

IN THE NEWS

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 24

NOVEMBER 30, 2014

World News

One report indicates Chinese banks are providing a conduit for Iran to fund terrorists groups [1]. Concurrently, China is purchasing more oil from Iran [2]. Meanwhile, the US continues to negotiate a nuclear deal with Iran [3]. However, one report suggests Iran's work on nuclear weapons continues [4]. Indeed, with the lack of a nuclear reduction treaty between the West and Iran; the Islamic country gets to continue expanding its program with little consequence [5]. Furthermore, China's proxy, North Korea, is busy building a nuclear capability. Case in point, the North Korea recently tested a launch ejector that is part of a submarine launched ballistic missile program [6].

China is continuing a massive nuclear weapons expansion program. For instance, the new DF-41 missile is expected to be deployed starting next year, has 10 warheads, and a range of 8,000 miles [7]. Furthermore, in the South China Sea, China's ambitions are fostering an arms race. Case in point, Japan has embarked on an effort to beef up its military capability [8]. Meanwhile, one of the islands China is constructing in the contested Spratly Islands is long enough for a runway [9]. After a US call for China to stop the island building, the communist country rejected the request [10].

Another area of contention is Russian military aggression. The events the Ukraine are causing other countries bordering Russia to beef up their military. For instance, Finland is a member of the European Union and is building its military in response to Russia's military activities [11].

1. Charbonneau, Louis, et. al., Reuters, *Iran Uses China Bank to Transfer Funds to Quds-Linked Companies*, November 18, 2014.
2. Verma, Nidhi, and Aizhu., Chen, Reuters, *Iran leases oil storage in China, ships crude to India from there sources*, November 20, 2014.
3. Erdbrink, Thomas, New York Times, *Beyond Iran Nuclear Talks, Real Hurdles May Be in Tehran*, November 20, 2014.
4. Kredo, Adam, Washington Free Beacon, *Report: Iran Secretly Continuing Nuclear Weapons Work*, November 20, 2014.
5. Washington Free Beacon, *Fmr. Obama Official: Iran Will Now 'Reap the Benefits' While Having to Make No Concessions*, November 25, 2014

(Continued on page 2)

Security

The cost of hacking attacks by China against the US are hard to price. However, one report estimates the cost is in the trillions of dollars; with each year adding \$300 billion and 1.2 million jobs lost [1].

More hacking activity directed against government

agencies is surfacing. For instance, the State Department shut down its unclassified email system after a suspected hacker attack [2]. What's more, one piece indicates US officials believe China is now capable of shutting down the North American power grid [3].

Hackers are also attacking

video feeds. For instance, a Russian website is streaming thousands of hacked web cams [4].

It seems that hackers are actively attacking multiple industries. For instance, Sony has shut down much of its world-wide systems in response to an active hacker

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Economy	4
Ebola	4

Special points of interest:

- China's hacking costs the US \$300 billion and 1.2 million jobs per year
- Ebola death toll reaches 6,928

Security

(Continued from page 1)

attack [5].

1. Washington Free Beacon, *China's Cyber Attacks Cost U.S. Trillions*, November 21, 2014.
2. AP, State Department shuts down email system after suspected hacker attack, November 16,

2014.

3. Crawford, Jamie, CNN, *The U.S. government thinks China could take down the power grid*, November 20, 2014
4. Smith, Amelia, Newsweek, *Russian Website Streams Footage From Thousands of Hacked Webcams*, November 20, 2014.

5. Fleming Jr, Mike, *Date-line Hollywood*, *Sony Hacker Paralysis Reaches Day Two*, November 25, 2014.

Generals aren't in the business of commenting on the correctness or incorrectness of the President's decisions. Anybody who thinks he should be able to do that ought to be fired on the spot.—Norman Schwarzkopf

(Continued from page 1)

6. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *North Korea Conducts Ejection Test of Sub-Launched Missile*, November 21, 2014.
7. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Report: China nuclear forces significantly expanding*, November 20, 2014.
8. Bienaimé, Pierre, Business Insider, *Japan's Mili-*

World News

tary Is Revving Up To Meet China's Growing Regional Ambitions, November 19, 2014.

