

### World News

The US critical infrastructure is vulnerable to terrorist attacks. Case in point, in North Carolina, two power substations were shot causing over 40,000 people to lose power [1]. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has joined into the criminal investigation [2]. Additionally, the county impacted is under a state of emergency that includes a curfew [3]. What's more, there are indications of similar attack in Oregon and Washington (state) [4]. A question here is how many power distribution locations in the US are vulnerable to the same types of attack?

Meanwhile, the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, stated he plans to become the world's largest nuclear power [5]. Regionally, China does not appear to be interested in slowing the North Korean nuclear weapons program [6]. Adding to regional tension, the North fired artillery near the border [7].

1. Propper, David, New York Post, *Over 40K in dark after gunfire directed at North Carolina power substations*, December 4, 2022.
2. Salahieh, Nouran, and Sarisohn, Hannah, CNN, *FBI joins investigation into North Carolina power outage caused by 'intentional' attacks on substations as officials work to determine a motive and suspect*, December 5, 2022.
3. Breen, Kerry, CBS News, *North Carolina county declares state of emergency after "deliberate" attack causes widespread power outage*, December 5, 2022.

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### Ukraine War

The attacks in the Ukraine have come close to the Russian occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant [1]. The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) warned of the potential nuclear risk [2]. In an escalation of the war, Ukraine forces struck multiple Russian air bases located 300 miles from the border [3]. The next day, additional attacks hit other targets within Russia [4]. As the war continues, Russian President Putin warned his forces may be the first to use nuclear weapons [5].

By one estimate, the Ukraine has lost 100,000 war fighters and 20,000 civilians [6]. This comes as the Ukraine government claims only 13,000 dead [7]. Meanwhile, Russian forces are continuing to attack the Ukraine using drones. For instance, drone attacks were carried out against the port city of Odessa [8]. Iran is supplying Russia with many of its drones [9]. Additionally, Russia is seeking hundreds of ballistic missiles from Iran [10]. There are indications that Russian and Iran are becoming full defense partners [11].

It appears that Russia is attacking the Ukraine power grid [12]. While the damage is being patched, there are fears of a mass exodus of people as winter approaches [13].

1. Livesay, Chris, et. al., CBS News, *Ukraine nuclear power plant attacked by Russia, worker tells CBS News, as IAEA warns of "close call"*, November 21, 2022.
2. Gigova, Radina, and Berlinger, Joshua, CNN, *IAEA warns whoever was behind*

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#### Special points of interest:

- 3.7% Unemployment Rate Continues

## Ukraine War

(Continued from page 1)

- 'powerful explosions' at Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant is 'playing with fire', November 20, 2022.
3. Keaten, Jamey, AP, *Russia claims Kyiv hit its air bases, fires more missiles*, December 5, 2022.
  4. Keaten, Jamey, AP, *Ukraine leader defiant as drone strikes hit Russia again*, December 6, 2022.
  5. Lister, Tim, CNN, *Putin floats possibility that Russia may abandon 'no first use' nuclear doctrine*, December 9, 2022.
  6. Bryen, Stephen, Asia

- Times, *Ukrainian military casualties are big trouble for Biden*, December 1, 2022.
7. BBC News, *Ukraine war: Zelensky aide reveals up to 13,000 war dead*, December 2, 2022.
  8. BBC News, *Ukraine war: Odesa and Melitopol under attack*, December 11, 2022.
  9. BBC News, *Ukraine war: US says Iran now Russia's 'top military backer'*, December 10, 2022.
  10. McFall, Caitlin, Fox News, *Russia seeking hundreds of ballistic missiles from Iran in 'full-fledged defense partnership': UK*, December 10, 2022.
  11. Madhani, Aamer, et. al., AP, US: *Russia, Iran moving toward full defense 'partnership'*, December 9, 2022.
  12. BBC News, *Putin vows to continue hitting Ukraine's power grid*, December 9, 2022.
  13. Lister, Tim, et. al., CNN, *Ukraine keeps patching up its power grid. But Russia's barrage could force more Ukrainians to flee as winter bites*, December 10, 2022.

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*I think we're going to the moon because it's in the nature of the human being to face challenges. It's by the nature of his deep inner soul... we're required to do these things just as salmon swim upstream.—*

*Neil Armstrong*

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4. Chapman, Jake, KIRO 7 News, *Power grid attacks reported across nation, including Washington*, December 7, 2022.
5. New York Post/Reuters, *Kim Jong Un says North Korea aims to have the world's strongest nuclear force*, November 27, 2022.
6. Pollard, Martin Quin, Reuters, *Analysis: China has limited power, and perhaps little desire, to curb North Korea*, November 22, 2022.
7. Tong-Hyung, Kim, AP, *N. Korea fires artillery near border in warning to S. Korea*, December 5, 2022.

