

# IN THE NEWS

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## World News

The memory of the USS Fitzgerald destroyer collision with a larger ship is still in the news [1]. Now another destroyer, the USS John S. McCain was significantly damaged after being hit by a much larger oil tanker larger ship off the Strait of Malacca [2]. Both the USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain are part of the Seventh Fleet's ballistic missile defense; that includes 6 guided missile destroyers [3]. One report indicates ships like the tanker have radar and other systems to detect ships near them [4,5]. Another piece indicates the Navy warships are equipped with multiple radars capable of detecting ships as far as 20 miles out [6]. Other incidents involving cruisers include: the USS Antietam ran aground in Tokyo Bay (January) [7]; and the USS Lake Champlain collided with a Korean fishing boat (May) [8].

This occurs as the US Military is in the process of upgrading its electronic warfare capability after decades of neglect to address advances by China and other nations [9]. In response, one report indicates China's media is celebrating the Navy mishap [10]. In a final example illustrating military expansion; Chinese soldiers exchanged yells and stones with their Indian counterparts in the Indian controlled Kashmir [11].

Readers may recall the leader of North Korea, Kim Jong-Un, had his operatives use VX Nerve agent to assassinate his half-brother in the busy Kuala Lumpur's airport [12]. In other times, this would have been considered an act of war. However, with China's continued support, the rogue nation has continued to operate virtually unopposed. Since the last newsletter, North Korea launched another ballistic missile, this time over Japan [13]. Finally, North Korea tested its sixth nuclear device, estimate to have a 50-60 kiloton yield, most likely a hydrogen bomb device [14]. However, indications are the device was 10 times more powerful than the last test, making the yield closer to 100 kilotons [15].

1. Martin, David, CBS News, USS Fitzgerald captain, 2 senior officers will be relieved of duty, August 17, 2017.

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## Security

With the news of yet another large ship colliding with a US Destroyer, it's a good time to look at ship exploits. For years, it has been known the three key maritime navigation capabilities, GPS, AIS, and the Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS), were vulnerable to hacking [1]. For instance, one piece concluded the Automated Identification System (AIS) used by ap-

proximately 400,000 ships lacked adequate security controls [2]. Interestingly, in one NTSB accident report, a ship's AIS (the Carla Maersk) was offset by about 500 feet [3]. Moreover, in one case, pirates hacked into shipping systems to determine the contents and location of valuable cargo [4]. There was also a warning that ships are vulnerable to hacking that could cause collisions [5]. Another piece suggests cyber at-

tacks are targeting ship GPS navigation systems [6]. Case in point, researchers were able to use GPS spoofing to redirect an \$80 million Yacht three degrees off course [7].

Which takes us back to the USS John S. McCain. Some are now openly questioning if a cyberattack caused the collision [8].

Meanwhile, hackers penetrated Equifax, compromis-

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### Special points of interest:

- North Korea
  - Tested H-Bomb
  - Fired missile over Japan
- USS John McCain destroyer collision with oil tanker
- Equifax breach effects 143 million people

## Security

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ing up to 143 million identities [9]. And finally, 465,000 pacemakers are being recalled because of a security vulnerability [10].

1. Wagstaff, Jeremy, Reuters, *All at sea: global shipping fleet exposed to hacking threat*, April 23, 2014.
2. Simonite, Tom, Technology Review, *Ship Tracking Hack Makes Tankers Vanish from View*, October 18, 2013.
3. NTSB, *Collision between Bulk Carrier Conti Peridot and Tanker Carla Maersk Houston Ship Channel near*

*Morgan's Point, Texas*, March 9, 2015.

4. Rogers, James, Fox News, *From high seas to high tech: Pirates hack shipping company*, March 2, 2016.
5. Saul, Jonathan, Reuters, *Global shipping feels fallout from Maersk cyber attack*, June 29, 2017.
6. Reuters, *Sea Traders Are Revisiting WWII-era Navigation Tools Amid Fears About Cyber Attacks*, August 7, 2017.
7. Kugler, Logan, Communications of the ACM, *Why GPS Spoofing Is a Threat to Companies, Countries*, September, 2017

8. DeMarche, Edmund, Fox News, *Is someone hacking our 7th Fleet? Navy to investigate after USS John S McCain collision*, August 22, 2017.
9. Womack, Brian, Bloomberg, *Equifax Says Cyberattack May Have Hit 143 Million Customers*, September 7, 2017.
10. Morris, Chris, Fortune, *465,000 Pacemakers Recalled on Hacking Fears*, August 31, 2017.

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Set your course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship—Omar N. Bradley

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2. Fifield, Anna, Washington Post, *Stricken U.S. destroyer arrives in Singapore after collision, 10 sailors missing*, August 21, 2017,
3. Ungku, Fathin, and Kitano, Masayuki, Reuters, *Ten sailors missing after U.S. warship, tanker collide near Singapore*, August 21, 2017.
4. CBS News, *3 nations search for U.S. sailors missing after collision*, August 21, 2017.
5. Toppo, Greg, USA Today, *USS John S. McCain arrives at Singapore naval base after collision leaves 10 missing*, August 21, 2017.
6. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Navy Does Not Rule Out Intentional Act in Latest Warship Collision*, August 22, 2017.

