

# IN THE NEWS

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## World News

In Syria, there are reports the Government is repelling a large scale rebel attack in the northern city of Aleppo [1]. Concurrently, Turkey attacked Islamic State (IS) targets located 12 km south of the Turkey/Syria border [2].

In the South China Sea, China continues to flex its military muscle. For instance, the Xinhua state news agency announced military exercise later this month that will include advanced warships and submarines [3]. This comes as China has built a series of artificial island that recovered 3,200 acres in the South China Sea [4]. Moreover, there are concerns that China may build an eighth island on Scarborough Shoal; a location much closer to Manila [5]. China's response to reports of its military buildup was to criticize the US for overstating the threat [6].

During the last year, the US Army has reduced its size by 16,548, reaching a reduced force seen only prior to World War II [7]. This comes as China continues to expand its military growth [8]. For instance, China is building ballistic and cruise missiles with a reach extending to Guam [9]. In response to the Chinese navy expansion, one study concludes more submarines and fewer carriers are needed [10]. However, by one estimate, within 10 years China is expected to have twice the number of submarines as does the US [11].

1. New York Times/AP, *The Latest: Syrian Army Says It Is Repelling Rebel Attack*, May 3, 2016.
2. Coskun, Orhan, Reuters, *Drones, Turkish artillery hit Islamic State in Syria, 34 dead: military*, May 2, 2016.
3. Blanchard, Ben, Reuters, *China to carry out more military drills in South China Sea*, May 4, 2016.

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## Security

Security patch management continues to be going full force. Google released patches to fix 40 security flaws [1]. Additionally, Apple released an Xcode update to fix two vulnerabilities [2]. Then the OpenSSL released a series of patches to fix six vulnerabilities [3].

In the world of cyber-attacks, some are suggesting the current US policy toward Iran, China, and Russia is ineffective [4]. Moreo-

ver, even the FBI is using password cracking tools developed by a Russian security firm [5].

What's more, state sponsored cyber-attacks are a continuing problem [6]. This comes after another attack on the SWIFT inter-bank messaging system; this time, from a bank in Vietnam [7].

1. Davis, Jeremy Seth, SC Magazine, *Google patches 40 Android security*

*flaws*, May 3, 2016.

2. Masters, Greg, SC Magazine, *Apple issues Xcode security update*, May 4, 2016.
3. Barth, Bradley, SC Magazine, *OpenSSL patches memory corruption and unauthorized decryption vulnerabilities*, May 4, 2016.
4. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *The Cyber Threat: Obama*

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### Special points of interest:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bank Shuttered
- US Middle Class Shrinks

## Security

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*Policies Toward Hackers From China, Iran, Syria Produce Few Results*, May 9, 2016.

5. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *FBI, Justice Department Using Russian Password-Cracking Software*, May 8, 2016.
6. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *FBI Warns Nation-State Cyber Attacks*

*Are Continuing*, May 13, 2016.

7. Arnold, Martin, Financial Times, *Second bank hit by potential cyber heist*, May 13, 2016.

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*Radio was used powerfully*

*by Josef Goebbels to*

*disseminate Nazi*

*propaganda, and just as*

*powerfully by King George*

*VI to inspire the British*

*people to fight invasion—*

*Rebecca MacKinnon*

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(Continued from page 1)

4. Baldor, Lolita C., AP, *Report: China has reclaimed 3,200 acres in South China Sea*, May 13, 2016.
5. Forsythe, Michael, New York Times, *Beijing Tries to Whip Up Support for Its South China Sea Claims*, May 13, 2016.
6. AP/Washington Times, *China says US report hypes up its so-called military threat*, May 14, 2016.
7. Tice, Jim, Army Times, *Army shrinks to smallest level since before World War II*, May 7, 2016.

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8. Cronk, Terri Moon, DoD News, *Defense Media Activity, DoD Report: China's Military Investments Continue*, May 13, 2016.
9. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *China Building Missiles To Strike Guam*, May 11, 2016.
10. Olson, Wyatt, Stars and Stripes, *Study: US needs more subs, fewer carriers to combat Chinese military growth*, September 12, 2015.
11. Gorman, Sean, Richmond-Times Dispatch, *Forbes says China's subma-*

*rine fleet will double United States' in a decade*, May 2, 2016.

