

IN THE NEWS

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World News

In Iran, there was a report of mass protests against the ruling regime [1]. The news indicates that after several days of unrest, the protests against the Iranian government continued [2]. Then as a warning to other countries; for the first time in a year, Iran launched a Fateh-110 short-range ballistic missile [3].

If war comes to the South China Sea, the Navy will be deeply involved. On August 2 China launched its 14th Type 052D Luyang III-class guided-missile destroyer [4]. Additionally, China is using its current aircraft carrier to make improvement in future designs and for readiness training [5]. To further ratchet up tensions; the Chinese military repeatedly warned off a US military plane flying near militarized artificial islands located in the South China Sea [6]. In another incident, Japan was forced to intercept a Chinese spy plane over the Sea of Japan [7]. In partial response to Chinese aggression, Japan announced plans to conduct training its 2,100 strong Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade in the East China Sea [8]. China is now in a position to close off areas to commercial shipping. Case in point, China closed a section of the Yellow Sea for several days in order to conduct military training [9]. Training exercises such as these were conducted to pressure the island nation of Taiwan [10]. Finally, in a demonstration of things to come, China conducted another hypersonic missile test [11].

1. Kredo, Adam, Washington Free Beacon, *Protests In Iran Hit Boiling Point, Amplifying Calls For Regime Change*, August 6, 2018.
2. Norman, Greg, Fox News, *Iran crowds reportedly chant 'death to the dictator!' as US sanctions increase economic unrest*, August 7, 2018.
3. Tomlinson, Lucas, Fox News, *Iran test-fires ballistic missile for first time in 2018, officials say*, August 10, 2018.
4. Keck, Zachary, The National Interest, *China Has Just Launched a New*

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Security

Once again computer viruses are in the news. A computer virus forced the shutdown of several Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company plants (this company makes the Apple iPhone's main processor) [1]. In Valdez, Alaska, the city shut down its entire computer infrastructure in response to a computer virus [2]. In New York State, a computer virus damaged the Ogdensburg

Bridge and Port Authority's computer system [3].

During this news cycle, one of the largest hacker conventions referred to as Black Hat took place in Las Vegas [4]. One exploit demonstrated the ability to load malicious software directly onto a pacemaker [5]. Another topic discussed was hacking into the newer electronic cars [6]. Others attended the DefCon hacker convention and were presented with risks to vot-

ing machines [7].

1. Wu, Debby, Bloomberg, *Computer Virus Cripples iPhone Chip-maker TSMC Plants*, August 4, 2018.
2. KTUU/AP, *Virus shuts down city computers in Valdez*, July 28, 2018.
3. Robinson, Larry, Watertown Daily Times, *Computer virus wreaks havoc on Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority*

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Special points of interest:

- Apple reached the one trillion dollar market cap

Security

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ty server, August 9, 2018.

4. Rubenking, Neil J., and Eddy, Max, PC Magazine, *Black Hat 2018: What to Expect*, August 8, 2018.
5. Prince, Todd, Las Vegas Review-Journal, *Black Hat experts in Las Vegas address hacking cars, medical devices*, August 9, 2018.
6. Newman, Lily Hay, Wired, *A New Pacemaker Hack Puts Malware Directly On The Device*, August 8, 2018.
7. Newman, Lily Hay,

Wired, *At Defcon, The Biggest Election Threat Is Lack Of Funding*, August 10, 2018

The Army was always big on Clausewitz, the Prussian; the Navy on Alfred Thayer Mahan, the American; and the Air Force on Giulio Douhet, the Italian.

But the Marine Corps has always been more Eastern-oriented. I am much more comfortable with Sun-tzu and his approach to warfare.—James

Mattis

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Guided-Missile Destroyer. Here's Why the Navy Should Worry, August 7, 2018.

5. Pickrell, V, Business Insider, *China's aircraft carriers have a boatload of glaring weaknesses – but the next carrier could be a 'huge step forward'*, August 12, 2018.
6. BBC News, *South China Sea: 'Leave immediately and keep far off'*, August 10, 2018.
7. Zhou, Laura, South China Morning Post, *Japan scrambles fighter jets to intercept Chinese spy plane after South Korea lodges protest*, July 28, 2018.
8. DeAeth, Duncan, Taiwan News, *Japan's recently activated Marine unit to begin naval exercises in E. China Sea*, August 10,

World News

2018.

