

IN THE NEWS

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 11

AUGUST 11, 2019

Security

In testimony before Congress, the FBI Director cited China as the biggest espionage threat to the US [1]. This comes as others are warning that the Chinese company Huawei is tied to China and poses a serious security risk [2]. For instance one report indicates Huawei built the North Korean cell phone network in violation of international sanctions [3].

Since 2016, there has been much focus on Russian meddling with the US elections [4]. However, there appears to be a Chinese effort to unseat the US President [5, 6].

Many security solutions that are vulnerable to single point failure. Case in point, a firewall misconfiguration allowed a hacker to access information on 100 million Capital One users [7].

In the past, we have highlighted the risk from GPS spoofing and other electronic warfare attacks. It appears that Iran is using such attacks to fool oil tankers into navigating into Iranian waters where they are then seized [8]. In response, US officials issued a warning to commercial shippers that Iran is using GPS interference [9].

The US is not the only country experiencing power blackouts. In the UK, a gas-fired power station followed two minutes later by a wind farm disconnecting is blamed for a massive power outage [10].

1. Moore, Mark, New York Post, *FBI Director Christopher Wray says China is America's biggest espionage threat*, July 23, 2019.
2. De Lea, Brittany, Fox Business, *US military members need to dump Huawei phones, expert warns*, July 17, 2019.
3. Pham, Sherisse, CNN Business, *Report: Huawei built North Korea's cell phone networks*, July 23, 2019.
4. Bergengruen, Vera, Time, *Mueller May Be Willing to Talk About Election* (Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Economy	4

World News

China continues strong arm tactics to intimidate others [1]. For instance, China's military warned a separatist government in Taiwan would not be allowed [1]. China also indicated the Army was prepared to help contain the Hong Kong protests [2]. In response to the continuing protests and mainland China tension, the US raised a Hong Kong travel warning [3]. Then it appears China wants to explore oil in Vietnam

claimed waters [4]. In response, the US has warned China to stop bullying Vietnam over the oil exploration dispute [5].

While China continues using its military and economic power to intimidate others, it is expanding its military capabilities. Case in point, China is believed to have doubled its number of nuclear warheads and is on a path to double the number again [6].

Meanwhile, in Russia, there were indications that an

accidental nuclear cruise missile explosion released radiation [7]. Then Russian officials confirmed the accident had killed at least 5 people [8].

1. Jiang, Steven, and Westcott, Ben, CNN, *China's military warns against growing threat from Taiwan 'separatists'*, July 24, 2019.
2. AFP, *China says army can be deployed at Hong Kong's request*, July 24,

(Continued on page 2)

Special points of interest:

- China meddling in US election
- Terror in the US

World News

(Continued from page 1)

- 2019.
3. Reuters/CNBC, *More protests as US raises Hong Kong travel warning amid growing unrest*, August 8, 2019.
4. Pearson, James, and Vu, Khanh, Reuters, *Vietnam, China embroiled in South China Sea standoff*, July 17, 2019.
5. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *U.S. Sides With Vietnam in Maritime Dispute With China*, July 24, 2019.
6. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Stratcom: China Rapidly Building Up Nuclear Forces*, August 1, 2019.
7. Landay, Jonathan, Reuters, *U.S.-based experts suspect Russia blast involved nuclear-powered missile*, August 9, 2019.
8. Balmforth, Tom, and Kiselyova, Maria, Reuters, *Moscow acknowledges mysterious rocket explosion involved nuclear workers*, August 9, 2019.

The shortest distance between two points is a straight line.—Archimedes

Security

(Continued from page 1)

- Security—If Democrats Can Avoid Focusing on Trump*, July 24, 2019.
5. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *China Covertly Subverting Trump Reelection*, July 30, 2019.
6. Washington Free Beacon, *Real Election Meddling Threat From China, Not Russia*, August 1, 2019.
7. McLean, Rob, CNN Business, *A hacker gained access to 100 million Capital One credit card applications and accounts*, July 30, 2019.
8. Pickrell, Ryan, Business Insider, *Iran is reportedly jamming ship GPS navigation systems to get them to wander into Iranian waters*, August 8, 2019.
9. Perez, Chris, New York Post, *US officials warn of Iranian threats to commercial vessels, including GPS interference*, August 7, 2019.
10. BBC News, *UK power cut: National Grid promises to learn lessons from blackout*, August 10, 2019.

Terrorism

The Taliban terrorists continued to make news. For instance, a female suicide bomber struck outside a hospital in Pakistan killing at least 9 people [1].

