

# IN THE NEWS

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## Security

One of the biggest security breaches occurred when the OPM was breached by China, exposing the security investigation information of millions of people [1]. Now there is a report that China continues mining the information for spying [2]. What's more, China is considered a state sponsor of cyber attacks. In particular, there are reports Huawei Technologies is being funded by Chinese state security [3]. This is forcing the discussion if Huawei Technologies should be allowed to dominate the 5G telecommunications market [4].

There are a number of exploits used to fool ship navigation. For instance, Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) spoofing [5]. By one report, the frequency of such attacks is more prevalent than previously recognized [6]. It therefore comes a little surprise that the US Navy dropped criminal neglect charges against USS Fitzgerald officers (following the collision with a commercial vessel) [7].

The Muller report documenting Russian activities to effect the 2016 elections is finished and is still being discussed [8]. It appears the Russians used spear fishing attacks to successfully compromise email from the 2016 candidate Clinton campaign [9]. What's more, the Mueller report indicates Russia has been hacking the US since the end of the cold war [10]. Additionally, the Mueller report indicates one county government network in Florida was breached during the 2016 election cycle [11]. As a consequence of the report, the FBI plans to meet with Florida officials to discuss the incident [12]. This called into question why the FBI did not inform Florida officials that their network was breached [13]. One report indicates the FBI will not reveal which county the Russian GRU compromised [14]. So in reflection, the Russians and the FBI know where the breach was but the victims are not to know. A question here is what good does intelligence do if it is not acted on?

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## World News

Large scale fighting has erupted in Libya. At least 200 people have been killed as conflict continues in Tripoli [1]. The fighting has raged for three weeks and includes airstrikes [2].

Russia is continuing to develop its submarine fleet. One report suggests Russia has developed noisy super-captivating technologies allowing torpedoes to travel at a 200 knots velocity in water [3]. Meanwhile Russia revealed a new submarine that carries high speed

nuclear tipped drones [4]. Russian underwater drones, called Poseidon, are expected to be operational by 2027 [5]. The drones are expected to be quiet with speeds up to 70 knots [6].

In Newsletter Volume 4, Issue 26 (12/18/2011) we highlighted how US and Russian treaties that excluded China were allowing the Chinese to expand unencumbered. It appears that China has been pouring money into developing the type of weapons the Inter-

mediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty restricts Russia and the US from building [7]. This oversight continues allowing China to exploit military opportunities. Case in point, US and Russia treaties allowed China to amass numbers of intermediate range ballistic missiles [8]. Moreover, as the US relies on sub-sonic cruise missiles, China is deploying super-sonic weapons [9]. In addition to greater ranges, the Chinese mis-

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### Special points of interest:

- New 49 year low for first time unemployment claims
- Terrorism on Easter
- S&P and NASDAQ closed at record highs

## World News

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siles pack greater Kinetic Energy. As a consequence, there is a continuing concern that China is replacing the US as Asia's military giant [10].

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6. Allen, Felix, The Sun, *Russian navy begins sea trials of 'unstoppable' doomsday nuclear drone that can 'trigger a 300ft radioactive tsunami and wipe out cities'*, December 26, 2018.
7. Panda, Ankit, The Diplomat, *China Won't Join the INF Treaty—But Can It Forever Dodge Arms Control?*, February 25, 2019.
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9. Pickrell, Ryan, Business Insider, *China has an advantage over the US Navy that could mean a 'decisive' defeat for US warships in a fight at sea*, April 27, 2019.
10. Lague, David, and Lim, Benjamin Kang, Reuters, *Special Report: How China is replacing America as Asia's military titan*, April 23, 2019.

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*The important achievement of Apollo was demonstrating that humanity is not forever chained to this planet and our visions go rather further than that and our opportunities are unlimited.—Neil Armstrong*

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From basic physics we know that  $KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$ ,  
Where  $KE$  is Kinetic Energy,  $m$  is mass, and  $v$  is velocity.

## Security

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## Terrorism

One of the major drivers of terrorism is expanding religious beliefs. Consider the religious demographics of Sri Lanka; 70% Buddhists, 12.5% Hindus, just under 10% Muslims, and 7.5% Christians [1]. On Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka, simultaneous explosions directed at three churches and three hotels left at least 137 people dead [2]. Sri Lanka's health minister claimed the attack was from the National Thowheed Jamath Islamic terrorist group [3]. Investigators have concluded the bombers were well educated and financially secure [4]. Nearly a week later, during a police raid a house in an Islamic neighborhood, terrorists detonated explosives killing at least 15 people [5].

In 2016, three jihadist women tried to set fire to the iconic Notre Dame cathedral in Paris [6]. On April 15, the Notre Dame cathedral caught fire with extensive damage; investigations continue as to the cause [7]. Finally, on April 17, a man was arrested for trying to bring 4 gallons of gasoline into St. Patrick's cathedral in New York City [8]. While we

don't know if terrorism contributed to the Notre Dame fire or the suspicious attempt in New York; these incidents illustrate the changed world we now live in. One of the continuing threats comes from radicalized Americans intent on harm. Case in point, a 28-year old Maryland man inspired by ISIS planned one using a stolen truck to run down people at the National Harbor [9]. Then in California, a 19 year old white male open fire in a synagogue killing at least one person [10].

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*I do not look upon these  
United States as a finished  
product. We are still in the  
making.—Franklin D.  
Roosevelt*

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## Economy

More good news on the economy. For the week ending April 6, the number of first time unemployment claims fell to a near 50 year low of 196,000 [1]. The last time the number were this low was in October, 1969 [2]. Then for the week ending April 13, the number of claims was 192,000, a number not seen since September 6, 1969 [3]. Finally, for the week ending April 20, the number of claims rose to 230,000 [4]. In other good news, on Tuesday, April 23, the NASDAQ and S&P 500 indices closed at record highs [5]. On April 24, the NASDAQ briefly reached a new record high before closing lower [6]. And again on April 25, the NASDAQ 100 reached a record high [7]. Finally, in more positive news, the US GDP grew at a 3.2% rate for the first 3 months of

2019 [8]. As a result, On April 26, the S&P and NASDAQ closed at record highs [9].

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*How many legs does a dog have if you call his tail a leg? Four. Saying that a tail is a leg doesn't make it a leg.—Abraham Lincoln*

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