9. Global Times/Manila Times, *PLA begins East China Sea exercises*, August 12, 2018
10. Johnson, Jesse, Japan Times, *China to begin large-scale military exercise 'tailored for Taiwan separatists' in East China Sea*, July 18, 2018.
11. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *China Reveals Test of New Hypersonic Missile*, August 10, 2018.

Terrorism

It looks like US law enforcement uncovered a terrorist activity still in the preparation phase. It started when police discovered 11 starving children located at a compound in New Mexico [1]. The compound was described as run by Muslim extremists [2]. There, 11 children were reportedly being trained to carry out school shootings [3]. One piece indicates one man arrested was the son of the Inman tied to the 1993 World Trade Center bombing [4].

In Toronto, Canada, after authorities claimed no link to terrorism; the Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for an gun attack that left at least two people dead [5]. One report indicates the shooter had visited IS websites [6].

In Pakistan, a suicide bomber killed a member of the Pakistan Justice Movement and one other person [7]. Then a suicide attack in Quetta killed at least 31 people [8]. In Afghanistan, a suicide bomber killed at least 14 people in an attack near Kabul Airport [9]. In Jalalabad, a terrorist attack left at least 6 people dead [10]. In Tajikistan, the Islamic State

claimed responsibility for an attack on Western tourists cycling that killed at least 4 people [5].

1. BBC News, *New Mexico: Police find 11 starving children in compound*, August 6, 2018.
2. Darrah, Nicole, Fox News, *Man arrested at 'extremist Muslim' New Mexico compound was training kids to commit school shootings: documents*, August 8, 2018.
3. McLean, Scott, et. al., CNN, *Children found in New Mexico compound were training for school shootings, prosecutors say*, August 9, 2018.
4. CBS/AP, *Man arrested at New Mexico compound is son of imam with possible link to 1993 World Trade Center bombing*, August 8, 2018.
5. Shapiro, Emily, ABC News, *10-year-old slain in Toronto shooting identified by police*, July 25, 2018.
6. Fedschun, Travis, Fox News, *ISIS claims Toronto shooting as probe reportedly finds gunman visited terror websites, lived in Middle East*, July 25, 2018.
7. Baloch, Shah Meer, and Gettleman, Jeffrey, New York Times, *A White Flash, a Horrible Boom. Now Pakistan Worries: Is It Safe to Vote?*, July 22, 2018.
8. Reuters/NBC News, *Pakistan election marred by suicide bomb as Imran Khan seeks power*, July 25, 2018.
9. CBS News, *Suicide bomber kills 14 near Kabul airport in Afghanistan*, July 22, 2018.
10. AP, *The Latest: Attack in Afghanistan ends with 6 killed*, July 31, 2018.
11. Danilova, Maria, AP, *IS claims Tajikistan attack that killed 4 foreign cyclists*, July 31, 2018.

Secret operations are essential in war; upon them the army relies to make its every move. —

Sun Tzu

Economy

Signs of a strong economy continue. On July 25, the NASDAQ set a new record high [1]. Then on August 2, Apple's market cap passed the \$1 trillion mark [2].

In other good news, during the second quarter, the Gross Domestic Product grew at a 4.1% rate [3]. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for July fell to 3.9% [4].

For the week ending July 21, the number of first time unemployment claims was 217,000 [5]. Then for the week ending July 28, the number was 281,000 [6]. Finally, for the week ending August 4, the number was 213,000 [7].

1. Nasdaq, *Market Close Report: Historical high*

reached as NASDAQ Composite Index closes at 7,932.24, July 25, 2018.

2. Salinas, Sara, CNBC, *Apple just hit a \$1 trillion market cap*, August 2, 2018.
3. Oyedele, Akin, Business Insider, *US economy grows 4.1%, the fastest pace since 2014*, July 27, 2018.
4. Schwartz, Nelson D., New York Times, *U.S. Added 157,000 Jobs in July; Unemployment Rate Slips to 3.9%*, August 3, 2018.
5. Reuters/CNBC, *US jobless claims rebound from a more than 48 1/2-year low*," July 26, 2018.
6. Bartash, Jeffrey, Market

Watch, Jobless claims cling near 45-year low, August 2, 2018.

7. Nunn, Sharon, and Chaney, Sarah, Wall Street Journal, *U.S. Jobless Claims Fell Last Week*, August 9, 2018.

The study of history lies at the foundation of all sound military conclusions and practice.—Alfred Thayer Mahan
