

IN THE NEWS

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World News

Readers may recall, last year Iran seized two US Navy patrol boats [1]. The investigation concluded the crew had no idea where they were [2]. Now we have another incident that is equally baffling. The destroyer, USS Fitzgerald, was hit by the Philippine-registered container ship ACX Crystal [3]. One article suggests the collisions alarm was not activated so the sleeping sailors had no warning of the collision [4]. Another piece indicates the container ship was on auto-pilot making it vulnerable to hacking [5]. In summary, 7 sailors died in the accident and the crippled destroyer will return to the US for repairs [6].

Meanwhile, China launched its newest 10,000 ton destroyer, referred to as Type 055 [7]. This comes as China appears to have installed four new missile shelters on Fiery Cross Reef, bring the total on the artificial island to 12 [8].

China continues to use its economic wealth to effect foreign policy. Case in point, Panama no longer recognizes Taiwan; leaving only 20 countries that continue to recognize the democratic island nation [9]. China's newfound wealth is not without cost. For instance, one piece suggests nearly 14,000 companies in China violate pollution rules [10].

Meanwhile, the threat from North Korea continues to increase. For instance, one piece suggests North Korea could refine tritium and produce hydrogen bomb weapons [11].

1. Cooper, Helene, and Sanger, David E., New York Times, *Iran Seizes U.S. Sailors Amid Claims of Spying*, January 12, 2016.
2. LoBianco, Tom, and Browne, Ryan, CNN, *Navy report: Failure at every level for US ships captured by*

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Security

When you purchase electronics from China, you might be introducing security vulnerabilities. Case in point, researchers have discovered 18 security vulnerabilities in Chinese cameras manufactured by Shenzhen Foscam [1].

Whenever we learn of multiple provider outages, we think of hackers. For instance, Verizon, T-Mobile, Sprint, and AT&T were experiencing service issues

across the US [2].

Encryption is a recognized security control. However, when used for malicious purposes, encryption becomes a problem. Case in point, another wave of ransomware, referred to as Petya, spread to 64 countries [3]. In one case, the Princeton Community Hospital is reported to have reverted to using paper and pencil [4]. However, one report indicates Petya is a cyberattack disguised as

ransomware [5]. As hospitals and other life providing services are impacted by malicious software; it's unclear how many lives are unnecessarily lost.

1. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Chinese-Made Video Cameras Pose Major Cyber Attack Risk*, June 12, 2017.
2. CBS News, *Cellphone, internet outages reported*

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Special points of interest:

- USS Fitzgerald hit by container ship

Security

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3. Frenkel, Sheera, New York Times, *Global Ransomware Attack: What We Know and Don't Know*, June 28, 2017.
 4. Evans, Melanie, Wall Street Journal, *Cyberattack Forces West Virginia Hospital to Scrap Computers*, June 29, 2017.
 5. Griffin, Andrew, Independent, *Petya Cyber At-*

tack That Spread Around The World Was Intent on Destruction, Not On Making Money, June 30, 2017.

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3. Kirby, John, CNN, *Amid questions, here's what we're sure of in the USS Fitzgerald collision*, June 18, 2017.
 4. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Freighter Was On Autopilot When It Hit U.S. Destroyer*, June 23, 2017.
 5. Larter, David B., Defense News, *Navy struggles with approach to fix crippled destroyer Fitzgerald, as investigation continues*, June 30, 2017.
 6. Japan Times, *USS Fitzgerald to return to U.S. for extensive repairs*, June 30, 2017.
 7. Bodeen, Christopher, AP/ABC News, *China's navy launches latest-generation destroyer*, June 28, 2017.
 8. CNBC/Reuters, *China builds new military facilities on South China Sea islands: think tank*, June 30, 2017.
 9. Johnson, Natalie, Washington Free Beacon, *Taiwanese President Sends Defiant Message to China After Panama Severs Ties with Taipei*, June 13, 2017.
 10. Wong, Edward, New York Times, *Nearly 14,000 Companies in China Violate Pollution Rules*, June 7, 2017.
 11. Lockie, Alex, Business Insider, *North Korea is nearing its goal: a thermonuclear bomb that can hit the*

US, June 29, 2017.

