

# IN THE NEWS

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## World News

As part of an Asian tour, the President of the US made a visit to China [1]. While much attention was focuses on the visit, China introduced a new large dredging vessel, ideal for creating artificial islands [2]. This newest ship is causing concern throughout the region [3]. This also comes as China announced plans to construct a third aircraft carrier [4].

One topic of the Asian tour is the North Korean nuclear weapons program. One consequences of this buildup is the discussions by other countries to build their own weapons. For instance, one report indicates South, Korea, Japan, Australia, Myanmar, Taiwan and Vietnam are each exploring the need to develop nuclear weapons of their own [5]. Meanwhile, reports indicate three US aircraft carriers are involved with a 4 day military exercise with South Korea [6].

While much attention is focused on Asia, things are heating up in the Middle-East. For background, within the Middle-East there is an Islamic religious divide between the Saudi Sunni kingdom and the Iranian Shi'ite republic [7]. Recently, Saudi Arabia started the cycle with a sweeping anti-corruption campaign [8]. One report suggests the campaign was a power consolidation effort [9]. Then a missile made in Iran was destroyed following its launch from Yemen in route to a target in Saudi Arabia [10]. Next there was an oil pipeline explosion in Bahrain that was blamed on Iran [11]. Expectedly, Iran denied all involvement while Saudi Arabia enhanced oil infrastructure security [12]. Finally, there are indications that Lebanon is being pulled into a proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia [13].

1. Wen, Philip and Spetalnick, Matt, Reuters/Business Insider, *The US and China got down to business on the South China Sea*, November 9, 2017.
2. Dupuy, Beatrice, Newsweek, *Will China Win The War For The South China Sea With Its New 'Magic Island Maker'?*, November 10, 2017.
3. Chandran, Nyshka, CNBC, *Beijing has a new ship that can build artifi-*

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## Security

As we looks for improving security controls, perhaps the lessons learned from bad actors can be applied. Consider the similarity of terrorist attacks. For instance, the San Bernardino shooters were radicalized by the Islamic State (IS) and extensively planned their attack [1]. In order to go undetected, they must have applied adequate security mechanisms to hide their activities. Indeed, we learned the

FBI initially could not gain access to the iPhone due to the security mechanisms of the device [2]. Now fast forward to the Las Vegas shooter, Stephen Paddock. Again, the IS claimed he was one of their people [3]. However, in order to confirm this association, investigators are looking for more evidence. It is reasonable to expect any correspondence with terrorist organizations would require security controls sufficient

to go undetected. We now learned that the hard drive to Mr. Paddock's laptop was missing [4]. In conclusion, we see massive breaches in the news, yet the bad actors seem to have ways to ensure the security of their operations.

In other news, the race to fix security bugs continues. For instance, Cisco released patches to fix 16 security vulnerabilities [5].

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### Special points of interest:

- Asia
- Saudi Arabia

## Security

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1. .Karimi, Faith, et. al., CNN, *San Bernardino shooters were radicalized 'for quite some time,' FBI says*, December 7, 2015.
2. Engel, Pamela, Business Insider, *Months after the San Bernardino attacks, the FBI still can't get into one of the shooter's phones*, February 9, 2016.
3. Malsin, Jared, Time, *ISIS Claimed the Las Vegas Shooter as a 'Soldier.' Experts Are Skeptical*, October 2, 2017.
4. Date, Jack, et. al., ABC News, *Las Vegas shooter's laptop missing its hard drive*, October 25, 2017.
5. Barth, Bradley, SC Magazine, *Cisco patches 16 vulnerabilities to kick off November*, November 2, 2017.
6. .

