

# IN THE NEWS

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## World News

In Iraq, the fighting to oust the Islamic State (IS) continues. For example, the battle for Mosul is taking a long time. After a pause, the Iraqi forces restarted their delayed attack on the Mosul [1]. In Mosul, after evicting the IS from the al-Salam hospital, the building was a burnt out shell [2].

Meanwhile, China continues to use its military might in the South China Sea. Case in point, China moved its aircraft carrier through the Taiwan Strait [3]. During this time, China violated Taiwan's no-fly zone [4]. China also warned that it would not negotiate recognizing Taiwan as a separate country [5]. Elsewhere, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) launched a new electronic intelligence ship, bring the number up to six vessels [6].

One aspect of China's military that gets little attention is its nuclear arsenal. For instance, the communist giant is launching the Long March rockets into geosynchronous orbit [7]. Rockets are dual use technology systems that could also deliver nuclear warheads. Case in point, the Long March 6 rocket is believed to be capable of delivering 20 nuclear warheads [8].

It has been a couple of years since Russia started military action against the Ukraine [9]. As a consequence, the US relationship with Russia has fallen in recent years. In the latest development, a US armored brigade with approximately 3,500 troops is now in Poland [10].

1. Salim, Mustafa, and Schemm, Paul, Washington Post, *Reinforced Iraqi forces restart delayed assault on Mosul*, December 29, 2016.
2. George, Susannah, and Chernov, Mstyslav, AP/Washington Post, *Fierce battles leave hospital in Iraqi city of Mosul gutted*, January 11, 2017.

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## Security

Whenever a major computer outage impacts travelers, we wonder what is the root cause. Case in point, US Customs and Border Protection processing systems suffered an outage that left thousands of passengers stuck behind screening stations [1].

Meanwhile state sponsored hacking and electronic warfare are being recognized by other nations as valuable weapons. For instance, China is using its

cyber-warfare capabilities to effectively conquer the South China Sea without military combat [2]. This comes as Russia is accused of using its cyber-warfare capabilities to influence the last Presidential election [3]. In another example, one piece suggests the 2015 Anthem medical 78.8 million medical record breach was the result of a nation-state attack [4].

1. Marco, Tony, and Grinberg, Emanuella,

CNN, *Computer outage disrupts customs at US airports*, January 3, 2017.

2. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Asia Times: How China Wins the South China Sea War Without Firing a Shot*, January 8, 2017.
3. Loffredo, Nicholas, Newsweek, *Intelligence Report: Government's Key Findings On Russian*

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### Special points of interest:

- More Jobs Planned
  - Tesla 1,400
  - Sprint 5,000
  - OneWeb 3,000
  - Lockheed 1,800
  - Alibaba 1 million

## Security

(Continued from page 1)

*Hacking Efforts*, January 7, 2017.

4. Abel, Robert, SC Magazine, *Anthem breach caused by nation state*, January 9, 2017.

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*Let every nation know,  
whether it wishes us well or  
ill, that we shall pay any  
price, bear any burden,  
meet any hardship, support  
any friend, oppose any foe,  
in order to assure the  
survival and the success of  
liberty.— John F. Kennedy*

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(Continued from page 1)

3. Reuters/Washington Free Beacon, *Taiwan Scrambles Jets, Navy as China Aircraft Carrier Enters Taiwan Strait*, January 1, 2017.
4. Muñoz, Carlo, Washington Times, *In test for Trump, Chinese aircraft carrier enters Taiwan no-fly zone*, January 11, 2017.
5. Scott, Eugene, CNN, *China: No negotiation on 'One China' policy despite Trump remarks*, January 14, 2017.

## World News

6. Reuters/CNBC, *China launches new electronic intelligence naval ship*, January 12, 2017.
7. Clark, Stephen, Spaceflight Now, *Long March rocket blasts off on first launch of the year*, January 6, 2017.
8. Trayner, David, Daily Star, *WW3: China unveils 'scattergun' nuke capable of defeating US missile shield*, October 6, 2015.
9. Wiser, Danielm Washington Free Beacon, *How Russia Invaded Ukraine*, September 18, 2015.

10. AP/Wall Street Journal, *Poland Welcomes U.S. Troops*, January 14, 2017.

## Terrorism

China continues to fight its own terrorism problem. For example, in the predominantly Muslim Xinjiang region of China, at least 4 people were killed as a result of a car bomb attack directed at a Communist Party compound [1].

Turkey continues to suffer from terrorist attacks. Case in point, a gunman killed dozens in Istanbul during an attack on a nightclub during New Year celebrations [2]. Later, the Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack [3]. Since the attack, additional reports confirmed the Istanbul gunman is an IS militant [4].

In Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a gunman opened fire at the airport killing 5 people [5]. Investigators are exploring information that the alleged shooter created a jihadist identity for him-self using the name Aashiq Hammad [6]. In Kabul, Afghanistan, twin Taliban suicide bombers killed at least 30 people [7].

In Iraq, suicide bombings continue to exact a toll. For example, five car bomb attacks in Baghdad killed dozens of people [8]. Days later, this was followed with a suicide car bombing a wholesale market in Baghdad; killing at least 6 dead [9].

1. Feller, Stephen, UPI, *Car bomb kills four at Communist Party compound in China*, December 29, 2016.
2. McKirdy, Euan, et. al., CNN, *Istanbul attack: Dozens killed at Turkish nightclub, official says*, January 1, 2017.
3. McKirdy, Euan, and Lee, Ian, CNN, *Istanbul attack: ISIS claims responsibility for nightclub shooting*, January 2, 2017.
4. Johnson, Natalie, Washington Free Beacon, *Istanbul Attacker Identified as ISIS Militant*, January 9, 2017.
5. Booker, Brakkton, NPR, *The Latest: Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Shooting Suspect*, January 8, 2017.
6. Ross, Brian, et. al., ABC News, *Authorities: Ft. Lauderdale Suspect First Planned New Year's Eve Trip to New York*, January 9, 2017.
7. Salahuddin, Sayed, and Cunningham, Erin, Washington Post, *Twin blasts claimed by Taliban kill more than 30 people in Kabul*, January 10, 2017.
8. Morris, Loveday, and Salim, Mustafa, Washington Post, *Scores killed in Baghdad as militants strike with multiple car bombs*, January 2, 2017.
9. New York Times/AP, *Iraq: Suicide Bombing in Baghdad Kills at Least 6 People*, January 8, 2017.

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*Be at war with your vices,  
at peace with your  
neighbors, and let every  
new year find you a better  
man.—Benjamin Franklin*

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## Economy

More good news on the job front. Tesla and Panasonic announced the creation of 1,400 new jobs in Buffalo, NY [1]. Then, Sprint will bring back 5,000 jobs and OneWeb will create 3,000 new ones [2]. Ford also announced it would not move a plant to Mexico and instead will spend \$700 million to expand on a Michigan facility, thereby creating another 700 jobs [3]. In another positive piece, Stanley Black & Decker will open a manufacturing plant in the US [4]. Apple also plans to expand manufacturing in Arizona [5]. Lockheed announced plans to create another 1,800 jobs in Texas [6]. Then Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba plans to create up to 1 million new jobs in the US [7].

According to the Labor department, for the week ending December 29, the number of first time unemployment claims was 265,000 [8]. For the week ending December 31, the number was 235,000 [9]. Finally, for the week ending January 7, the number reported as 247,000 [10].

Meanwhile, financial institutions are still folding. For instance, we start the year with

the regulators shuttering the Harvest Community Bank, Pennsville, New Jersey [11].

1. AP, *Tesla, Panasonic to make solar cells in Buffalo*, New York, December 27, 2016.
2. Pramuk, Jacob, CNBC, *Trump says Sprint will bring 5,000 jobs back to the US; OneWeb will create 3,000 jobs*, December 28, 2016.
3. Long, Heather, and Harlow, Poppy, CNN, *Ford cancels Mexico plant. Will create 700 U.S. jobs in 'vote of confidence' in Trump*, January 3, 2016.
4. Bomey, Nathan, USA Today, *Stanley Black & Decker to open U.S. plant after Trump's 'border tax' threat*, January 5, 2017.
5. Balakrishnan, Anita, CNBC, *Apple seeks to expand manufacturing in Arizona*, January 7, 2017.
6. Drew, Christopher, New York Times, *Lockheed Chief Pledges Lower Costs for F-35 Fighter Jet and Add 1,800 Jobs*, January 13, 2017.
7. Rauhala, Emily, Washington Post, *Donald Trump and Alibaba founder to create '1 million' U.S. jobs? Unlikely*, January 10, 2017.
8. Chandra, Shobhana, Bloomberg, *Applications for U.S. Jobless Benefits Rise Less Than Forecast*, January 12, 2017.
9. Leubsdorf, Ben, Wall Street Journal, *U.S. Jobless Claims Fell Last Week to 265,000*, December 29, 2016.
10. Mitchell, Josh, Wall Street Journal, *U.S. Jobless Claims Fell Sharply in 2016's Final Week*, January 5, 2017.
11. PR-4-2017, [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov), January 13, 2017.

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Ring out the false, ring in  
the true.—Alfred Lord  
Tennyson

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