

# IN THE NEWS

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## World News

There are devices now in use by state law enforcement that can detect small amounts of radiation. Case in point, a Connecticut man was pulled over after a radiation detector identified the car as radioactive; the cause was a medical procedure using trace amounts of radioactive material [1].

By one estimate, Iran could build an atomic bomb in just 60-days [2].

Meanwhile, Iran continues to install additional centrifuges in an underground facility [3]. The big question is if there will be an attack on Iran and who will join Israel. One report indicates the US has told Israel it is ready to attack Iran to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons [4]. Meanwhile, the Israeli Prime Minister again expressed skepticism that Iran is serious in stopping its nuclear weapons program [5]. The pieces appear to be in place for an attack against Iran; only the timing remains.

Meanwhile, China would like us to believe they are pressuring North Korea not to conduct a third nuclear test [6]. However, North Korea restarted construction on a nuclear reactor that will supply radioactive material for building atomic bombs [7]. In contrast with North Korea, China appears to get whatever they want from Western nations.

The newest Russian jetliner slammed into a dormant volcano in Indonesia killing the 45 people on board [8]. Moreover, it seems the plane that crashed was a replacement for one that developed an engine problem in Pakistan [9]. A question here is how did a new jet, with the latest Russian technology, crash into a mountainous object? More to the point, NASA now relies on Russia to provide transport to and from the International Space station [10]. Are we plac-

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### Special points of interest:

- 24<sup>th</sup> Bank closed
- March trade deficit rose to \$51.8 billion
- March \$31.5 billion trade deficit with China
- Oil price falls

## Security

The University of North Carolina, Charlotte, concluded the breach detected last January compromised 350,000 Social Security Numbers [1]. What's more, one report indicates cyber crooks are now targeting frequent flyer miles [2]. China continues to advance

its capabilities in Cyber-espionage. One report has identified China as the source of Gas Pipeline sphere phishing attacks [3]. Furthermore, one Pentagon study describes the Chinese use of cyber spying as advancing [4]. What's more, the economic spying and reliance on dual-use tech-

nology is allowing China to expand its military capabilities rapidly [5]. In response, China denies the US report and claims not to be involved with cyber espionage [6]. Perhaps the greatest risk from China resides at the integrated circuit (IC) level. Much has been discussed

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regarding counterfeit devices have found their way into the parts supply [7]. However, the real game changer is, many ICs used in the US are made in China. It is trivial for China to make ICs that have a back door or Trojan horse imbedded in the silicon. China will exploit this vulnerability to the detriment of the US and its allies.

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ing our astronauts at risk? Consider, the US may not have an astronaut carrying spacecraft until 2015 [11].

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# Energy

The last of Japan's nuclear reactors was taken off line and the government there is concerned over power shortages expected this summer [1]. To assist its industry; Japan's government will help Tepco secure Australian gas rights by buying a 10% stake in the Wheatstone LNG Project [2]. Perhaps we could learn from the Japanese government how to help our industry create jobs.

Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton visited India and requested they stop importing Iranian oil [3]. Unfortunately, Iran and India sealed trade deals that circumvent the current US led sanctions against Iran [4].

Meanwhile, China has started drilling for oil in the South China Sea in an area contested by Vietnam [5]. Concurrently, China continues to threaten its neighbors regarding claims to the South China Sea [6]. For example, one Chinese military newspaper asserts the country's military will not allow any to contest the islands located in

the South China Sea [7]. For its part, China is claiming it is not preparing for war in the South China Sea [8].

Domestically, natural gas is becoming a game changer. For example, some are suggesting US energy independence is now possible [9]. Elsewhere, North Dakota is now second only to Texas in producing oil [10]. With the poor economic indicators in Europe and the US, the price of oil has plummeted to its lowest price since October 26 [11].

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*A nation or civilization  
that continues to produce  
soft-minded men purchases  
its own spiritual death on  
the installment plan—  
Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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## Economy

It seems a number of economists are upset that China's April exports were up only 4.9% from a year earlier [1]. However, the US trade deficit for March rose to \$51.8 billion; including an increase to \$31.5 billion with China [2]. What's more, China will go to any length to ensure they have an unfair trade advantage. Case in point, new Chinese rules require foreign audit firms operating in that country must be run by a Chinese citizen [3].

The number of first time unemployment claims for the week ending May 5 was

367,000 [4]. For the week ending May 12, the claims were 370,000 [5]. On May 18, regulators closed only one bank: 24) Alabama Trust Bank [6].

With all the disappointing economic news, there is one bright spot. The price of oil fell during a two week period the most since 2001 [7].

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## Mexico

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*I think it's very important that the United States keeps out of the local electoral process in Mexico—Vicente Fox*

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A bloody drug war is raging in Mexico with 23 dead found early in May just south of Laredo, Texas [1]. Earlier this year, the remains of 12 young women were discovered in Juarez valley (south of El Paso, Texas) [2]. One documentary film, is calling Mexico the murder capital of the world with over 50,000 murders since 2006 [3]. What's more, earlier in the month, three journalists were slain [4]. Then there were 18 mutilated corpses found near the western Mexican city of Guadalajara [5]. This was followed by the discovery on May 13 of 49 decapitated bodies left in trash bags near Monterrey, Mexico [6]. The 49 headless bodies is the third such event during a ten day period [7].

Meanwhile, Mexico's ex-president, Vicente Fox, is calling the war on drugs a failure and is suggesting legalizing drugs [8]. Currently, 13% of those people living in the US were not borne here

with most being Hispanic and the bulk of Latin emigrants are from Mexico [9]. What's more, Florida found 180,000 non-citizens registered to vote [10].

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