

# IN THE NEWS

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## Security

Many years ago, there was a Navy project, Extremely Low Frequency (ELF), for communicating with submerged submarines [1]. So how did the Navy protect the ELF transmitters from ELF? History suggests the technology to protect power lines has existed for some time. Currently, we are once again being warned of the dangers associated with an Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) attack to the power grid. This time, Air Force Lt. Gen. Steven Kwast sounded the alarm [2]. Instead of protecting the core power grid, money is spent elsewhere. Case in point, the Commonwealth of Virginia is using tax incentives to subsidize inefficient land grabbing solar panels [3]. Conversely, it is estimated that up to 90% of Americans would die within one year following an EMP [4].

Once again, the issue of state sponsored cyber security attacks is in the news. One report indicates, back in 2011 and 2012, Vodafone discovered back doors in Huawei equipment [5]. A different report indicated Huawei has many officials involved in the development of the PLA's electronic warfare capabilities and 98% of the company is owned by Huawei Investment & Holding Trade Union [6]. Additionally, the Dutch intelligence agency AIVD is investigating if China exploited a back door in Huawei equipment to spy on major Dutch telecoms [7]. Perhaps the biggest indicator that China wants to control the fifth generation mobile environment can be seen by the actions taken against Canada. Many months ago, Canada detained Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou for extradition to the US on a number of charges including technology theft, bank fraud, obstruction of justice and money laundering [8]. In response, China arrested Canadian citizens with crimes that could result in death sentence convictions [9]. In the US, the President signed an executive order authorizing the Commerce Secretary to block transactions that threaten communications technology and information [10]. The effort appears to directly challenge Huawei activities in the US [11]. In response, China's Commerce Ministry warned, such actions by the President could escalate tensions [12].

Consider if you pour gasoline on a fire and observe it burns more intense. (Continued on page 2)

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### Special points of interest:

- Voting by phone
- Huawei Security Risk

## World News

The US Navy has under 300 ships (289) [1]. Meanwhile, China's navy continues to add ships at an accelerated rate. For example, China launched 2 new type 052D guided missile destroyers bringing the number of these ships up to 20 [2]. Additionally, satellite images indicate China is constructing its third aircraft carrier [3]. Current estimates put China's navy at 400 ships with more in the pipeline [4]. In response to aggressive action by Chi-

nese non-Navy ships, the US Navy Admiral John Richardson warned these ships will be treated the same as military assets [5]. In a clear warning, Acting Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan is claimed China's military spending is approaching that of the US [6].

While much has been said regarding Russia's military expansion, they are not in the top 5 list of biggest spenders. Case in point, the top five are (1) United

States, (2) China, (3), Saudi Arabia, (4) India, and (5) France [7].

Meanwhile, the conflict between the Palestinians and Israel heated up. Approximately 600 Palestinian rockets were fired into Israel and Israel hit 280 targets in response [8].

1. USNI News, *USNI News Fleet and Marine Tracker*, May 13, 2019
2. Reuters/The Economic Times, *Chinese navy*

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*If the people cannot trust  
their government to do the  
job for which it exists - to  
protect them and to  
promote their common  
welfare - all else is lost.—  
Barack Obama*

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Logic would dictate this is not an appropriate course of action. In security this lesson never seems to be learned. Now there is a push for voting by phone [13]. When the voting process includes devices outside the control of the government, this cannot have a happy ending. Do we really want voting over communications technology built in China?

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## Terrorism

Once again, the threat of domestic terrorism is in the news. For instance, police and FBI agents arrested an Islamic converted Army veteran before he executed a terrorist attack against Nazi protesters [1]. Currently, the FBI has 850 investigations into domestic terrorism, 40% of which are radically motivated extremism [2].

The Taliban continue to attack targets in Afghanistan. For instance, at least seven people were killed in Northern Afghanistan when Taliban fighters attacked a police station [3].

In Pakistan, three terrorists killed at least 5 people while attacking the luxury Balochistan hotel [4]. Additionally, Pakistani forces killed 9 IS militants near Quetta in the southwest of the country [5].

It seems in the Middle-East hostile attacks against the oil industry are in play. For instance, in the UAE, 4 oil tankers were targets of a sabotage attack [6]. Some are suggesting

that Iran or its proxies were behind the attack [7]. In Saudi Arabia, 2 oil pumping stations were hit by explosive-laden drones [8].

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*The sanctity of our battlefields, monuments, and veterans institutions is of utmost importance to preserve military history and pay respect to those who fought—Henry Waxman*

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## Economy

In more good news, the US unemployment rate fell to 3.6% a 49 year low [1]. On April 29, both the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite indices closed at new record highs [2]. Then on April 30, the S&P 500 closed at a new record high but the NASDAQ fell [3].

For the week ending April 27, the number of first time unemployment claims was 230,000 [4]. Then for the week ending May 4, the number was 228,000 [5]. Finally, for the week ending May 11, the number of claims was 212,000 [6].

The trade imbalance with China remains problematic. Case in point, the April trade deficit with China was \$21.01 billion [7]. Currently, the US imports \$540 billion in goods from China and exports \$120 billion [8]. Responding to the continuing imbalance and the slow pace of negotiations, the US announced plans to increase tariffs on \$200 Billion worth of imports from China, accusing the communist giant

of renegeing on previous vows [9]. The news caused steep declines in the stock market indices [10]. Then China announced tariffs on US goods causing the stock exchanges to fall over 2% [11].

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*If stock market experts were so expert, they would be buying stock, not selling advice—Norman Ralph Augustine*

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