In Afghanistan, the election season was interrupted by an act of terrorist. A suicide bomber, followed by gunmen, killed at least 20 people in Kabul [2].

Terror continued to plague the United States. At least 4 people were killed, including the shooter, when a gunman opened fire at the Northern California's Gilroy Garlic Festival [3]. Then there were two mass shootings; one in El Paso that killed at least 20 people and the other in Dayton that killed at least 9 people [4]. The news regarding the shootings has been extensive with some asking when can be done [5]. However, some are pointing out the danger of giving would be terrorists guaranteed news coverage, but only if they can exact a large number of casualties [6]. For instance, during the same weekend, with little reporting, 47 people were shot in Chicago leaving at least 5 dead [7]. As long as the news media sensationalizes mass

causality attacks, we should not be surprised to see many more headlines. Once a bad actor commits a heinous crime, they seem to live on forever. Case in point, things related to the murder cult leader, Charles Manson, attracts many tourists [8]. Moreover, Manson's artwork is on display [9]. Would any of this be possible had the crimes never been committed? As a final example; a man was arrested in Missouri while trying to enter a Walmart with a loaded rifle, wearing body armor, and carrying 100 rounds of ammunition [10].

1. Mahsud, Ishtiaq, Time/AP, *Taliban Claims Responsibility for Suicide Bombing Killing 9 People Outside Pakistani Hospital*, July 21, 2019.
2. AP/Fox News, *Death toll in attack at Afghan political office rises to 20*, July 29, 2019.
3. DeMarche, Edmund, Fox News, *4 dead, including gunman, in shooting at Gilroy Garlic Festival, 15 injured*, July 29, 2019.
4. Doom, Justin, and Terez, Kelly, ABC News, *'Start Here': At least 29 gunned*

down in Texas, Ohio, August 5, 2019.

5. Frosch, Dan, et. al., Wall Street Journal, *White Nationalists Pose Challenge to Investigators*, August 4, 2019.
6. Harvey, Josie, Huffington Post, *Weekend Of Chicago Gun Violence Strains Hospitals; Leaves 47 Shot, 5 Fatally*, August 5, 2019.
7. Barrett, Brian, Wired, *The Wrong Way To Talk About A Shooter's Manifesto*, August 4, 2019.
8. Levine, Jon, New York Post, *Tourists descend on Charles Manson murder scene after Tarantino flick*, August 3, 2019.
9. Hollywood Reporter, *Charles Manson's Never-Seen Artwork Goes on Display in L.A.*, August 7, 2019.
10. McKay, Rich, Reuters, *Man armed with loaded rifle arrested at Missouri Walmart*, August 9, 2019.

*You can fool all the people
some of the time, and some
of the people all the time,
but you cannot fool all the
people all the time.—
Abraham Lincoln*

Economy

This news-cycle started with a new record high on July 24 for the NASDAQ and S&P 500 stock indices [1]. Then the NASDAQ and SP 500 closed at new record highs on July 26 [2]. However the fears of a trade war with China were blamed for serious decreases in the stock market indices [3]. One driving factor resulted when the Chinese currency, the Yuan, fell in value; an indication China was manipulating its currency [4].

In other financial news, the GDP rate fell to 2.1% indicating economic weakening [5]. For the week ending July 20, the number of first time unemployment claims was 206,000 [6]. For the week ending July 27, the number of first time claims was 215,000 [6]. Finally, for the week ending August 3, the number was 209,000 [8].

1. Imbert, Fred, CNBC, *S&P 500 and Nasdaq close at record highs as tech sector shakes off new regulatory threat*, July 24, 2019.
2. Reuters/NASDAQ, *US STOCKS SNAPSHOT-S&P, Nasdaq hit closing records with help from Alphabet, Starbucks*, July 26, 2019.
3. Hajric, Vildana, Bloomberg, *Stocks Slip, Bonds Steady Amid Latest Trade Tumult: Markets Wrap*, August 8, 2019.
4. Kika, Thomas, International Business Times, *US - China Relations: US Will Retaliate If China Further Devalues Yuan* August 10, 2019.
5. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *GDP slows to 2.1% in second-quarter but beats expectations thanks to strong consumer*, July 26, 2019.
6. Reuters/CNBC, *US weekly jobless claims fall to a 3-month low*, July 25, 2019.
7. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, August 1, 2019.
8. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, August 8, 2019.

*The oldest, shortest words -
'yes' and 'no' - are those
which require the most
thought.—Pythagoras*
