

IN THE NEWS

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World News

In the area of science and technology, China has achieved a significant accomplishment. The communist giant successfully landed a rover on the dark side of the moon and returned images of the event [1]. Readers should note there is no direct line of sight between the Earth and dark side of the moon. Thus, more complex communications, command, and control are necessary. Consider, a planned Iranian satellite launch is viewed as a test for developing nuclear missiles [2]. Thus the Moon landing should be another wakeup call regarding the technology going into the Chinese military. On a separate note, readers may recall during the lead up to World War II, Germany annexed the Sudetenland. With that as a backdrop, news that China plans to annex Taiwan is troubling [3].

Meanwhile, the US has fallen behind in certain areas necessary for war preparation. For example, one report indicates the US military logistics system has decayed to the point it is not ready for war with Russia or China [4]. In more bad news, Russia added an anti-satellite jamming system to its electronic warfare portfolio [5]. Concurrently, China is lowering the threshold for armed conflict. In response to the US guided-missile destroyer USS McCampbell freedom of navigation movement near the Paracel Islands; China has deployed DF-26 intermediate range ballistic missiles to the remote northwest plateau [6]. In contrast, China frequently violates Japanese territory [7].

1. VanderKlippe, Nathan, The Globe and Mail, *A more confident China threatens military force in Taiwan, holds up Hong Kong as a model*, January 2, 2019.
2. Kredo, Adam, Washington Free Beacon, *Iran Space Launch Cover for Test of Nuclear-Capable Missile Tech, U.S. Determines*, January 12, 2019.
3. AP, *'One giant leap for the Chinese nation': Chinese rover makes tracks on 'dark' side of moon*, January 4, 2019.
4. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Pentagon: Military Logistics System*

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Security

It was another good year for hackers. By one estimate, they stole over \$1 billion from bitcoin exchanges [1].

In Germany, the government's security office warned commercial firms of Chinese hacking [2]. In a later incident, hackers released personal information on hundreds of politicians; including Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Frank-Walter Steinmeier [3]. German authorities arrested a 20 year old for

the hack [4]. Moreover, the German state security agency reported the hack did not affect the government's internal networks [5].

On another note, the race to fix commercial software security vulnerabilities continues. Google released a January security patch that addressed 13 issues [6]. Microsoft released patches to address 49 vulnerabilities [7].

1. Winder, Davey, Forbes, *How Hackers Stole \$1B From Crypto-*

currency Exchanges In 2018, December 31, 2019.

2. Reuters, *German security office warned German firms about Chinese hacking: report*, December 19, 2018.
3. Reuters, *German politicians' data hacked, govt cyber team in crisis meeting*, January 4, 2019.
4. AFP, *Suspect, 20, held over massive German politician data hack*,

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Special points of interest:

- China space technology rising
- German politicians hacked
- No bank failures during 2018

Security

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January 8, 2019.

5. Reuters, *German government network not affected by hacking incident: Bild*, January 4, 2019.
6. Digit, *Google rolls out January security patch for Pixel devices*, January 9, 2019.
7. Mackie, Kurt, Redmond, *Microsoft Delivers Mild January Security Patch Bundle*, January 8, 2019.

*The less people know
about how sausages and
laws are made, the better
they'll sleep at night—Otto
von Bismarck*

World News

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*Not Ready for War With
China or Russia*, January
9, 2019.

5. DiMascio, Jen, *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, DiMascio, Jen, *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, *The Week In Defense*, January 10, 2019.
6. Lendon, Brad, CNN, *China's reaction to US Navy operation: We have missiles*, January 10, 2019.
7. Morgan, Scott, *Taiwan News*, *Chinese navy activities a cause for concern: Japanese admiral*, January 10, 2019.

Terrorism

World-wide terrorism continues its path of destruction. Case in point, a combined suicide and gunman attack in Kabul left at least 40 people dead [1]. In Tripoli, Libya, a suicide attack killed at least 3 people [2]. In Egypt, a terrorists bombing killed at least 4 people and in response, the Egyptian forces killed at least 40 militants [3]. In England, three people were stabbed on New Year's eve in what has need called a terrorist attack [4].

Back in 2000, al Qaeda suicide bombers in a speed boat attacked the USS Cole killing 17 sailors [5]. Now, reports indicate the terrorist behind the attack was killed during a US Airstrike in Yemen [6].

1. Shah, Amir, AP/Washington Times, *Death toll from attack in Afghan capital climbs to 40*, December 25, 2018.
2. AP/Washington Times, *Libyan security officials say suicide bomber targets Foreign Ministry in Tripoli, killing 3*, December 25, 2018.
3. Izaguirre. Anthony, New York Post, *Egyptian forces kill 40 'militants' after bombing near Giza Pyramids*, December 29, 2018.
4. NBC News, *Manchester New Year's Eve stabbing of 3 treated as terrorism, police say*, January 1, 2019.
5. CNN Library, *USS Cole Bombing Fast Facts*, January 4, 2019.
6. CNN, *US official: Airstrike kills terrorist behind USS Cole bombing*, January 4, 2019.

One of the biggest problems that Egypt faces is the lack of border security - the importation of weapons on their way to Gaza, for example, coming out of Sudan.—Hillary Clinton

Economy

This news-cycle began with more losses in the markets. For instance, the Dow Jones Industrial Index fell 2.9% for the worst Christmas Eve drop in history [1].

For the week ending December 22, the number of first time unemployment claims was 216,000 [2]. For the week ending December 29, the number of claims was 220,000 [3]. Finally, for the week ending January 5, the number of claims was 216,000 [4].

For December, the Labor Department reported 312,000 jobs were added [5]. This as 419,000 people entered the workforce; the highest since 2006 [6]. This combination

led to a 3.9% unemployment rate [7]. Finally, for 2018, there were no US bank failures [8].

1. McCallister, Doreen, NPR, *Dow Suffers Record-Breaking Christmas Eve Losses*, December 24, 2018.
2. Nasdaq, *U.S. Weekly Jobless Claims Unexpectedly Edge Lower*, December 27, 2018.
3. Reuters/CNBC, *US weekly jobless claims increase more than expected*, January 3, 2019.
4. Reuters/CNBC, *US weekly jobless claims fall more than expected*, January 10, 2019.
5. Davidson, Paul, USA Today, *December jobs report: 312,000 added, easing recession fears amid stock turmoil*, January 4, 2019.
6. Bartash, Jeffrey, Market Watch, *Why the increase in the unemployment rate in December is good news for the economy*, January 4, 2019.
7. Domm, Patti, CNBC, *December jobs report shows surprising strength, but doesn't end worries about growth slowdown*, January 4, 2019.
8. WWW.FDIC.GOV.

A bank is a place that will
lend you money if you can
prove that you don't need
it.—Bob Hope

