

IN THE NEWS

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World News

In the South China Sea, China claims to have discovered a gas field in the 100 billion cubic meters size [1]. Additionally, China test fired a JL-2 submarine ballistic missile last month [2]. Another report suggests the Chinese PLA could restore the Kiev and the Minsk aircraft carriers (currently used as hotels) into combat ships [3]. Another report indicates China is constructing a family of warships in the 12,000 ton range and may include some with nuclear propulsion [4]. Meanwhile, for 2015 China is expected to once again increase its military spending [5]. In a troubling sign, one piece indicates China is considering arming Hawaii's independence movement [6].

Elsewhere in Asia, North Korea tested a submarine launched missile [7]. In the meantime, North Korea maintains a strong relationship with Iran. For instance, one piece indicates North Korea has hundreds of experts in Iran exchanging information on nuclear and missile technology [8].

Meanwhile, as Russia talked peace, they moved and additional 50 tanks and 40 missile systems into the Ukraine [9]. After a peace treaty was signed; reports indicate the fighting continued [10]. One piece indicates Russian President Putin requested the Ukraine government allow its troops to surrender to the rebel forces [11]. As the cease fire was to take place, reports of Russian tanks pouring into the Ukraine accelerated [12]. Meanwhile, one piece suggests European states were taken by surprise by Russia's action in the Ukraine [13].

1. ABC News/AP, *China Finds Sizable Natural Gas Field in South China Sea*, February 10, 2015.
2. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Inside the Ring: China Conducts Flight Test of JL-2 Sub-Launched Missile*, February 19, 2015.
3. China Times, *PLA could refit two Soviet era Kiev-class aircraft carriers*, February 13, 2015.

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Security

The software used today continues to be exploited. This calls into question the security engineering applied to the various products. For instance, the recent OpenSSL Heartbeat exploit was due to inadequate bounds-checking [1]. One piece suggest a cause of the exploits is a lack of adequate security engineering [2], Yet even the old Intel 80286 hardware in-

cluded a bound checking instruction, that would trigger an interrupt [3]. The commercial product exploits are resulting in significant financial loss. For instance, one hacker group took over \$1 billion from a collection of 30 banks around the world [4]. What's more, at least one billion private records were compromised during 2014

[5]. All too often, software products are distributed with marketing programs. In turn, these can become system risk factors. Case in point, the Chinese company Lenovo, distributed new laptop computers with the 'Superfish' adware program that is vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attacks [6].

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Special points of interest:

- Breach at the number 2 health insurer, Anthem Inc.
- Labor Department reports 5.7% unemployment rate for January
- Regulators shutter 3rd bank this year

Security

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2. Cannon, Tim, Wired, *The Root of the Problem: How to Prevent Security Breaches*, February 15, 2015.
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4. Robinson, Teri, SC Magazine, *Carbanak APT campaign made off with \$1B from banks globally*, February 16, 2015.
5. Walker, Danielle, SC Magazine, *Breach index: Mega breaches, rise in identity theft mark 2014*, February 13, 2015.
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*The secret of all victory lies
in the organization of the
non-obvious—Marcus
Aurelius*

World News

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6. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Hawaiian Independence Movement Attracts Chinese Interest*, February 10, 2015.
7. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *North Korea Flight Tests New Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile*, February 18, 2017.
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9. Macias, Amanda, Reuters/Business Insider, *Ukraine: 50 Russian tanks and 40 missile systems rolled into the country while Putin talked peace*, February 12, 2015.
10. Birnbaum, Michael, and Deane, Daniela, Washington Post, *Fighting continues in Ukraine despite looming cease-fire*, February 13, 2015.
11. VOA, *Putin Demands Surrender of Encircled Ukrainian Troops*, February 17, 2015.
12. Zverev, Anton, and Prentice, Alessandra, Reuters, *Kiev accuses Russia of sending more tanks to east Ukraine*, February 20, 2015.
13. Bruton, F. Brinley, NBC News, *Russia's Putin Took European States 'By Surprise' in Ukraine: Report*, February 20, 2015.