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If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?—

Albert Einstein

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(Continued from page 1)

7. Serjoie, Kay Armin, Time Magazine, *The Last Thing Iran Wants Is Full-On War with Saudi Arabia. Here's Why*, November 9, 2017.
8. Fahim, Kareem, Washington Post, *Saudi Arabia detains more than 200 people in expanding 'anti-corruption' campaign*, November 9, 2017.
9. Jacobs, Peter, Business Insider, *Trump and Rex Tillerson had starkly different responses to Saudi Arabia's corruption crackdown*, November 10, 2017.
10. Caralle, Katelyn, Washington Free Beacon, *U.S. General: Missile Targeting Saudi Capital Was Iranian*, November 10, 2017.
11. Shamseddine, Reem, Bloomberg, *Bahrain calls pipeline blast 'terrorism' linked to Iran*, November 11, 2017.
12. Feteha, Ahmed, and Sergio, Mohammed, Bloomberg, *Saudi Arabia Boosts Oil Security as Iran Denies Pipeline Attack*, November 11, 2017.
13. BBC News, *Lebanon Hariri crisis: President Aoun demands Saudi answers*, November 11, 2017.

## Terrorism

Religious terrorism continues to plague the world.

In Mogadishu, Somalia, two terrorist car bomb explosions outside the Nasa Hablod Two Hotel left at least 19 people dead [1]. In Afghanistan, Taliban fighters attacked a police checkpoint killing 13 people [2].

In New York City, an Islamic terrorist used a rented truck to run down people leaving at least 8 dead and 13 injured [3]. Since the attack, the Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the act [4].

In the war against the IS, it appears the last hold out in Syria has been eliminated [5]. However, the terrorist organization is still problematic in other areas. For instance, Japan announced plans to build four radar transmitters for the

Philippines so they can monitor IS activities [6].

1. Nor, Omar, and Sanchez, Ray, CNN, *Mogadishu car bombs leave at least 19 dead*, October 28, 2017.
2. AP/Washington Post, *Afghan official: Taliban attack kills 13 police*, October 29, 2017.
3. Blau, Reuvan, et. al., New York Daily News, *Terrorist Sayfullo Saiyov celebrates deadly Manhattan truck attack while at hospital: 'He feels accomplished'*, November 2, 2017.
4. Osborne, Mark, ABC News, *ISIS claims responsibility for NYC terror attack, calls driver 'soldier of the Caliphate'*, November 3, 2017.
5. CBS News, *ISIS chased out of last stronghold in Syria*, November 9, 2017.
6. Kelly, Tim, and Kubo, Nobuhiro, Reuters, *Japan to build four radar stations for the Philippines to counter piracy surge-sources*, November 11, 2017.

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*Research is what I'm doing  
when I don't know what  
I'm doing.—Wernher von  
Braun*

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## Economy

According to the Labor Department, for the week ending October 21, the number of first time unemployment claims was 233,000 [1]. Then for the week ending October 28, the number was 229,000 [2]. Finally, for the week ending November 4, the number was 239,000 [3].

The US President continues his tour of Asia [4]. Amongst the topics discussed was the trade imbalance with China. In regard to the imbalance, the President did not fault China for exploiting poorly written trade agreements [5]. On the plus side, over \$250 billion in trade agreements were secured so far [6]. This as the President insists there should be fair trade [7].

1. Nasdaq, *U.S. Weekly Jobless Claims Rebound To*

233,000, October 26, 2017.

2. Reuters/CNBC, *US weekly jobless claims decline nearly 2%*, November 2, 2017.

3. Nasdaq, *U.S. Jobless Claims Climb More Than Expected To 239,000*, November 9, 2017.

4. Maresca, Thomas, *USA Today, Trump in Asia: They love him in Vietnam*, November 10, 2017.

5. Phelps, Jordyn, *ABC News, Trump: 'I don't blame China' for US-China trade imbalances*, November 9, 2017.

6. Levy, Phil, *Forbes, Will \$250bn In China Deals Fix The Trade Deficit?*, November 9, 2017.

7. Parker, Ashley, and Nakamura, David, *Washington Post, Trump talks tough on trade in Vietnam, no formal meeting with Putin*, November 10, 2017.

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*Bear in mind North Korea*

*has been the leading source, a leading source of nuclear technology and of missile delivery systems to some of the world's great rogues in Iran and Syria.—*

*Robert McFarlane*

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