9. Ernst, Douglas, Washington Times, *China building giant island in South China Sea large enough for airstrip: report*, November 23, 2014.
10. Wee, Sui-Lee, Reuters, *China defies U.S. call to stop island project in South China Sea*, November 24,

2014.

11. Witte, Griff, Washington Post, *In interviews, Finland's leaders see peril in standoff between Russia and the West*, November 23, 2014.

Not long ago, Libya was under the control of Kaddafi. However, during the Arab spring uprising, power changed hands. It now appears terrorist have gained yet another toe hold in Northern Africa. Case in point, in Libya, the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group's flags have been flying over government buildings [1]. What's more, there are concerns that Egypt is at risk for IS expansion [2].

Elsewhere in Africa, a bomb blast at a mosque in Nigeria, though to be the work of the terrorist Boko Haram group, killed at least 100 people and injured another 150 [3]. Reports from the scene indicate massive debris including pages from the Koran [4]. Yet Boko Haram is a militant Islamic terrorist group [5]. In contrast, in Pakistan a Christian couple was beaten and burned alive for allegedly desecrating the Muslim's holy book of Koran [6]. It is unclear how Islamic terrorist justify their destruction of the Koran and bombing of mosques during prayer

Terrorism

services.

One of the IS's more visible military targets is the Syrian town of Kobani, bordering Turkey. One report indicates IS suicide attacks against the town were launched from Turkey [7]. If true, this would indicate IS has a toehold within Turkey.

Meanwhile, China is still facing a domestic terrorism problem. For instance, Xinjiang region was the scene of another attack that left 15 dead with another 14 wounded [8].

1. Cruickshank, Paul, et. al., CNN, *ISIS comes to Libya*, November 18, 2014.
2. Taylor, Guy, Washington Times, *Islamic State spreading into northern Africa, alarming U.S.*, November 27, 2014.
3. Ross, Will, BBC News, *Boko Haram Kano attack: Loss of life on staggering scale*, November 30, 2014.
4. Garba, Ibrahim, AP, *Nigeria: Kano mosque*

blasts death toll above 102, November 29, 2014.

5. Curry, Ann, NBC News, *'I Jumped': One Woman's Story of Escape from Boko Haram*, November 28, 2014.
6. VOA News, *IS Suicide Bombers Target Syrian Border Town of Kobani*, November 29, 2014.
7. AP/NY Daily News, *15 dead in attack in west China's Xinjiang region*, November 29, 2014.

Economy

According to the Labor Department, for the week ending November 15 the number of first time unemployment claims was 291,000 [1]. Then for the following week, the number increased to 313,000 [2].

In the world of unfair trade practices, China once again sets the standard. Case in

point, China is taxing Microsoft and additional \$150 million [3].

1. Reuters, *US jobless claims fall; continuing claims lowest since 2000*, November 20, 2014 .
2. CNBC/Reuters, *US jobless claims rise, but so do durable goods*, November

26, 2014.

3. Ying, Tian, and Yang, Steven, Bloomberg News, *China Widens 'Tax-Evasion' Net Amid Microsoft Case*, November 26, 2014.

Ebola

A surgeon flown into Nebraska from Sierra Leone became the second person to die of Ebola in the US [1]. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), on November 23, the death toll from Ebola reached 5,689 and the number of infections was 15,935 [2]. Within days, the WHO revised the number

of dead to 6,928; most likely due to previous undercounting [3].

1. Bacon, John, USA Today, *Surgeon dies after 'false negative' Ebola test*, November 17, 2014.
2. Nebehay, Stephanie, Reuters, *Ebola cases near 16,000, Sierra Leone to overtake Liberia soon with most cases*, November 27,

2014.

3. Reuters/Jerusalem Post, *Ebola death toll nears 7,000 in West Africa*, November 30, 2014.

Economically, unfair trade will benefit nobody in the long run, as poorer countries will be bled totally dry and will become unable to produce anything.—Chris Martin