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7. Tong-Hyung, Kim, AP, *N. Korea fires artillery near border in warning to S. Korea*, December 5, 2022.

## Terrorism

During October, 40 people on the FBI terror watch list were apprehended trying to cross the Southern Border [1]. It is unknown how many terrorists may have entered the US without detection. It only takes one terrorist to make headline news. Consider, the United States has experienced domestic terrorism. For example, in Colorado, a lone gunman opened fire in a gay nightclub killing at least 5 people [2]. In Chesapeake, Virginia, at least 6 people were killed during a shootout [3]. The suspect in the Walmart shooting was a supervisor employed by the store [4].

The US is not the only Western country confronting domestic terrorism. Case in point, in Germany, 25 people were arrested in a plot to take over the Government [5].

The Middle-East continues to see acts of terrorism. For example, in Jerusalem, Israel, at least one person died as a result of two bombings [6].

In Pakistan. At least 4 people were killed by a suicide bomber [7]. In response, Pakistan is demanding the Afghanistan government to stop the flow

of terrorists [8].

1. Martinez, MaryAnn, New York Post, *40 people on FBI terror watchlist apprehended at US borders in October*, November 22, 2022.
2. Ahn, Ashley, and Kim, Juliana, NPR, *What we know so far about the Colorado Springs shooting*, November 21, 2022.
3. Casiano, Louis, Fox News, *Virginia police release timeline of Walmart rampage, trying to determine motive of suspected gunman Andre Bing*, November 23, 2022.
4. Alvarado, Carroll, and Devine, Curt, CNN, *Coworkers say Walmart shooter had exhibited odd and threatening behavior in the past*, November 23, 2022.
5. Mahmood, Zahid, and Stern, Chris, CNN, *Germany arrests 25 suspected far-right extremists for plotting to overthrow government*, December 7, 2022.
6. Gold, Hadas, and Stambaugh, Alex, CNN, *One person dead after two explosions rock Jerusalem, Israeli*
7. Sattar, Abdul, and Ahmed, Munir, Washington Times/AP, *4 dead as bomber hits Pakistan police protecting polio teams*, December 2, 2022.
8. Fox News/AP, *Pakistan demands Taliban rulers prevent terrorist attacks coming from Afghanistan following suicide bombing*, December 2, 2022.

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*Truth is ever to be found  
in simplicity, and not in  
the multiplicity and  
confusion of things.—Isaac  
Newton*

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## Economy

It seems China's economy will be the victim of a self-inflicted wound. Case in point, the communist giant continues to lock down areas where COVID outbreaks are detected [1]. The COVID lockdowns are impacting the Chinese Gross Domestic Product (GDP) [2]. In turn, this is causing fear of a global economic impact [3]. For instance, the unrest is causing oil prices to fall to 2021 levels [4]. Furthermore, China just recorded the weakest export value in over two years [5].

The COVID lockdowns in China are also fueling rare protests against the communist government [6]. As a consequence, the communist government announced plans to relax the strict COVID protocols [7].

Meanwhile, President Biden is allowing Chevron a license to pump oil in Venezuela [8].

This should ease oil prices and thereby help moderate inflation. This comes as the unemployment rate for November remained at 3.7% [9].

1. He, Laura, CNN Business, *China locks down key transportation hub; markets fear economic fallout*, November 21, 2022.
2. Cheng, Evelyn, CNBC, *China may have 'passed the point of no return' as Covid infections soar*, November 23, 2022.
3. McDonald, Joe, AP, *China anti-virus curbs spur fears of global economic impact*, November 22, 2022.
4. Chin, Yongchang, Yahoo/Bloomberg, *Oil Plunges to Lowest Since 2021 as China Unrest Rattles Market*, November 28, 2022.
5. Reuters, *China's trade suffers worst slump in 2-1/2 yrs as COVID woes, feeble demand take toll*, December 7, 2022.
6. Wei, Lingling, et. al., Wall Street Journal, *Chinese Protests Spread Over Government's Covid Restrictions*, November 28, 2022.
7. Zhang, Shuai, and Palmer, Elizabeth, CBS News, *China's strict zero-COVID policy may be gone, but it has been replaced by chaos, confusion and risk*, December 9, 2022.
8. DeYoung, Karen, Washington Post, *U.S. grants Chevron license to pump oil in Venezuela*, November 26, 2022.
9. Davidson, Paul, USA Today, *November jobs report: Unemployment rate held steady at 3.7% with 263,000 jobs added*, December 2, 2022.

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*Errors using inadequate data are much less than those using no data at all.*

*—Charles Babbage*

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