

IN THE NEWS

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World News

China continues to modernize and expand its military capability. One report indicates the Chinese Marine Corps is expanding from 20,000 to 100,000 Marines [1]. Recall from last year, Wu Shengli, chief of China's naval operations offshore, warned the US that ships traveling within 12 miles of its man-made islands could lead to open warfare [2]. Elsewhere in the South China Sea, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte indicated he may travel to several disputed islands and raise the flag [3].

Separately, the US is calling on China to prevent North Korea from conducting another nuclear weapon test [4]. This comes at a time when North Korea launched another ballistic missile into the Sea of Japan [5]. Meanwhile, one report indicates a U.S. Navy strike force is moving toward the Korean peninsula [6].

In Syria, dozens of people were killed during a chemical gas attack on a rebel held town [7]. An autopsy on one of the victims confirmed the use of chemical weapons [8]. Russia claimed the chemical weapons were part of the militant's weapon stockpile that was bombed, thereby relapsing the nerve gas [9]. In response to the chemical attack, the US launched 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles from two destroyers, against a Syrian air base [10]. The initial reports indicate most of the air base was destroyed [11].

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2. Wptost (Poland), *China threatens the United States. "Even a small incident can lead to war"*, November 1, 2016.

(Continued on page 2)

Security

In the race to contain breaches, commercial industry continues to apply security patches. Cisco released patches to fix security flaws in its over 300 of its switch models [1]. Then, patches were released to fix Java vulnerabilities [2].

Readers may recall the Digital Telephony Act where taxpayer funds were used to dumb down digital telephone switches to make it easier for the FBI to conduct wiretaps. Now the

current FBI Director is calling for relaxed security to once again make it easy for tapping [3]. A question here, if the hackers can tap into communications system, why can't the FBI be as creative?

As the April 15 deadline to get our taxes approaches, we pause to examine this year's Internal Revenue Service exploits. Case in point, an on-line student aid exploit may have allowed bad actors to steal

information on 100,000 taxpayers [4].

Finally, we consider our dependence on computers for safety. For instance, hackers in Dallas breached the city's warning system and set off all 156 emergency sirens from 11:40 p.m. Friday until 1:20 a.m. Saturday [5]. If hackers can breach such systems, what other emergency capability might be exploited?

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Economy	4

Special points of interest:

- Terror attack in London
- US strikes Syrian air base

Security

(Continued from page 1)

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3. Masters, Greg, SC Magazine, *FBI Director Comey advocates for weakening of security*, March 24, 2017.
4. Rappeport, Alan, New York Times, *Up to 100,000 Taxpayers Compromised in Fajsa Tool Breach, I.R.S. Says*, April 6, 2017.
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World News

(Continued from page 1)

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4. Lederer, Edith M., AP/Washington Times, *US wants China to take action to stop North Korea nuke tests*, March 30, 2017.
5. Chan-Kyong, Park, AFP, *North Korea fires missile into Sea of Japan*, April 5, 2017.
6. Ali, Idrees, Reuters, *U.S. Navy strike group to move toward Korean peninsula: U.S. official*, April 8, 2017.
7. Time/AP, *The Chemical Attack in Syria Was Among the Worst of Country's Civil War*, April 4, 2017.
8. Reuters, *Autopsy results show chemical weapons used in Syrian attack - Turkish minister*, April 6, 2017.
9. Onyanga-Omara, Jane, and Bacon, John, USA Today, *Russia: Syrian strike on terrorist lab caused chemical deaths*, April 5, 2017.
10. Lubold, Gordon, and Nissenbaum, Dion, Wall Street Journal, *U.S. Launches Cruise Missiles at Syrian Air Base in Response to Chemical Attack*, April 6, 2017.
11. Fox News, *Initial reports indicate Syrian airbase 'almost completely destroyed' after US strike*, April 6, 2017.

