

# IN THE NEWS

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 20

OCTOBER 5, 2014

## World News

In a further sign of China's expanding military; 650 Chinese sailors arrived in the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas to participate in joint naval exercises [1]. Concurrently China tested a new mobile ICBM the DF-31B [2].

Meanwhile, Russia continues to use its military to expand its territorial domain. For instance, one article describes the declared Ukraine cease fire non-existent [3]. This comes at a time when Russia is planning to add 80 new warships to the Black Sea fleet by the year 2020 [4]. Moreover, for the first time ever, now has more nuclear warheads deployed than does the US [5].

In the Middle East, the war against terrorism expanded. The US led coalition conducted air attacks within Syria [6]. Despite coalition bombing, the Islamic State continued to attack the town of Kobani, located near the Turkish border [7].

The Ebola virus is becoming a more visible concern to the US. For instance, the first US case of the deadly Ebola virus, detected in Texas, was confirmed by the CDC [8]. What's more, in Africa, one of the NBC cameramen tested positive for Ebola [9]. The cameraman is the fifth known American to contract Ebola while in Africa [10]. Of particular concern is that the Islamic State (IS) could use Ebola as a low tech biological weapon [11].

1. Smith, Caroline Lee, Washington Free Beacon, *Iran, China Prepare For Joint Naval Exercises*, September 22, 2014.
2. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *China Conducts Flight Test of New Mobile ICBM*, October 2, 2014.
3. Smith, Caroline Lee, Washington Free Beacon, *NATO Chief: Ukraine Truce A Cease-Fire 'In Name Only'*, September 22, 2014.
4. Soldatkin, Vladimir, Reuters, *Russia will add 80 new warships to Black Sea Fleet: fleet commander*, September 23, 2014.
5. Gertz, Bill, Washington Times, *For the first time, Russia has more deployed nuclear warheads than U.S.*, October 1, 2014.
6. Baldor, Lolita C., and Burns, Robert, AP, *US, Arab allies hit IS*

(Continued on page 2)

### Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Economy	4
China Pollution	4

### Special points of interest:

- Ebola reaches the US
- JP Morgan breach affects 76 million households and 7 million businesses

## Security

Stolen payment card information from the Home Depot breach was discovered for sale on back market sites [1]. By one estimate, 75 million privacy related records have been compromised so far this year [2]. This estimate came prior to the announced breach at JP Morgan. The JPMorgan affected 76 mil-

lion households and 7 million small businesses [3]. One piece indicates JP Morgan has had difficulty in keeping security professionals [4]. Another article indicates the hacks were likely state sponsored and came from Russia [5]. However, the basic problem remains; there is a lack of strong identification and authenti-

cation along with the security engineering needed. With all the breaches, it's is safe to assume most Americans are knowing or unknowing victims of data breaches. So when will it get bad enough for regulators to step up to the plate and require adequate security controls?

(Continued on page 2)

## Security

(Continued from page 1)

Once again, fake credentials are in the news. In the latest example, bogus driver's licenses, costing about \$150 online, are high quality fakes flooding the US [6].

1. Robinson, Teri, SC Magazine, *Info on 282K Wisconsin Home Depot cards for sale on black market*, September 19, 2014.
2. Carman, Ashley, SC Magazine, *Report: 75 million records compromised so far*

in 2014, September 29, 2014.

3. Son, Hugh, Bloomberg, *JPMorgan Says Data Breach Affected 76 Million Households*, October 2, 2014.
4. Kasanoff, Bruce, Forbes, *JPMorgan Chase Breach Reveals A Dire Talent Emergency*, October 3, 2014.
5. Goldstein, Matthew, et. al., New York Times, *Hackers' Attack Cracked 10 Financial Firms in Ma-*

*jeor Assault*, October 3, 2014.

6. Savini, Dave, CBS Chicago (WBBM), *2 Investigators: China Floods U.S. With Near-Perfect Fake Driver's Licenses*, September 23, 2014.

## World News

(Continued from page 1)

*strongholds in Syria, Iraq*, September 23, 2014.

7. Yackley, Ayla Jan, and Westall, Sylvia, Reuters, *Syrian border town under siege by Islamic State despite allied air strikes*, October 4, 2014.
8. CBS (Dallas), CDC *Confirms Patient In Dallas Has The Ebola Virus*, Septem-

ber 20, 2014.