Terrorism

There is a tendency for countries to support terrorist that are fighting geopolitical adversaries. Case in point, one piece suggests since the Taliban came to power, China established trade ties and met with leaders [1]. The Taliban are a terrorist group. For instance, the Taliban claimed responsibility for an attack on a mosque in Pakistan that left at least 19 dead and over 60 wounded [2].

Meanwhile, the Islamic State has recognized three provinces in Libya as part of the caliphate [3]. To illustrate the tactics of the IS; the group filmed the torture and execution of 21 Christians captured in Libya [4]. What's more, Italy is concerned over the IS threat in Libya and is requesting NATO participation in addressing the threat [5]. Moreover, one report indicates the IS terrorist group launched a series of suicide attacks in eastern Libya that killed at least 45 people [6].

In a further sign of unrest in the Middle-East; the US embassy in Yemen closed on February 11 [7]. Additionally, the IS captured parts of the Iraqi town, al-Baghdadi, thereby placing a US Marine base at risk [8]. The captured territory places IS fighters at a 13 minute drive from 320 US Marines located at the Al Asad air base [9]. Then in Iraq, IS terrorists executed 45 people; by burning them alive [10]. What's more, one report indicates attacks against the air base have started [11].

In Africa, the Islamic terrorist group, Boko Haram, continues to expand its operation. For example, the group launched its first every attack

on Chad [12]. In Somalia, Islamic rebels launched a suicide attack against a hotel, killing at least 10 people [13].

Radical Islamic terrorists continue to make news in Europe. For example, in Denmark, a suspected terrorist shooting killed two people and wounded another five [14].

The US is not isolated against extreme Islamic terrorist. For instance, in Detroit, two people were stabbed after they responded to the attacker's questioning that they were not Muslim [15].

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3. Washington Free Beacon, *Islamic State Advances in Libya*, February 11, 2015.
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6. Fox News/AP, *45 dead in eastern Libya bombings, Islamic extremists claim responsibility*, February 20, 2015.
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11. Ernst, Douglas, Washington Times, *Iraqi airbase used by Marines attacked after Islamic State takes over nearby town*, February 12, 2015.
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15. Allen, Robert, Detroit Free Press, *Religious hate suspected in Southfield bus stop stabbings*, February 17, 2017.

*Armed neutrality is
ineffectual enough at best—
Woodrow Wilson*

Economy

According to the Labor Department, the number of first time unemployment claims for the week ending February 7 was 304,000 [1]. Then for the following week, the number fell to 283,000 [2].

Meanwhile, regulators continued closing financial institutions. On February 13, regulators in Georgia shuttered the Capitol City Bank & Trust Company [3].

The news for Europe is not good. Greece's request for an extension on its debt was rejected by Germany [4]. Moreover, Germany is willing to allow Greece to leave using the Euro as currency [5].

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Weighs on U.S. Jobless Claims, February 12, 2015.

2. Puzzanghera, Jim, Los Angeles Times, *Initial jobless claims drop back below 300,000*, February 19, 2015.
3. Jones, Walter C., Savannah Morning News, *State closes Capital City bank; Savannah branch should notice little difference*, February 14, 2015.
4. Kanter, James, and Kitsantonis, Niki, New York Times, *Greece's Request for Loan Extension Is Rejected by Germany*, February 19, 2015.
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Willing to Let Greece Leave Euro, February 20, 2015.

There is always inequality in life. Some men are killed in a war and some men are wounded and some men never leave the country. Life is unfair.–
John F. Kennedy

The Lost Discipline of Security Engineering

“BOUND verifies that the signed value contained in the specified register lies within specified limits. Interrupt 5 occurs if the value in the register is less than the lower bound or greater than the upper bound.” – (Brumm, Penn, and Brumm, Don, TAB Profession Books, Inc., First Edition, 80386 Assembly Language, Page 434, 1988.)