## Terrorism

The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for a car bomb explosion at a Baghdad market that killed at least 64 people [1]. In a separate attack, IS terrorists attacked a Baghdad gas plant killing 5 police officers [2]. This attack was described as a suicide attack with the overall death toll of at least 11 [3]. Additionally, IS terrorists attacked a café frequented by sports fans, killing at least 12 people [4]. The IS bombings are causing the Iraqi army to divert forces. Case in point, half of the army is tasked with protecting the capitol, Baghdad [5].

The IS was also active in Yemen with an estimated 25 dead from suicide bombings [6].

On the plus side, one report indicates the IS has declared a state of emergency for its capital Raqqa, Syria [7] Elsewhere in Syria, a Hezbollah military leader was killed during an artillery attack [8].

Terrorism is starting to ex-

pand into other countries, including Germany. For example, in Grafing, Germany, a knife attack that left one person dead and three wounded, is reported to be the work of an Islamic terrorist [9].

1. Karadsheh, Jomana, and Berlinger, Joshua, CNN, *ISIS claims responsibility for Baghdad bombing that killed dozens*, May 11, 2016.
2. Alkhshali, Hamdi, and Berlinger, Joshua, CNN, *5 dead in ISIS attack on Baghdad gas plant*, police say, May 15, 2016.
3. Reuters/NBC News, *Suicide Attacks on Gas Factory in Baghdad, Iraq, Kill at Least 11*, May 15, 2016.
4. BBC News, *IS militants attack Iraq cafe used by Real Madrid fans*, May 13, 2016.
5. Muñoz, Carlo, The Washington Times, *ISIS bombings could stretch Iraqi*

*military forces thin, U.S. officials worry*, May 13, 2016.

6. Mukhashaf, Mohammed, Reuters, *Death toll in Yemen's Mukalla suicide bombing rises to 25: sources*, May 15, 2016.
7. Starr, Barbara, CNN, *U.S. official: ISIS declares state of emergency in self-declared capital*, May 13, 2016.
8. Barnard, Anne, New York Times, *Hezbollah Says Military Leader Died in Artillery Attack*, May 14, 2016.
9. The Telegraph (UK), *Munich knife attack: One dead as man shouting 'Allahu Akbar' attacks four at train station in Grafing, Germany*, May 10, 2016.

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*Through clever and constant application of propaganda, people can be made to see paradise as hell, and also the other way round, to consider the most wretched sort of life as paradise.—Adolf Hitler*

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## Economy

Regulators continued to close banks. The First CornerStone Bank in Pennsylvania became the third financial institution shuttered so far this year [1]. In another sign of economic trouble ahead, Aeropostale filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and announced plans to shutter 154 of its stores [2].

According to the Labor Department, for the week ending April 30 the number of first time unemployment claims was 274,000 [3]. Then for the following week, the number reported was 294,000 [4].

Overall, the employment picture leaves much room for improvement. In addition to over 94 million Americans no

longer in the workforce, 5.9 million part time workers indicated they would like full time work [5].

Perhaps the best measure of the weak economy is the number of people within the middle class. One piece indicates, since 2000 the America Middle Class has decreased, with households in 203 of the 229 metropolitan areas falling [6].

1. Nasdaq Globe Newswire, *First Citizens Bank Purchases Certain Assets, Assumes Certain Liabilities of First CornerStone Bank of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania*, May 6, 2016.
2. Halzack, Sarah, Washington Post, *Aeropostale files for bankruptcy, plans to close 154 stores*, May 4, 2016.
3. Oyedele, Akin, Business Insider, *Initial jobless claims rise more than expected*, May 5, 2016.
4. Mutikani, Lucia, Reuters, *U.S. jobless claims hit more than one-year high; import prices rise*, May 12, 2016.
5. Meyer, Ali, Washington Free Beacon, *94,044,000 Americans Not in the Labor Force*, May 5, 2016.
6. Picchi, Aimee, CBS, *The hollowing of America's middle class*, May 12, 2016.

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Much learning does not  
teach understanding—  
Heraclitus

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