. Jr., *Breaking Defense*, *Armed Robots: US Lags Rhetoric, Russia*, October 18, 2017.
12. Lockett, Jon, *New York Post*, *US military will have more combat robots than human soldiers by 2025*, June 15, 2017.

Terrorism

The war against the Islamic State (IS) is progressing. Case in point, one report indicates the former capital of IS, Raqqa, is fully under US backed forces control [1].

With the loss of territory, the IS attacks are dominated by insurgency tactics [2].

We should not forget that Islamic terrorism also targets Muslims. For instance, in two separate suicide attacks in Afghanistan; at least 39 were killed at a Shiite mosque and 20 at a Sunni mosque [3]. In a follow-up, IS claimed responsibility for the attack against the Shiite mosque [4].

Elsewhere in the world, terrorism continues. In Canada, a terrorist wrapped in an ISIS flag stabbed a police officer and ran his vehicle into pedestrians [5]. In France, a terrorist used a knife to kill two women in a train station [6]. In Somalia, at least 53 people were killed by a truck bomb near the Safari Hotel [7].

It seems most of the Middle-

East has varying degrees of problems with militants. For instance, in Egypt, at least 30 policemen were killed while attacking a militant hideout in the desert [8].

1. BBC News, *Syria war: US-backed forces 'fully control' Raqqa*, October 17, 2017.
2. Berke, Jeremy, *Business Insider, ISIS' loss of its caliphate signals the end of one type of ISIS – and the beginning of a new one*, October 18, 2017.
3. Popalzai, Ehsan, and Sterling, Joe, *CNN, Dozens killed in two Afghan mosque attacks*, October 20, 2017.
4. Shah, Amir, *AP/Washington Post, IS claims responsibility for Afghan mosque attack*, October 21, 2017.
5. Griwkowsky, Catherine, et. al., *Edmonton Journal, 'Acts of terrorism' in Edmonton: Officer stabbed, pedestrians run down*, October 1, 2017.
6. Bacon, John, *USA Today, Attacker kills two in French train station; terrorism suspected*, October 1, 2017..
7. *Wall Street Journal/AP, More Than 50 People Killed by Truck Bomb in Somalia's Capital*, October 15, 2017.
8. Feteha, Ahmed, *Bloomberg, Militant Clashes Leave Scores of Egyptian Policemen Dead*, October 21, 2017.

Remember, a dead fish can float downstream, but it takes a live one to swim upstream.—W. C. Fields

Economy

Once again, regulators were busy closing a financial institution; seven so far this year. The latest casualty was the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Argonia, in Kansas [1].

According to the Commerce Department, the US trade deficit for August was \$42.4 billion [2]. For the week ending September 30, the number of first time unemployment claims reported by the Labor Department was 260,000 [3]. Then for the week ending October 7, the number of claims was 243,000 [4]. Finally, the number of first time unemployment claims fell to a 44 year low of 222,000 [5].

On October 17, the Dow Jones Industrial Average set a new record high, crossing the 23,000 level [6]. Then on Oc-

tober 18, the Dow rose 160 points to close above 23,000 for the first time [7].

1. FDIC Press Release, *Conway Bank, Conway Springs, Kansas, Assumes All of the Deposits of The Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Argonia, Argonia, Kansas*, October 13, 2017.
2. Swanson, Ana, New York Times, *U.S. Trade Deficit Shrank in August as Exports Rose*, October 5, 2017.
3. Mutikani, Lucia, Reuters, *Storms impact U.S. job market; trade expected to bolster economy*, October 5, 2017.
4. Nasdaq, *U.S. Weekly Jobless Claims Drop More Than Expected To 243,000*, October 12, 2017.
5. Wiseman, Paul, Associated Press/USA Today, *U.S. unemployment claims fall to 222,000, lowest in 44 years*, October 19, 2017.
6. Ponczek, Sarah, Bloomberg, *Dow Passes 23,000 for the First Time, Fueled by Strong Earnings*, October 17, 2017.
7. Imbert, Fred, CNBC, *Dow rises 160 points to close above 23,000 for the first time as IBM posts best day since 2009*, October 18, 2017.

China is not going to become a liberal democracy; if it did, it would collapse. I do not believe you can impose on other countries standards which are alien and totally disconnected with their past.—Lee Kuan Yew
