

## IN THE NEWS

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### World News

For years, the Iran nuclear deal was considered bad [1]. Then as the US was considering leaving the Iranian nuclear deal; Israel provided significant evidence that Iran has an archive for developing nuclear weapons [2]. On May 8, President Trump announced the US would withdraw from the Iranian nuclear agreement [3,4]. Some experts are calling the decision bad [5]. Nevertheless, shortly after the US left the agreement, Israel forces struck an Iranian base in Syria killing at least 15 people [6]. Then Iran launched approximately 20 missiles from Syria directed at military targets within Israel [7]. Finally, Israel launched military strikes against dozens of Iranian targets within Syria [8].

As in past newsletters, we continue to follow the activities of China. One report indicates that in East Africa, Chinese nationals used lasers to injure US military aircraft pilots [9]. Obviously these were low power laser devices. However, it points out their targeting is such that they can hit US aircraft with lasers. Thus, higher energy lasers pose a threat to such US aircraft. This comes as China started sea trials for its first domestically build aircraft carrier [10]. Another report indicates China is integrating Artificial Intelligence into its weapons systems [11]. Additionally, one report indicates china installed anti-ship cruise missiles and surface-to-air missile systems on 3 artificial Islands [12]. These anti-ship YJ-12B missiles are reported to have a range up to 295 nautical miles [13], Then China landed its most advanced bomber, the H-6K, on one of the contested islands [14].

1. Rubin, Jennifer, Washington Post, *10 reasons the Iran deal is ludicrous*, July 16, 2015.
2. Kredo, Adam, Washington Free Beacon, *U.S. Confirms Authenticity of Secret Iran Nuclear Docs, Officials See Game Over for Deal*, April 30, 2018.
3. Haltiwanger, John, Business Insider, *Trump announces he's withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal*, May 8, 2018.
4. Allen, Jonathan, et. al., NBC News, *Trump announces withdrawal from*

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#### Special points of interest:

- Israel vs Iran

### Security

As we have noted in the past, Cybercrime often pays. Case in point, one estimate of losses last year to Asia-Pacific companies is estimated at \$1.75 trillion [1].

Cybercriminals have many vulnerabilities they can exploit. Amongst the greatest threats are those that operate below the operating system. Consider, the Spectre and Meltdown vulnerabilities might expose memory typically reserved

for BIOS firmware [2]. In another example, Lenovo issued patches to fix and arbitrary code execution flaw [3].

Meanwhile, patching commercial products continues to be a new normal. For instance, Microsoft's Patch Tuesday for May addressed 67 security holes [4]. Adobe released patches to fix critical vulnerabilities in its Flash and Creative Cloud products [5]. Finally, Google is forcing Android

application vendors to regularly patch security holes [6].

1. ZDNet, *One in four APAC firms not sure if they suffered security breach*, May 18, 2018.
2. Tung, Liam, ZD Net, *Ex-Intel security expert: This new Spectre attack can even reveal firmware secrets*, May 18, 2018.
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## Security

(Continued from page 1)

- Arbitrary Code Execution Flaw*, May 7, 2018.
4. Krebs on Security, *Microsoft Patch Tuesday, May 2018 Edition*, May 18, 2018.
  5. ZDNet, *Adobe patches critical vulnerabilities in Flash, Creative Cloud*, May 9, 2018.
  6. Android Central, *Google's now forcing OEMs to update devices with 'regular' security patches*, May 11, 2018.

