

## IN THE NEWS

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JULY 23, 2017

### World News

Tensions with North Korea continue to escalate. Case in point, the North Korean military fired what is believed to be an ICBM that flew for 57 minutes and impacted in Japan's exclusive economic zone [1]. The missile was reported to reach an altitude of 2,800 km and is believed to have a range of 6,700 km [2]. One piece indicates, if the missile's trajectory was flattened, it could reach all locations in Alaska [3].

While much attention is going to North Korea, things are heating up in an area claimed by both China and India [4]. The situation began when China attempted to build a border road through the Doklam plateau [5]. After weeks of intense posturing, India is purchasing military supplies for a short but intense conflict [6].

As technology advances, we expect to see more directed energy weapons in use. For instance, the US Navy continues to operate a system capable of destroying drones and other targets [7]. The new technology still requires human intervention. Consider, one report suggests the Crew aboard the USS Fitzgerald were to blame for the collision with a container ship [8].

1. Berger, Sebastien, AFP, *N.Korea claims major breakthrough with first ICBM test*, July 4, 2017.
2. Johnson, Jesse, and Yoshida, Reiji, Japan Times, *North Korean claim of successful ICBM test likely to raise alarm in Tokyo – and Anchorage*, July 4, 2017.
3. Sands, David R., Washington Times, *North Korea's surprise launch of ICBM has power to reach Alaska, upset East Asia power balance*, July 4, 2017.
4. Blanchard, Ben, Reuters, *China says India militarising border as stand-*

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### Security

Cyber attacks can originate from many sources. However, one report identifies China, Iran, and Russia as the top cyber threats [1].

The race to fix software security flaws continues. Google issued patches to address 138 vulnerabilities [2]. Oracle released patches to fix 308 bugs [3].

Whenever we learn of a financial system going unavailable, we have to consid-

er the possibility of bad actors. Case in point, in Florida, over a thousand Bank of America mobile and online banking customers were without service [4].

As we rely more on technology, bad actors continue to find ways to bypass security. For instance, bad actors in Europe found a way to evade Tesla's GPS tracking system and have stolen nine cars [5].

1. Robinson, Teri, SC

Magazine, *German intel calls Russia, China, Iran top cyber threats*, July 6, 2017.

2. Barth, Bradley, SC Magazine, *Google patches 138 vulnerabilities in Android, Nexus, Pixel*, July 7, 2017.
3. Bradley, Barth, SC Magazine, *Oracle patches 308 bugs, including high-risk arbitrary download flaw in E-Business*

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#### Special points of interest:

- North Korea Launches ICBM
- China India Border Tension

## Security

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Suite, July 19, 2017.

4. Herrera, Chabeli, Miami Herald, *Customers shut out of accounts for hours during Bank of America system outage*, July 19, 2017.
5. Able, Robert, SC Maga-

zine, *Thieves find a new way to hack and steal Teslas*, July 19, 2017.

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*China not only fights for her own independence, but also for the liberation of every oppressed nation. For us, the Atlantic Charter and President Roosevelt's proclamation of the Four Freedoms for all peoples are corner-stones of our fighting faith.—Chiang Kai-shek*

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(Continued from page 1)

*off continues*, July 6, 2017.

5. Biswas, Soutik, BBC News, *Why is the India-China border stand-off escalating?*, July 20, 2017
6. Ault, Nicole, The Washington Times, *China, India feud over Doklam Plateau reaches new high point*, July 16, 2017.
7. Sciutto, Jim, and van

## World News

Heerden, Dominique, CNN, *Exclusive: CNN witnesses US Navy's drone-killing laser*, July 18, 2017.

8. Starr, Barbara, CNN, *Initial investigation blames Navy for USS Fitzgerald collision*, July 21, 2017.

## Crime and Terror

The previous newsletter covered the period of Ramadan. Now that this religious time has passed, the number of terrorist attacks decreased.

