

IN THE NEWS

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World News

By one estimate, North Korea now has 30 nuclear warheads and is on track to double this number in three years [1]. As the North continues weapons testing, the US has been pressuring China to do more to contain North Korea [2]. This comes as the Senate members received a White House briefing warning of an urgent North Korean threat [3]. Within the Asian region, there are concerns that North Korea might launch nuclear weapons against its neighbors. For instance, Japan is warning its citizens, they may have only a 10 minute warning of an incoming North Korean attack [4]. In the midst of the escalation, North Korea tried to launch another ballistic missile that like the previous attempt, failed [5]. President Trump warned, there is a possibility of war with North Korea [6]. Concurrently, one piece indicates China has so far been rather quiet regarding the US warnings to North Korea [7].

While much focus remains on North Korea, China continues its military expansion. Case in point, China launched its first domestically built aircraft carrier [8]. There are varying reports as to the new carriers size. For instance, one report suggests the new aircraft carrier, displacing 50,000 tons, is lighter than the first and is expected to carry more aircraft [9]. However, another piece suggests the carrier weighs in at 70,000 tons [10]. In any case, the new warship will expand China military capabilities.

1. Scarborough, Rowan, Washington Times, *North Korea has 30 warheads and is quickly expanding its nuclear arsenal*, April 18, 2017.
2. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Asia Times: UN Report Reveals How North Korea Sources Missile Technology*, April 24, 2017.
3. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Senators Told North Korea*

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Security

The race to keep commercial software secure continues. Adobe's April patches addressed 56 critical vulnerabilities [1]. Microsoft issued patches to fix 46 vulnerabilities [2].

In other news, breaches continue against high profile companies. For example, the Mexican food chain, Chipotle, announced a data loss of financial transaction that occurred between March 24, 2017 and April 18,

2017 [3]. Additionally, malicious software shut down the Virginia State police email service for nearly a day [4]. What is disappointing is that bad actors seem to operate with impunity. For instance, after Netflix failed to pay an extortion request, the hacker published unreleased episodes of "Orange Is the New Black," to a pirate network [5].

Finally, China continues to be a state sponsor of cyber-

attacks. One report indicates the communist giant tried to hack into an organization affiliated with the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system [6].

1. Olenick, Doug, SC Magazine, *Adobe April Patch Tuesday: 56 critical fixes for Flash Player, Acrobat*, April 11, 2017.
2. Olenick, Doug, SC

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Special points of interest:

- Louisiana bank shuttered
- War drums in North Korea

Security

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- Magazine, Microsoft's Patch Tuesday new Security Update Guide gets mixed reviews, April 18, 2017.
- Whitten, Sarah, CNBC, *Chipotle data breach overshadows big earnings beat*, April 25, 2017.
 - Abel, Robert, SC Magazine, *Malware shuts down Virginia State Police email*, April 27, 2017.
 - Berlinger, Joshua, and Perry, Juliet, CNN, *China tried to hack group linked to controversial missile defense system, US cybersecurity firm says*, April 27, 2017.
 - Spangler, Todd, Variety, *Hacker Leaks Stolen 'Orange Is the New Black' Season 5 Episodes to Piracy Network*, April 29, 2017.

I was a queen, and you took away my crown; a wife, and you killed my husband; a mother, and you deprived me of my children. My blood alone remains: take it, but do not make me suffer long.—

Marie Antoinette

(Continued from page 1)

- Nuclear Threat Is Urgent*, April 26, 2017.
- Fifield, Anna, Washington Post, *Japan warns citizens they might have only 10 minutes to prepare for a North Korean missile*, April 25, 2017.
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 - Adler, Stephen J., et. al., Reuters, *Exclusive: Trump says 'major, major' conflict with North Korea possible, but seeks diplomacy*, April 28, 2017.
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 - Bodeen, Christopher, AP, *China launches 1st domestically-made aircraft carrier*, April 26, 2017.
 - Japan Times, *China's new aircraft carrier*, April 30, 2017.
 - Chan, Minnie, South China Morning Post, *10 things you should know about China's first home-built aircraft carrier*, April 27, 2017.

World News

Terrorism

There can be no question that the Islamic State (IS) is active in Afghanistan. Case in point, the U.S. military dropped its largest conventional bomb on IS tunnels located in Afghanistan [1]. Meanwhile, the Taliban who started in Afghanistan continue battling with the IS. For instance, in Pakistan, IS fighters killed a senior Afghan Taliban official [2].

In Syria, acts of terrorism continue. For example, a terrorist used a car bomb directed at evacuees to kill at least 39 people [3].

Terrorism returned to the US. In California, a man yelling "Allahu Akbar" shot and killed three people [4]. Separately, the FBI is investigating terrorist plots in all 50 states [5].

In Europe, terrorism once again struck France. An IS terrorist shot several people, leaving at least one dead [6].

1. Gibbons-Neff, Thomas, and Cunningham, Erin, Washington Post, U.S. military drops 22,000-pound bomb on Islamic State forces in Afghanistan, April 13, 2017.
2. Reuters, Islamic State kills senior Afghan Taliban official in Pakistan – militants, April 28, 2017.
3. Slotkin, Jason, NPR, In Syria, At Least 39 Killed In Explosion As Evacuations Stall, April 15, 2017.
4. Fox News, Fresno shooting spree: 3 people killed, suspect who yelled 'Allahu Akbar,' says he 'hates white people' in custody, April 18, 2017.
5. Kredo, ADAM, Washington Free Beacon, FBI Investigating Radical Terrorists in All 50 States as Threats Hit Peak, April 18, 2017.
6. Flynn, Ellie, the Sun,

Paris shooting leaves one policeman dead and 'two seriously injured' as 'ISIS terrorists armed with AK47s' open fire on the Champs-Élysée in Paris, April 20, 2017.

*The great empire will be
torn from limb, the all-
powerful one for more
than four-hundred years:
Great power given to the
dark one from slaves
come—Nostradamus*

Economy

Regulators continued shuttering banks. Case in point, the First NBC Bank in Louisiana was closed [1].

With respect to the economy, the news is mixed. According to the Labor Department, for the week ending April 8, the number of first time unemployment claims was 234,000 [2]. Then for the week ending April 15, the number was 244,000 [3]. Finally, the number increased to 257,000 [4]. In other news, the U.S. economy only grew at a 0.7 percent annual rate for the first quarter [5].

1. Nasdaq, *Whitney Acquiring Branches, Certain Assets and Liabilities of First NBC Bank from the FDIC*, April 28, 2017.
2. NASDAQ, *U.S. Weekly Jobless Claims Unexpectedly Edge Down To 234,000*, April 13, 2017.
3. Worstall, Tim, Forbes, *US Jobless Claims Fall To 1970s Levels - Maybe This Is Good, Maybe Bad*, April 20, 2017.
4. Bartash, Jeffrey, Market Watch, *Jobless claims jump to one-month high of 257,000*, April 27, 2017.
5. Mutikani, Lucia, Reuters, *U.S. first quarter growth weakest in three years as consumer spending falter*, April 28, 2017.

The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it is the same problem you had last year.—John Foster Dulles
