

IN THE NEWS

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 22

NOVEMBER 2, 2014

World News

As much of the world focuses on the Middle-East, China and Iran continue to build their military alliance [1]. In a further sign that China's sea power is expanding; a Chinese surveillance ship attached a 15 foot Vietnamese fishing boat near the disputed Paracel islands, destroying the equipment aboard the attached vessel [2]. Concurrently, at the request of China, the US has decided to back away from commitments to supply Taiwan with submarines [3].

In the Middle-East, the weapons obtained by the Islamic State (IS) pose a troubling problem. For instance, images of IS fighters using a Chinese made surface to air missile were shown downing an Iraqi helicopter [4]. Moreover, as the US continues an air campaign against IS targets, some are worried this is helping the Assad government in Syria [5].

Many readers will recall that in 2008, Russia invaded Georgia [6]. This early warning was largely forgotten. Now with Russian troops moved into the Ukraine, Russia is getting some world focus [7]. However, much of the focus is still elsewhere and Russia continues to be a problem for regional stability. Case in point, because of the Russian military involvement in Ukraine's affairs, Poland is restructuring its military and will move more troops along the Eastern border [8]. Within Poland, there has been a longstanding mistrust of Russia and its leader Vladimir Putin. For instance, in 2010, President Lech Kaczynski and scores of other senior Polish figures were killed in a plane crash in Russia [9]. Russia announced the cause of the crash was due to pilot error [10]. Concurrently, there were reports Russia was destroying evidence [11]. However, to this day, Russia still refuses to return the wreck of the Polish Air Force Plane [12].

1. Shi. Ting, Bloomberg, China, Iran Vow to Strengthen Military Ties, Xinhua Says, October 23, 2014.
2. Boudreau, John, and Chau, Mai Ngoc, Bloomberg, Vietnam Boat Attacked by Chinese Surveillance Ship, October 23, 2014.
3. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Inside the Ring: 'No One Has the Guts to Sell Submarines to Taiwan' as China Pressures Pentagon*, October 30, 2014.
4. Semple, Kirk, and Schmitt, Eric, New York Times, Missiles of ISIS May Pose Peril for Aircrews, October 26, 2014.

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Security

State sponsored cyberattacks continue. For instance, it is believed Russian hackers were responsible for penetrating unclassified White House computers during October [1]. Not to be outdone, China is also active in cybercrimes. Case in point, an operation referred to Axiom, is likely a Ministry of State spy unit

that has been traced to activities starting in 2009 [2].

In contrast to the activities of China and Russia, some are rating the US poor. For example, one article give the US a grade of "F" on privacy and security [3].

1. Sanger, David E., and Perlroth, Nicole,

New York Times, *New Russian Boldness Revives a Cold War Tradition: Testing the Other Side*, October 30, 2014.

2. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *New Chinese Intelligence Unit Linked to Massive Cyber Spying Program*, Octo-

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Special points of interest:

- NY City Doctor infected with Ebola
- 16th bank closed this year

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ber 31, 2014.

3. Landau, Susan, Communications of the ACM, *Privacy and Security*, November, 2014.

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5. Taylor, Guy, Washington Times, *Syria airstrikes spur White House infighting over benefit to Assad*, October 30, 2014.

6. CNN, *2008 Georgia Russia Conflict Fast Facts*, March 16, 2014

7. Butenko, Victoria, et. al, CNN, *U.S. official says 1,000 Russian troops have entered Ukraine*, August 29, 2014.

8. Scislowska, Monika, AP/ABC News, *Poland in Defense Shift as Security*

Concerns Rise, October 27, 2014.

9. BBC News, *Polish President Lech Kaczynski dies in plane crash*, April 10, 2010.

10. BBC News, *Kaczynski air crash: Russia blames Polish pilot error*, January 12, 2011

11. Marcin Sobczyk. Wall Street Journal, *Russia Destroyed Polish Plane Crash Evidence, Protesters Say*, June 29, 2011.

12. Cannon, Lucja Swiatkowski, Washington Times, *With Russia, different air-*

line crash, same results, July 23, 2014

*An investment in
knowledge pays the best
interest—Benjamin
Franklin*

Energy

In this issue we look at potential game changes in the energy sector. The lead topic comes from the Lockheed-Martin Skunk Works. This laboratory has been quickly developing advanced aircraft for seven decades [1]. Now the company plans to produce a small fusion reactor capable of producing 100 MW of power and fit in a

23X43 foot space [2]. This is definitely a game changer. Expectedly, many scientists expressed skepticism over the claim to have an operational system in 10 years [3].

