

IN THE NEWS

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World News

The Middle East continues to be a flashpoint of military confrontation. In such a theater, one of the risks is using radio reliant systems that are vulnerable electronic warfare. For instance, one report indicates Russia is jamming U.S. drones operating in Syria [1]. This comes as the U.S. launched attacks against Syrian government targets in response to a poison gas attack [2]. Meanwhile, Russia is blaming Israel for an attack on a Syrian air base [3]. Elsewhere, Saudi Arabian forces claim to have shot down ballistic missiles and drones launched against Riyadh from locations inside Yemen [4].

In Asia, China's military continues to expand. For instance, in the South China Sea, Chinese President Xi Jinping was treated to a 48 warship naval parade [5]. What's more, the new PACOM nominee, U.S. Navy Admiral Philip Davidson, indicated that China could now control the South China Sea from its fortified artificial islands [6]. For example, on their way to Vietnam, 3 Australian warships were challenged by the Chinese navy [7]. In a partial response to Chinese space threats, the U.S. Air Force is accelerating in investments to counter the growing threat [8]. On the plus side, the leaders of North and South Korea met and promised to end the Korean War [9].

1. Heretik, Jack, Washington Free Beacon, *Report: Russian Military Jamming U.S. Drones Over Syria*, April 10, 2018..
2. Arkin, Daniel, et. al., NBC News, *Trump announces strikes on Syria following suspected chemical weapons attack by Assad forces*, April 14, 2018.
3. Reuters, *Syria, Russia say Israeli war planes carried out strike on Syrian air base*, April 9, 2018.
4. Hatem, Mohammed, et. Al., Bloomberg, *Saudis Shoot Down Missiles, Drones as Middle East Tensions Flare*, April 11, 2018.
5. Westcott, Ben, et. Al., CNN, *Xi Jinping inspects massive naval parade in* (Continued on page 2)

Security

The patch management race to keep security in check continues. Failure to quickly patch vulnerabilities is becoming an ever more serious problem [1]. In response, companies large and small are trying to quickly release security patches. For instance, Oracle released security patches to address 254 flaws [2]. LinkedIn released patches to correct an AutoFill leak [3]. Cisco released patches to fix a vulnerability within

WebEx [4]. Microsoft released patches to fix nearly 70 vulnerabilities [5]. Adobe released patches to fix 14 security vulnerabilities [6]. Juniper released over a dozen patches to fix security vulnerabilities [7]. From the previous list of vendor patches, clearly much vulnerable software remains. One vulnerability exploited by the poor state of security is ransomware. For instance, one report suggests that 39% of mal-

ware attaches are ransomware [8].

1. Finnie, Scot, Security Boulevard, *Security Patches: Move Faster to Keep Up With the Bad Guys*, April 17, 2018.
2. Ranger, Steve, ZD Net, *Oracle critical update fixes 254 flaws - so get patching now*, April 20, 2018.
3. Dunn, John E., Naked Security, *LinkedIn*

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Special points of interest:

- Vehicle Terror in Canada
- Korean peace prospect?

Security

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- patches serious leak in its AutoFill plugin, April 23, 2018.*
4. Olenick, Doug, SC Magazine, *Cisco patches vulnerability in WebEx, April 23, 2018.*
 5. Abel, Robert, SC Magazine, *Microsoft Patch Tuesday: Nearly 70 issues addressed including six for*

Adobe Flash, April 101, 2018.