As the fighting in Mosul, Iraq, goes against the Islamic State (IS), they are resorting to new terrorist tactics. For instance, female suicide bombers were amongst the fleeing refugees resulting in at least one Iraqi soldier's death [1].

Instead of just focusing on terrorism, this newsletter examines crime and terror starting with the city of Baltimore, Maryland. The number of murders in Baltimore is skyrocketing [2]. It has become so bad, a group of city organizers is calling for a ceasefire to take effect between August 4 through 7 [3]. Consider for a moment, a ceasefire declared in an American city. At the time of this newsletter, the latest murder was a 97 year old man [4].

The city getting some media coverage is Chicago. One example from July 18; 369 people murdered, 1557 shoot-

ings [5]. Not to be outdone by Chicago, the Atlanta murder rate is actually higher [6].

Researchers will likely debate the causes for generations. However, as an observation, there was a time when murders were rare, people left ignition keys in their cars, lived with doors unlocked, and helped each other in times of need. There was a saying then, sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me. In contrast today, words have morphed into justification for violence. Even classics such as Mark Twain's, *Huckleberry Finn* were removed from many schools because of the language used [7]. As we justify more excuses for violence, we should not be shocked to see an increase in violence.

1. CBS, *Female suicide bombers kill Iraqi soldiers in fight for Mosul*, July 3, 2017.
2. Ericson Jr, Edward, Baltimore City Paper, *Murder Ink: 8 murders this week; 183 murders this year*, July 11, 2017.
3. Prudente, Tim, Baltimore

Sun, *'Nobody kill anybody': Murder-free weekend urged in Baltimore*, July 18, 2017

4. Bartolotta, Devin, CBS (WJZ), *Police Investigating Murder Of 97-Year-Old Man*, July 23, 2017.
5. D'Onofrio, Jessica, ABC (WLS), *10-year-old boy, community leader among 10 killed in weekend violence*, July 18, 2017.
6. Richards, Doug, WXIA, *Atlanta's murder rate: Higher than Chicago*, July 22, 2017.
7. Akkoc, Raziye, The Telegraph (UK), *American school bans Huckleberry Finn from lessons because of 'use of N-word'*, December 18, 2015.

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*In the twenty-first century,  
the robot will take the  
place which slave labor  
occupied in ancient  
civilization.—Nikola Tesla*

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## Economy

According to the Labor Department, for the month of June, the unemployment rate was 4.4% [1].

What's more, a record 153 million people were employed and the number of people not in the work force decreased [2].

According to the Labor Department, the number of first time unemployment claims, for the week ending July 1, was 248,000 [3]. Then, for the week ending July 8, the number of first time claims was 247,000 [4]. Finally, for the week ending July 15, the number reported was 233,000 [5].

Venezuela is a classic example of failed socialism. Now there are suggestions that the US might impose sanctions and ban oil imports [6].

Meanwhile, the trade between the US and China remains a

contentious issue. The US and China failed to agree on measures to reduce the US trade deficit [7].

1. Mutikani, Lucia, Reuters, *U.S. job growth accelerates in June, wages continue to lag*, July 7, 2017.
2. Meyer, Ali, Washington Free Beacon, *153,168,000: Record Number of Americans Employed in June*, July 7, 2017.
3. Reuters/CNBC, *US weekly jobless claims total 248,000 vs 243,000 estimate*, July 6, 2017.
4. Reuters/CNBC, *US weekly jobless claims total 247,000 vs 245,000 estimate*, July 13, 2017.
5. Adamczyk, Ed, UPI, *U.S. jobless claims hit lowest mark in five months*, July 20, 2017.
6. Nussbaum, Alex, et. al., Bloomberg, *Who'd Lose Most From U.S. Ban on Venezuela Crude?: Quick-Take Q&A*, July 19, 2017.
7. New York Times/Reuters, *U.S., China Fail to Agree on Trade Issues, Casting Doubt on Other Issues*, July 20, 2017.

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*Science, my lad, is made up of mistakes, but they are mistakes which it is useful to make, because they lead little by little to the truth.—Jules Verne*

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