*The finest steel has to go
through the hottest fire—
Richard M. Nixon*

*One man with a gun can
control 100 without one—
Vladimir Lenin*

The war against the Islamic State (IS) is getting results. One report indicates a Russian airstrike may have killed the leader of the Islamic State (IS) [1].

While there are victories against the IS; Afghanistan continues to be a target of terrorism. For instance, Taliban fighters killed at least 5 police officers [2]. In a separate incident, an Afghanistan soldier opened fire on American warfighters, wounding 7 [3]. In neighboring Pakistan, three bombings in tow cities killed at least 35 people [4].

In China, the communist giant is not immune from acts of terrorism. For example, a terrorist detonated an explosive device at a kindergarten, killing at least 8 people [5].

Since the fall of Libyan leader Kaddafi, the African nation Mali has been a breeding ground for terrorism. For instance, a group of terrorists attacked the Campement Kangaba hotel resort in Mali's capital of Bamako [6].

Europe continues to fight terrorism, In Brussels, an Islamic suicide bomber was shot and killed while setting off an explosive device in the capital's central train station [7]. In France, a terrorist died after ramming an explosives laden car into a police vehicle parked on Paris's famed

Terrorism

Champs-Elysees [8].

In turn, the Islamic terrorist attacks in the West are being met with counter attacks directed against the Muslim population. Case in point, a driver deliberately drove a van into a group of Muslims, killing at least one [9].

Finally, the US has its challenges with terrorism. For instance, an apparent Islamic terrorist stabbed a police officer in the neck [10].

1. CBS News/AP, *Russia says it may have killed ISIS leader in airstrike*, June 16, 2017.
2. Salahuddin, Sayed, *Washington Post, Taliban attacks key Afghan police base, killing at least five officers*, June 18, 2017.
3. AP, *Afghan soldier wounds 7 US soldiers in insider attack*, June 17, 2017.
4. Khan, Riaz, and Sattar, Abdul, AP, *35 killed in 3 bomb attacks in 2 Pakistani cities*, June 23, 2017
5. Denyer, Simon, *Washington Post, China police blame lone bomber for killing 8 at kindergarten gate*, June 16, 2017.
6. Encarnacao, Jack, *Boston Globe, Attack shows Mali as jihadi breeding ground*, June 19, 2017.
7. Moore, Jack, *Newsweek,*

Brussels Suicide Bomber Identified as Foiled Plot Revives Memories of Isis Assaults, June 21, 2017.

8. McAuley, James, *Washington Post, Driver dies after ramming car into police vehicle on Champs-Elysees in probable terrorist attack*, June 19, 2017.
9. CBS/AP, *London terror attack near mosque: New info on suspect*, June 20, 2017.
10. AP/Washington Post, *Latest: Officer undergoes surgery after airport stabbing*, June 21, 2017.

Economy

For the week ending June 10, the number of first time unemployment claims was 237,000 [1]. For the week ending June 17, the number of claims was 241,000 [2]. Finally, for the week ending June 24, the number was 244,000 [3].

Good news for new job creation in the US. The giant Foxconn semiconductor company is in talks to build a US plant that will add 30,000 to 50,000 new jobs [4].

One of the basic economic fundamentals is that when you keep spending more than you take in, it doesn't have a happy ending. Case in point, Illinois is the first state that is on the verge of obtaining a junk credit rating [5].

In today's economy, a defective product can result in a company going under. For

instance, the Japanese company tied to defective air bags, Takata, filed for bankruptcy protection [6].

1. CNBC, *US weekly jobless claims total 237,000 vs 242,000 estimate*, June 15, 2017.
2. Reuters/CNBC, *US weekly jobless claims total 241,000 vs 240,000 estimate*, June 22, 2017.
3. Reuters, *US weekly jobless claims total 244,000 vs 240,000 estimate*, June 29, 2017.
4. Market Watch, *Foxconn in talks with mostly midwest U.S. states over building new plant*, June 22, 2017.
5. Burnett, Sara, AP, *Illinois could be 1st state with 'junk' credit due to budget*, June 24, 2017.
6. Los Angeles Times/AP,

Takata files for bankruptcy following air bag recalls and lawsuits, June 26, 2017.

War can only be abolished through war, and in order to get rid of the gun it is necessary to take up the gun—Mao Zedong