6. Abel, Robert, SC Magazine, *Adobe Patch Tuesday includes ColdFusion updates, April 10, 2018.*
7. Olenick, Doug, SC Magazine, *Juniper patched multiple vulnerabilities, April 13, 2018.*
8. Blake, Andrew, Washington Times, *Ransomware*

behind 39 percent of malware cases: Verizon security report, April 10, 2018

*The more you sweat in
peace, the less you bleed in
war.—Norman
Schwarzkopf*

(Continued from page 1)

- South China Sea, April 12, 2018.*
6. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Pacom Nominee: China Military Islands Now Control South China Sea, April 20, 2018.*
 7. Westcott, Ben, and Tarabay, Jamie, CNN, *China challenged Australian warships in South China Sea, reports say, April 20, 2018.*
 8. Johnson, Natalie, Washington Free Beacon, *U.S. Air Force to Ramp Up Commitments to Space Amid Chinese Threat, April 25, 2018.*
 9. Klug, Foster, AP, *Korean leaders pledge denuclearization, but avoid specifics, April 27, 2018.*

World News

Terrorism

In Canada, a rented van driven by Alek Minassian was used as a weapon to kill at least 10 people [1]. In China, a 28-year old was arrested for using a knife to kill at least 7 middle school students [2]. In Afghanistan, a suicide bomber killed at least 48 people at a voting center [3]. For whatever reason behind the terrorist actions, a consequence is erosion of our lifestyles. That is, the debate on gun control, more airport security, and other security restrictions we must live with.

Moreover, the weapons available to terrorists and other rebel forces are getting more deadly. Case in point, Saudi Arabia downed four missiles fired into its territory by Yemeni rebels [4].

And finally, there is a growing incidence of terrorism near the US from Mexican drug wars. For instance, one area reported 14 murders within a 36 hour time frame [5].

1. CBS/AP, *Van strikes pe-*

destrians in Toronto, killing 10 and injuring 15, April 24, 2018.

2. Ernst, Douglas, *The Washington Times*, *China stabbing rampage kills 7 at middle school; 28-year-old former student arrested*, April 27, 2018
3. Diao, Alexis, *NPR*, *Suicide Bomber Kills 48 At Voting Center In Afghanistan*, April 22, 2018.
4. AFP, *Saudi Arabia downes Yemeni rebel missile: state media*, April 27, 2018.
5. Maxim, *Cancun Chaos: Drug War Blamed For 14 Murders In 36 Hours In Mexican Party Town*, April 12, 2018.

*The only way human
beings can win a war is to
prevent it.—George C.
Marshall*

Economy

For the week ending April 7, the number of first time unemployment claims was 233,000 [1]. Then, for the week ending April 14, the number of claims was 230,000 [2]. Finally, for the week ending April 21, the number fell to 209,000; a level not seen since 1969 [3]. However, all the news was not good. For instance, the GDP only grew a rate of 2.3% for the first quarter [4].

Another aspect of the economy includes the trade deficit with China. It seems that China is allowed easy access into the US economy while the reverse is not evident. Case in point, many illegal shipments of the drug fentanyl have their source in China

[6]. Cities such as Philadelphia have seen a one third increase in overdose deaths because of the synthetic opioid fentanyl [7]. So the open system allows Chinese to profit while the U.S. must deal with drug overdoses. Given the real damage caused by such trade with China; should we not require more rigid inspection of Chinese packages coming into the U.S.?

1. Nasdaq, *U.S. Weekly Jobless Claims Drop To 233,000*, April 12, 2018.
2. NASDAQ, *U.S. Weekly Jobless Claims Edge Down To 232,000*, April 19, 2018.
3. Elliott, Alan R., NASDAQ, *Nasdaq Fu-*

tures Rally; Facebook Rises, Jobless Claims Hit 48-Year Low, April 26, 2018.

4. Reuters/CNBC, *First reading on first-quarter GDP up 2.3%, vs 2.0% growth expected*, April 27, 2018.
5. Mordock, Jeff, Washington Times, *Chinese nationals among 10 new defendants in fentanyl case*, April 27, 2018.
6. Wolfram, Joel, WHYY, *Philly overdose deaths surged past 1,200 in 2017. The reason? Fentanyl*, April 24, 2018

If we continue to develop our technology without wisdom or prudence, our servant may prove to be our executioner.—Omar N.

Bradley