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7. Cohen, Zachary, CNN, *USS Antietam guided-missile cruiser runs aground, leaks oil*, February 1, 2017.
8. Shim, Elizabeth, UPI, *U.S. guided missile cruiser collides with South Korean boat*, May 9, 2017.
9. Warwick, Graham, Aviation Week & Space Technology, *Urgency In U.S. Electronic Warfare Faces Funding Challenges*, August 18, 2017.
10. Tan, Huileng, CNBC, *Collision of USS John S. McCain is met with 'applause' in China, according to state media*, August 22, 2017.
11. AP, *North Korea conducts 6th nuclear test, says it was H-bomb*, September 3, 2017.
12. Ng, Eileen, AP/Chicago Tribune, *Kim Jong Un's*

*brother was killed by banned chemical nerve agent, police say*, February 24, 2017.

13. AFP/ Japan Times, *N. Korea confirms missile flew over Japan*, August 30, 2017.
14. Hussain, Aijaz, AP/ABC News, *China, India soldiers hurl stones at 1 another in Kashmir*, August 16, 2017.
15. Cheng, Jonathan, Wall Street Journal, *North Korea Claims It Successfully Tested Hydrogen Bomb Suitable for Long-Range Missile*, September 3, 2017.

## Terrorism

In Spain, a terrorist attack included the use of a van to plow into people; killing at least 13 people [1]. In a separate incident, five terrorist were killed by police after they tried to drive into tourists [2]. The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attacks in Spain [3].

Meanwhile, terrorist knife attacks continue. In Finland, a Moroccan asylum seeker killed at least two women in a terrorist knife attack [4]. Elsewhere, the IS claimed responsibility for a terrorist knife attack in Russia that injured 7 people [5]. Finally, authorities claim a stabbing attack in Germany, where one person was killed, was not terror related [6]. In

However, in Brussels, an Islamic knife attacker was shot dead while attacking two soldiers [7].

1. González, Andrés, and Martin, Richard, Reuters, *Spain hunts van driver who mowed down Barcelona crowd, killing 13*, August 18, 2017.
2. González, Andrés, et. al., Reuters, *Spanish police shoot five suspects dead after van rampage kills 13 in Barcelona*, August 18, 2017.
3. BBC, *Barcelona attack: Government says terror cell dismantled*, August 20, 2017.
4. CNBC/Reuters, *Moroccan asylum seeker "targeted women" in Finland knife attack*, August 19, 2017.
5. AFP/Daily Star, *7 hurt in 'IS knife attack' in Russia*, August 20, 2017.
6. Keneally, Meghan, ABC News, *1 person killed in stabbing in Germany*, August 18, 2017.
7. BBC, *Brussels attack: Man shot after stabbing troops*, August 25, 2017.

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*The ship of democracy,  
which has weathered all  
storms, may sink through  
the mutiny of those on  
board—Grover Cleveland*

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## Economy

For the week ending August 19, the number of first time unemployment claims reported by the Labor Department was 234,000 [1]. For the week ending August 26, the number was 236,000 [2]. Finally, the number of claims rose to 298,000 [3]. During the month of August, the unemployment rate was 4.4% [4].

As a final topic, we discuss history repeating itself. With the cancellation of the Space Shuttle before there was a replacement, the US will continue relying on Russia for transportation to the Space Station for years to come [5]. This brings us back to the original decision to rely on the Shuttle instead of expendable rockets [6]. The first US Space station, was a massive structure that fell back to Earth on July 11, 1979 [7]. Before it crashed; back in October 1977, the head of NASA, Frosch, order a crash investigation for using a shuttle to

boost Skylab into a higher orbit [8]. However, with reliance only on the unavailable shuttle, the \$ 2.2 billion space station burned up over Australia and that country fined the US and additional \$400 million for the crash [9].

1. Nasdaq, *U.S. Jobless Claims Inch Up Less Than Expected To 234,000*, August 24, 2017.
2. Reuters, *U.S. jobless claims rise marginally as labor market tightens*, August 31, 2017.
3. Nasdaq, *U.S. Weekly Jobless Claims Jump To Two-Year High Due To Harvey*, September 7, 2017.
4. Bartash, Jeffrey, *Market Watch, U.S. adds 156,000 jobs in August; unemployment 4.4%*, September 1, 2017.
5. Johnson, Natalie, *Washington Free Beacon, U.S. to Remain Dependent on Russian Rocket Engines for Years Despite Billions*

*Poured Into Domestic Alternatives*, September 8, 2017.

6. Presidential Directive/NSC-37, *National Space Policy*, May 11, 1978.
7. NASA, *40th Anniversary of Skylab*, April 26, 2013.
8. Epps, Garrett, *Washington Post, The Last Days Of Skylab*, April 8, 1979.
9. Crofts, Cassie, *National Geographic, Australia Once Fined Nasa \$400 For Littering*, July 11, 2016.

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*Four hoarse blasts of a  
ship's whistle still raise the  
hair on my neck and set  
my feet to tapping—John  
Steinbeck*

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