9. Bauder, David, AP, *Cameroon's Ebola infection has news organizations assessing risks of coverage*, October 4, 2014.
10. McKay, Betsy, Wall street Journal, U.S. *Tracking People Exposed to Dallas Ebola Patient*, October 4, 2014.
11. Dorminey, Bruce, Forbes, *Ebola As ISIS Bio-Weapon?*,

October 5, 2014.

---

*Trust dies but mistrust blossoms.—Sophocles*

---

## Terrorism

While China tries to keep out of the Middle East turmoil, the communist giant remains the target of domestic terrorism. For instance, on September 21, two people were killed during three explosions in China's Xinjiang province [1]. Then approximately 50 people were killed during rioting [2].

Meanwhile, most of the world is focusing on activities in the Middle-East. We learned of yet another terrorist organization considered to be a threat against Western nations. This new terrorist group, referred to as Khorasan, is considered a greater threat to the US than is the Islamic State (IS) [3]. During the initial US air attacks in Syria, eight of the attacks targeted this new group [4].

While most of the World's focus centers around events in the Middle East; other hot

spots continue. For instance, the Taliban attacked a district southwest of the Afghanistan capital, killing over 100 people in the process [5]. We also learned that the Taliban in Pakistan pledged their support for IS [6].

The Islamic State continues to advertise its brutal terrorism. In the latest case, a British aid worker was beheaded and the video posted on the Internet [7].

1. Barber, Elizabeth, Time, *Blasts Kill Two in China's Restive Xinjiang Region*, September 22, 2014.
2. BBC, *Xinjiang unrest: China raises death toll to 50*, September 26, 2014.
3. Abinovich, Abraham, Washington Free Beacon, *New Terror Org Named Top Security Threat to Western Nations*, September 23, 2014.
4. AFP, U.S. Syria raids also aimed at thwarting attack plot: Pentagon, September 23, 2014.
5. Andalib, Mustafa, Reuters, *Taliban storm Afghan district southwest of capital, 100 killed*, September 26, 2014.
6. Young, Angelo, International Business Times, *Pakistan Taliban Pledges Support To ISIS Militants*, October 4, 2014
7. Gambrell, Jon, and Lawless, Jill, AP, *Video: Islamic State group beheads British hostage*, October 3, 2014.

---

*Health is not valued till  
sickness comes—Thomas  
Fuller*

---

# Economy

For the week ending September 20, the number of first time unemployment claims reported by the Labor Department, was 293,000 [1]. Then for the following week, the number reported was 287,000 [2].

The economic downturn continues to hurt people trying to find employment. During the past five years, one in five Americans were laid off from their jobs and 22% have yet to find employment [3].

According to the Labor Department, the unemployment rate for September fell to 5.9% with the inclusion of 248,000 jobs [4]. However, the labor participation rate fell

0.1% (the lowest rate since 1978) and hourly earnings fell 1 cent [5].

1. House, Jonathan, and Leubsdorf, Ben, Wall Street Journal, *U.S. Jobless Claims Rise 12,000 in Latest Week*, September 25, 2014.
2. Chandra, Shobhana, Bloomberg News, *Jobless claims unexpectedly decrease last week*, October 2, 2014.
3. Puzzanghera, Jim, Los Angeles Times, *One-fifth of U.S. workers were laid off in past five years, study says*, September 24, 2014.
4. Coy, Peter, Bloomberg/Businessweek, *Will 5.9*

*Percent Unemployment Give the Hawks Reason to Raise Interest Rates?*, October 3, 2014.

5. Puzzanghera, Jim, Los Angeles Times, *Economists relieved by strong jobs report but still see worrisome signs*, October 3, 2014. .

---

*Environmental pollution is an incurable disease. It can only be prevented—*  
*Barry Commoner*

---

# China Pollution

One tried approach to combatting air pollution has been to reduce local contributors to the problem. However, at least one California community is wondering how much of their air pollution problem comes from China [1].

What's more, the air pollution problem in China is likely to remain for some time. Consider, China emits more carbon

dioxide that the US and European Union combined [2]. Put another way, the Chinese emission is almost twice that of the US [3]. However, the carbon dioxide produced by the US and EU does not have the quantity of pollution products seen with Chinese emissions.

1. Grossi, Mark, The Fresno Bee, *China's polluted air may be affecting Fresno*, September 20, 2014.

2. Clark, Pilita, Financial Times, *China's emissions outstrip those of EU and US*, September 22, 2014.
3. Benson, Thor, UPI, *New research suggests China's CO2 output is almost twice U.S.'s*, September 21, 2014.