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- Iran nuclear deal*, May 8, 2018.
5. Peterson, Susan, et. al., *Washington Post*, *Experts don't like Trump's withdrawal from the Iran deal – or his foreign policy in general*, May 16, 2018.
  6. McDowall, Angus, and Heller, Jeffrey, *Reuters*, *Syrian Observatory: Israeli raid in Syria killed Iranians*, May 9, 2018.
  7. Gross, Judah Ari, *Times of Israel*, *Israel bombs Iranian targets in Syria after missile barrage blamed on Tehran*, May 10, 2018.
  8. Morris, Loveday, et. al., *Washington Post*, *Israel launches massive military strike against Iranian targets in Syria*, May 10, 2018.
  9. Gertz, Bill, *Pentagon Confirms Chinese Fired Lasers at U.S. Pilots*, May 3, 2018.
  10. Agence-France Presse, *First China-made aircraft carrier starts sea trials: state media*, 13 May 2018.
  11. Gertz, Bill, *Washington Free Beacon*, *China Rapidly Building Advanced Arms for Use Against U.S.*, May 11, 2018.
  12. Jamieson, Alastair, *NBC News*, *U.S. warns China of 'consequences' over reported missiles in South China Sea*, May 4, 2018.
  13. CNN Wires/Fox, *White House warns China on growing militarization in South China Sea*, May 4, 2018.
  14. Lu, Zhenhua, *South China Morning Post*, *China angers US after landing warplanes, including H-6K bomber, on South China Sea reef*, May 19, 2018.

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*The growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership.—Harvey S. Firestone*

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## Terrorism

In Nigeria, twin suicide bomb attacks launched against a mosque killed at least 24 people [1]. Afghanistan, a terrorist bombing of a mosque resulted in at least 17 dead [2].

In Paris, France, a Chechnya born Islamic terrorist went on a knife attack killing at least one person and injuring four others [3]. The Islamic State released a video of the attacker pledging allegiance to the terrorist organization [4].

In Indonesia where Muslims make up 90% of the population; church bombings left at least 10 people dead [5]. Once again, the IS claimed responsibility for the attack [6]. Elsewhere in Indonesia, four IS inspired sword terrorists that used swords during an attack, were killed along with one police officer [7].

After years of silence, there is a report that the captain of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, Zaharie Ahmad Shah, used the aircraft to commit suicide

[8]. One older report describes the pilot as a moderate Muslim [9]. However, we do not know why he would deliberately hijack the plane for committing suicide.

1. Adebayo, Bukola, and Busari, Stephanie, CNN, *At least 24 killed in double bomb blasts in Nigeria mosque*, May 1, 2018.
2. BBC News, Afghanistan: *At least 17 killed in Khost mosque blast*, May 6, 2018.
3. BBC News, *Paris knife attack: Suspect 'born in Russia's Chechnya'*, May 13, 2018.
4. Lapin, Tamar, New York Post, *ISIS releases footage of Paris attacker pledging allegiance*, May 13, 2018.
5. BBC News, *Church bombings in Indonesia's Surabaya leave 10 dead*, May 13, 2018.
6. Agence France-Presse, *Islamic State group claims deadly Indonesia church attacks*, May 13, 2018.
7. Steinbuch, Yaron, New York Post, *4 sword-wielding terrorists killed in Indonesia after ISIS attack*, May 16, 2018.
8. CBS News, *Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 crash was deliberate, aviation experts suggest*, May 14, 2018.
9. Grudgings, Stuart, and Daga, Anshuman, Reuters, *Scrutiny of Malaysia pilots reveals picture of normality*, March 18, 2014.

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*Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.—Ronald Reagan*

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## Economy

The unemployment rate fell to a 17-1/2 year low of 3.9% [1]. For the week ending April 28, the number of first time unemployment claims was 211,000 [2]. Then for the week ending May 5, the number was 211,000 [3]. Finally, for the week ending May 12, the number was 222,000 [4].

The stock market has been in check over concerns that there might be a US-China trade war [5]. However, it appears the trade negotiations produced a commitment by China to increase US purchases [6].

1. Mutikani, Lucia, Reuters, *U.S. job growth rebounds modestly; unemploy-*

*ment rate hits 3.9 percent*, May 4, 2018.

2. NASDAQ, *U.S. Weekly Jobless Claims Inch Up From Nearly Five Decade Low*, May 3, 2018.
3. Reuters, *US weekly jobless claims total 211,000, vs 218,000 expected*, May 10, 2018.
4. NASDAQ, *U.S. Jobless Claims Rise More Than Expected To 222,000*, May 17, 2018.
5. AP, *Fear of China trade war helps push U.S. stocks into the red*, May 17, 2018.
6. Horowitz, Julia, CNN, *China will 'significantly increase' purchases of US goods and services*, May 19,

2018.

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*To be prepared for war is  
one of the most effective  
means of preserving peace.*

*—George Washington*

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