

# IN THE NEWS

## World News

Whenever any country near China enhances its military, China complains. Yet, when North Korea threatens war, China is instead conciliatory. Case in point, China is calling for new talks with North Korea over the nuclear missile provocations [1]. Meanwhile, one report indicates the US is sending a third carrier task force to the region [2]. To make matters worse, North Korea launched another ballistic missile that landed in Japan's economic zone located in the Sea of Japan [3]. For its part at the wishes of China, South Korea, has delayed deployment of the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system [4]. Elsewhere, China has continued fortification of its artificial islands providing land based fighters with full coverage of the South China Sea [5].

The two most populous countries in the world are China and India. For many years, China has been identified as having more people. However, one piece suggests the number of people living in India may have surpassed the number living in China [6].

Once again, there is concern within the science community over the development of artificial intelligence driven autonomous weapons (sometimes referred to as killer robots) [7]. As we have posited before; Western policies will not deter the actions of other countries and we must anticipate autonomous weapons. Just because we may refuse to develop such weapons does not mean other countries, such as China will not.

1. Lederer, Edith M., AP/Military Times, *China calls for new talks with North Korea on nukes*, May 27, 2017.
2. VOA, *Sources: 3rd US Naval Strike Force Deployed to Deter North Ko-*

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## Security

Sometimes the cover story is too difficult to believe. Case in point, British Airlines suffered a computer failure that necessitated cancelling flights out of Heathrow and Gatwick Airports [1]. Now we are expected to believe the cause of the outage was a failed power supply [2].

As we rely more on automotive computers it is worth noting problems detected. Case in point, one report indicates 8 vul-

nerabilities were uncovered with the 2017 Subaru WRX STI product [3].

When dealing with China, let the buyer beware. Case in point, one piece indicates a Chinese security firm was involved with cyber espionage for the Ministry of State Security [4].

During the last Presidential election, we were assured there was no threat to our voting machines and elec-

tion process. Now, there are concerns that Russia operatives may have targeted voting machines and the election process [5]. Our recommendation would be to look at the problem holistically and close vulnerabilities as they are discovered. Unfortunately, we seem to be more reactive to targeted threats and allow vulnerabilities to continue. Finally, software vendors

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### Special points of interest:

- Terror in the UK
- 6<sup>th</sup> bank shuttered

## Security

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continue to correct security flaws. During this newsletter, Google issued patches to correct 30 security bugs in the Chrome browser [7].

1. Selk, Avi, Washington Post, A ‘catastrophic’ computer outage is crippling international air travel, May 27, 2017.
2. Faulconbridge, Guy, Reuters, British Airways says resumes flights from Gatwick and Heathrow,

May 28, 2017..

3. Abel, Robert, SC Magazine, *Subaru WRX STI hacked, eight vulnerabilities spotted*, June 5, 2017.
4. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, Security Analysts Confirm Links Between Beijing Spy Agency and Security Firm, June 6, 2017.
5. Barth, Bradley, SC Magazine, *Experts surprised by extent of Russian election meddling, demand voting security for 2018*, June 7,
6. Abel, Robert, SC Magazine, *Google Chrome patches 30 vulnerabilities*, June 6, 2017.

## World News

Since Auschwitz, we know  
what man is capable of.  
And since Hiroshima, we  
know what is at stake.—

Viktor E. Frankl

(Continued from page 1)

rea, May 27, 2017

3. Fifield, Anna, Washington Post, North Korea’s latest ballistic missile launch lands in Japan’s economic zone, May 28, 2017.
4. Park, Ju-min, and Kim, Soyoungm Reuters, North Korea fires suspected land-to-ship missiles as South Korea delays THAAD, June 8, 2017.
5. Weisgerber, Marcus, Defense One, Pentagon: *Beijing Is Arming Its Manmade Islands in South China Sea*, June 6, 2017.
6. Kilpatrick, Ryan, Time, *India May Have Already Overtaken China as the World's Most Populous Nation*, May 23, 2017.

7. Underwood, Sarah, CACM, *Potential and Peril*, June 2017.

## Terrorism

With the Ramadan observed from May 27 through June 25, there is an uptick in terrorist incidents in the news. For instance terrorism again hit the United Kingdom. A suicide bomber killed at least 22 people at a concert in the English city of Manchester [1]. The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the Manchester attack [2]. In England, three terrorist attacked the London Bridge and Borough Market, leaving at least 4 people dead [3].

Once again, Islamic terrorists targeted Christians for attack. In Egypt, terrorist gunmen attacked a bus carrying Coptic Christians, killing at least 26 [4].