We want peace and a political solution to the situation in Chechnya—
Boris Yeltsin

Terrorism

In London, England, a terrorist used a car and knife to kill at least three people [1]. Following the attack, the Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility [2]. In Syria, Islamic State (IS) terrorists executed 33 people [3]. Furthermore, one report indicates a U.S. warfighter was killed while fighting IS rebels in Afghanistan [4].

Elsewhere, the Taliban acts of terrorism are not confined to Afghanistan. For instance, a suicide bombing in Eastern Pakistan killed 6 people [5]. Additionally, a bombing in Pakistan near a Shiite place of worship killed at least 22 people [6].

Meanwhile, Russia has experienced more terrorist acts. A bomb was used on underground connecting rail stations in St. Petersburg, killing at least 10 people [7]. The bombing suspect was born in the predominantly Muslim country, Kyrgyzstan [8].

In Sweden, a terrorist drove a beer truck into a crowded street killing at least 4 people [9]. The suspect in the terror-

ist attack was later identified as a 39-year old man from Uzbekistan [10].

Finally, most of the terrorism seen world wide are based on spreading religion. For instance, a terrorist bombing of a Coptic Christian church, during Palm Sunday services in Egypt, left at least 13 worshippers dead [11].

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2. Fox News, London terror attack: ISIS claims responsibility for deadly rampage outside Parliament building, March 23, 2017.
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4. BBC News, IS in Afghanistan: US special forces soldier is killed, April 8, 2017.
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6. Fox News/AP, Bombing near Shiite place of worship kills 22, injures more than 70 in Pakistan, March 31, 2017.
7. BBC News, St Petersburg metro explosions kill ten – media, April 3, 2017.
8. Nikolskaya, Polina and Pinchuk, Denis, Reuters, Russia bomb suspect rented apartment in St. Petersburg month before attack, April 5, 2017.
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10. Smith, Saphora, and Bruton, F. Brinley, NBC News, Stockholm 'Terrorist' Truck Attack Suspect ID'd As Uzbekistan Man: Cops, April 8, 2017.
11. BBC News, Egypt Coptic church blast 'kills at least 13' in Nile Delta, April 9, 2017.

In 1995, Russia virtually gave Chechnya de facto statehood and independence even though, de jure, it didn't recognize Chechnya as an independent state. And I would like to emphasize strongly that Russia withdrew all of its troops, we moved the prosecutors, we moved all the police, dismantled all the courts, completely, 100 percent.—Vladimir Putin

Economy

For the week ending March 18, the number of first time unemployment claims, reported by the Labor Department, was 258,000 [1]. Then for the week ending March 25, the number was 258,000 [2]. Finally, for the week ending April 1, the number of claims was 234,000 [3]. For March the unemployment rate reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics was 4.5% [4]. However, the number of part time workers remains higher than before the great recession [5].

It is important to note, the 2016 US trade deficit with China was \$347 billion [6]. To address part of the problem, two Executive Orders were signed to identify trade abuse and strengthen dumping rules [7].

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less Claims Unexpectedly Climb To 258,000, March 23, 2017.

2. Nasdaq, *U.S. Weekly Jobless Claims Edge Down To 258,000*, March 30, 2017.
3. Reuters, *US weekly jobless claims total 234,000 vs 250,000 estimate*, April 6, 2017.
4. Washington Post, *U.S. hiring slumped in March as employers added only 98,000 jobs*, April 7, 2017.
5. Fottrell, Quentin, Market Watch, *The number of reluctant part-time workers is still higher than before the Great Recession*, April 8, 2017.
6. Yu , Roger, USA Today, *U.S.-China trade scorecard: advantage China*, April 4,

2017.

7. Phelps, Jordyn, and Ebbs, Stephanie, ABC News, *President Trump expected to sign executive orders on trade Friday*, March 30, 2017.

When I was a sophomore at USC, I was a socialist, pretty much to the left. But not when I left the university. I quickly got wise. I'd read about what had happened to Russia in 1917 when the Communists took over.—

John Wayne
