

IN THE NEWS

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World News

Iran continues to be a wild card in the Middle-East. For instance, 30 missiles with a range of 1,250 miles were displayed at the Iranian annual parade [1]. The missiles included messages calling for the death of America [2]. What's more, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel warned that the new Iranian president was setting up a situation similar to North Korea; talk while constructing nuclear weapons [3]. Nevertheless, President Obama ordered Secretary of State Kerry to pursue nuclear reduction talks with Iranian officials [4]. Furthermore, it appears that President Obama tried to meet with the new Iranian President but was rejected three times [5].

Meanwhile, Russia landed marines at a previously abandoned base at Kotelny Island located in the New Siberian Islands (the Arctic) and plans to maintain a garrison [6]. It seems that Russia is expanding its military. What's more, Russia successfully launched an unmanned Proton-M booster rocket [7].

In spite of UN sanctions against transferring military technology to North Korea, China provided six transporter-erector launchers that are now part of the Pyongyang's mobile ICBM force [8]. What's more, China is developing a heavy rocket with greater throw weight than the old US Saturn V [9]. In addition, China is testing a space weapon capable of capturing satellites [10].

India continues with a program designed to place an orbiter around Mars [11]. Clearly India views space exploration as a critical effort. In contrast, the partial U.S. Government shutdown resulted in a furlough of non-essential employees including 97% of NASA's employees [12].

1. Washington Free Beacon, *Iran Displays 30 Missiles With Range of*

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Security

Whenever there is an unexpected power outage, we look at the role of Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) software. And to be fair, we only have the reported news posts and can only raise the question. For instance, in Connecticut, for reasons unknown, a power outage kept tens of thousands of commuters from using train service into New York City [1]. The Governor of Connecticut, Daniel Malloy, estimated repairs could take weeks before power is fully restored [2]. Later, the power company owner, Con Edison, an-

nounced a fried cable was the cause of the outage and would require three weeks to replace [3]. Three days into the outage, utility workers were trying to restore partial power to the failed line [4].

Meanwhile, Connecticut Senator Blumenthal wants hearings to determine what caused the power outage and why there were no backups readily available [5]. Moreover, the failure occurred at the site that received a \$51 million power-system upgrade [6].

Overseas, Chinese hackers are back in the news. Apparently, there is a group

professional Chinese hackers for hire, called the Hidden Lynx group, that attacks high-value targets [7].

Elsewhere, hackers continue to breach corporate computer networks. For instance, information on 2.9 million Adobe customers was stolen [8].

1. Alcindor, Yamiche, et. al., USA Today, *Power failure snarls NYC commute for thousands*, September 26, 2013.
2. Gendreau, LeAnne, and Mason, Ari, NBC, *Metro-North Repairs Could Take Weeks: Gov.*

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Special points of interest:

- Connecticut power outage
- China tests new space weapons
- Hackers stole information on 2.9 million Adobe customers
- Partial Government shutdown

Security

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- Malloy, September 26, 2013.
3. Otis, Ginger Adams, New York Daily News, *Metro-North Railroad power failure could cripple New Haven line for weeks*, September 26, 2013.
 4. Alcindor, Yamiche, USA Today, *Power failure fix - a partial one - in the works in*

NYC, September 27, 2013.

5. Duplantier, Wes, et. al., Danbury News Times, *Metro-North to test temporary fix*, September 27, 2013.
6. Mann, Ted, Wall Street Journal, *Metro-North Commuters Slog to Work*, September 26, 2013.
7. Jackson, William, GCN, *Hackers-for-hire group target-*

ing government assets, report says, September 30, 2013.

8. Constantin, Lucian, PC World/IDG News Service, *Hackers steal information on 2.9 million Adobe customers*, October 3, 2013.

World News

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- 1,250 Miles, September 23, 2013.
2. Kredo, Adam, Washington Free Beacon, *Iran's Military Shows Off Missiles Promising 'Death to America'*, September 23, 2013.
 3. Landler, Mark, New York Times, *Netanyahu Is Said to View Iran Deal as a Possible Trap*, September 22, 2013.
 4. AP/Fox News, *Obama directs Kerry to pursue talks with Iran over nuclear weapons deal*, September 24, 2013.
 5. Soltis, Andy, New York Post, *Iranian president snubbed Obama three times*, September 24, 2013.
 6. Aviation Week & Space Technology, *Russia's Arctic Return*, September 23, 2013.
 7. Gutterman, Steve, Reuters, *Russia launches rocket after fiery crash in July*, September 30, 2013.
 8. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Under-the-Radar Launchers*, September 27, 2013.
 9. Perrett, Bradley, Aviation Week & Space Technolo-

gy, Launcher Leap, September 30, 2013.

10. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *China Testing New Space Weapons*, October 2, 2013.
11. Aviation Week & Space Technology, *India Mars Mission*, October 7, 2013.
12. Bruno, Michael, Aviation Week & Space Technology, *While China Works ...*, October 7, 2013.

*Any fool can criticize,
condemn and complain
and most fools do—
Benjamin Franklin*

Japan

It seems that the Fukushima nuclear reactor meltdown problem will not go away. In the latest incident, workers overfilled a storage tank; consequently, it leaked radioactive water [1]. The latest leak is estimated to have released 110 gallons of radioactive water [2]. In turn, regulators demanded the stricken plant owner's draft additional workers to plug the leak [3]. Incidents such as these are causing some Japanese politicians to renounce nuclear power [4].

On October 1, four Chinese Coast Guard ships sailed within the 12-nautical-mile territorial waters of Japanese controlled Senkaku islands and remained for six hours before departing [5]. The threat from China is forcing Japan to look at its military alliances. Case in point, Japan and the U.S. agreed to enhance their military alliance [6]. For the first time in 16 years, Japan and the U.S. plan to modernize defenses; including addressing cyber-warfare, North Korea, and to move U.S. Marines off of Okinawa [7].

It seems that China is continuing to press its expanded military options. In contrast, the President of Japan has indicated he will not escalate the row with China; nor will he offer any concessions on sovereignty [8].

1. BBC News, *Fukushima leaks: radioactive water overflows tank*, October 3, 2013.
2. AP, *New Leak at Japan Nuke Plant Due to Tank Overflow*, October 3, 2013.
3. Saito, Mari, Reuters, *New criticism of operator of Japan's Fukushima nuclear plant after latest leak*, October 4, 2013.
4. Fackler, Martin, New York Times, *Former Japanese Leader Declares Opposition to Nuclear Power*, October 2, 2013.
5. Times of India/AFP, *Chinese ships in disputed waters on China's National Day: Japan*, October 1, 2013.
6. Steinhauer, Jennifer, and Fackler, Martin, New

York Times, *Japan and U.S. Agree to Broaden Military Alliance*, October 3, 2013.

7. Wroughton, Lesley, and Alexander, David, Reuters, U.S., *Japan to modernize alliance to counter 21st century threats*, October 3, 2013.
8. Eckert, Paul, Reuters, *Japan's Abe says no concessions, but no escalation in islet spat with China*, September 27, 2013.

*When the war of the
giants is over the wars of
the pygmies will begin—
Winston Churchill*

Economy

According to the Labor Department, for the week ending September 21, the number of first time unemployment claims fell to 305,000 [1]. Then for the following week, the number reported was 308,000 [2]. Normally, we would have the jobs report, estimating the current unemployment from the Labor Department. However, with the partial Government shutdown, the Labor Department report was delayed [3].

The partial Government shutdown centers on negotiating

changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) [4]. Separately, the ACA has experienced numerous problems since starting on October 1 [5].

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2. Puzzanghera, Jim, Los Angeles Times, *Initial jobless claims hold steady at near six-year low*, October 3, 2013.
3. Jackson, David, USA Today *No jobs report on*

Friday, October 4, 2013.

4. Miller, Jake, and Condon, Stephanie, CBS News, *Government shutdown drags on; Congress to take Sunday off*, October 5, 2013.
5. Angle, Jim, Fox News, *As ObamaCare launches, people in all age groups report problems*, October 4, 2013

*War grows out of the
desire of the individual to
gain advantage at the
expense of his fellow man—
Napoleon Hill*

China Pollution

Last January, the US Embassy in China rated Beijing's air quality at 755 on a scale that only goes up to 500 [1]. One article points out China is no friend of the environment and as long as we continue buying things made there, pollution will continue [2].

Usually, one way to reduce pollution is by using natural gas. However, China is expanding on coal to natural gas plants that effectively create seven times more pollution than a conventional natural gas

plant [3].

Moreover, the pollution in China continues to extend to other regions. For instance, one study indicates Chinese polluted air is responsible for elevated mercury levels detected on Mount Fuji [4].

1. Jacobs, Harrison, Business Insider, *This Chinese City Has Been Devastated By Pollution*, September 27, 2013.
2. Stone, Mark, Sky News, *China Is No Friend To The*

Environment, September 27, 2013.

3. Gass, Henry, Scientific American, *China Push into Synthetic Natural Gas Has Pollution Consequences*, October 2, 2013.
4. South China Morning Post, *China is 'polluting' Mount Fuji, says Japanese study*, October 4, 2013.