

# 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*

(Continued on page 2)

## 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*

(Continued on page 2)

### Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Economy	4

### Special points of interest:

- USS Fitzgerald hit by container ship

## Security

(Continued from page 1)

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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.

## World News

(Continued from page 1)

- Iran, June 30, 2016.
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.

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

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

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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.*

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*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*

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