In Marawi city, Philippines, martial law was declared in response to Muslim extremists laying siege to the city [5]. Elsewhere in the Philippines, IS claimed responsibility for a casino attack that left at least 36 dead [6].

In Afghanistan, a suicide bomber attacked the diplomatic area of Kabul, killing at least 64 people [7]. In a separate incident, multiple suicide bombers struck a funeral, leaving at least 6 people dead [8]. The country's eastern Nangarhar province, an Afghanistan soldier opened fire killing three American warfighters [9]. The Taliban an-

nounced the Afghanistan soldier belonged to them [10]. In Baghdad, IS claimed responsibility for twin bombings that targeted gatherings of Shia Muslims; killing at least 15 people [11].

Finally, Iran was subjected to coordinated terrorist attack. The IS claimed responsibility for attacks in Iran's Parliament and the mausoleum of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini that left at least 12 people dead [12].

1. Witte, Griff, and Adam, Karla, Washington Post, *Lone attacker blew self up at Manchester concert killing 22, including children, say police*, May 23, 2017.
2. Witte, Griff, and Adam, Karla, Washington Post, *Manchester bombing suspect identified; Islamic State claims responsibility*, May 23, 2017.
3. CBS News, *London Bridge terror attack: Police say 7 killed; 3 attackers shot dead*, June 3, 2017.
4. AP/Fox News, *Egypt attack: Gunfire on bus carrying Coptic Christians kills at least 26*, May 26, 2017.
5. Gomez, Jim, AP/ABC News, *Duterte declares martial rule in besieged south Philippines*, May 23, 2017.
6. AP, *The Latest: Filipinos Await Loved Ones' Bodies after Attack*, June 2, 2017.
7. Faiez, Rahim, and Shah, Amir, AP/Washington Times, *Suicide car bombing in diplomatic area of Kabul kills 64, wounds at least 320*, May 31, 2017.
8. Faiez, Rahim, ABC News, *Bombers kill at least 6 attending Kabul funeral*, June 4, 2017.
9. Faizy, Sultan, and Hennigan, W.J., Los Angeles Times, *Afghan soldier fatally shoots three U.S. soldiers; 1 injured*, June 10, 2017.
10. Reuters/Washington Free Beacon, *Three U.S. Soldiers Killed, One Wounded by Afghan Soldier: Officials*, June 10, 2017.
11. BBC News, *Iraq conflict: Baghdad ice cream parlour hit by suicide attack*, May 30, 2017.
12. Erdbrink, Thomas, New York Times, *Iran Assails Saudi Arabia After Pair of Deadly Terrorist Attacks*, June 7, 2017.

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The best political weapon  
is the weapon of terror.  
Cruelty commands respect.  
Men may hate us. But, we  
don't ask for their love;  
only for their fear.—  
Heinrich Himmler

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## Economy

Once again, financial institution regulators were closing banks. The Fayette County Bank in Saint Elmo, Ill, became the sixth shuttered this year [1].

According to the Labor Department, for the week ending May 20, the number of first time unemployment claims was 234,000 [2]. Then for the week ending May 27, the number reported was 248,000 [3]. Finally, for the week ending June 3, the number reported was 245,000 [4].

According to the Commerce Department, the trade deficit for April increased to \$47.8 Billion [5]. According to data from China's customs bureau, the US China trade deficit for April was \$21.34 billion and for May \$22.0 billion [8].

Regarding international commerce, we see how China

conducts its version of free trade. China's ministry of commerce will increase the duty on sugar imports from its current 50% to 95% [7]. How is this free trade?

1. Davis, Paul, American Banker, *Fayette County Bank becomes year's sixth failure*, May 26, 2017.
2. Mutikani, Lucia, Reuters, *Jobless claims edge up; goods trade deficit widens*, May 25, 2017.
3. Bartash, Jeffry, Market Watch, *Jobless claims climb to 5-week high of 248,000*, June 1, 2017.
4. Bartash, Jeffry, Market Watch, *U.S. jobless claims remain near lowest level in decades*, June 8, 2017.
5. Bartash, Jeffry, Market Watch, *U.S. trade deficit climbs 5.2% in April to*

\$47.6 billion, June 2, 2017.

6. CNBC, *Chinese exports and imports top expectations as economy holds up better than expected*, June 7, 2017.
7. Hancock, Tom, Financial Times, *China slaps heavy penalties on sugar imports*, 22, 2017.

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*It is the function of the Navy to carry the war to the enemy so that it is not fought on U.S. soil.—*

*Chester W. Nimitz*

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