1. Nisen, Max, Business Insider, *17 Of The Most Mysterious Corporate Labs*, February 19, 2013.
2. Norris, Guy, Aviation Week & Space Technolo-

gy, *Fusion Frontier*, October 20, 2014.

3. Orwig, Jessica, Business Insider, *Scientists Share What They Really Think Of Lockheed Martin's Fusion 'Breakthrough'*, October 21, 2014.

*The direction in which
education starts a man
will determine his future in
life—Plato*

Terrorist launched an attack in Canada. A gunman opened fire inside the Canadian parliament building [1]. The attacker also shot a Canadian soldier guarding the National War Memorial [2]. Moreover, on October 21, the day prior to the shootings, a soldier was run over in killed in what the Canadian government called an act of terrorism [3].

Following the events in Canada, the US experienced a lone wolf terrorist attack. A hatchet armed recent Muslim convert attached a group of police in New York City [4].

Meanwhile, terrorism continues to play out in the Middle-

East. Case in point, another suicide bomber in the Baghdad area killed at least 27 Shi'ite militiamen [5]. To understand the scope of the threat, there are an estimated 15,000 foreign fighters that are now part of the IS [6].

1. Fantz, Ashley, and Levs, Josh, CNN, *Multiple shooters reported in Canada attack*, October 22, 2014.
2. Austen, Ian, and Gladstone, Rick, New York Times, *Canadian Soldier Shot in Attack at Parliament Hill in Ottawa*, October 22, 2014.
3. Austen, Ian, New York Times, *Hit-and-Run That Killed Canadian Soldier Is*

Called Terrorist Attack, October 21, 2014.

4. Hays, Tom, AP, NYC *police commissioner: Hatchet attack was terror*, October 24, 2014.
5. Georgy, Michael, et. al., Reuters, *Suicide bomber in Iraq kills 27 Shi'ite militiamen near Baghdad: police*, October 27, 2014.
6. Bajekal, Naina, Time, *More Foreign Fighters Are Going to Iraq and Syria Than Ever Before*, UN Says, October 31, 2014.

Economy

According to the Labor Department, the number of first time unemployment claims for the week ending October 18 was 283,000 [1]. Then for the following week, the number reported was 287,000 [2]. Meanwhile regulators continued shuttering financial institutions. The National Republic Bank in Illinois became the 16th bank closed this year [3].

1. Stilwell, Victoria, Bloomberg, *Jobless Claims in U.S. at 14-Year Low Over Past Month*, October 23, 2014.
2. Morath, Eric, and Timiraos, Nick, Wall Street Journal, *Jobless Claims Remain at Historically Low Levels*, October 30, 2014.
3. AP/ABC News, *Regulators Close Small Illinois*

Bank, October 24, 2014

Ebola

The Ebola virus continues to impact the US. Case in point, a 33 year old doctor returning to New York City from West Africa became the fourth person to test positive for the Ebola Virus Disease [1]. In the days since arriving, the Ebola infected doctor was seen at various heavily populated locations [2]. Then on October 25, the Ebola patient, Dr. Craig Spencer, degraded to a serious category [3]. Following the case of the doctor testing positive for Ebola, several states started taking matters into their own hands. For instance, the governors of New York and New Jersey are requiring 21-day quarantine for

health workers returning from the Ebola stricken West African nations [4]. As the Ebola situation continues to evolve, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is providing updated information. For example, they caution Ebola might spread through sneeze droplets [5].

1. Santora, Marc, and Spencer, Craig, New York Times, *Doctor in New York City, Is Sick With Ebola*, October 23, 2014.
2. Schram, Jamie, et. al., New York Post, *Ebola strikes NYC: Doctor tests positive for deadly virus*, October 23, 2014.
3. Evans, Heidi, et. al., New

York Daily News, *Ebola patient Dr. Craig Spencer enters 'next phase' of illness despite treatment with experimental drug Brincidofovir*, October 25, 2014.

4. Ax, Joseph. and Wulffhorst, Ellen, Reuters, *States stand firm on Ebola quarantines despite White House pressure*, October 27, 2014.
5. Fredericks, Bob, New York Post, *CDC admits droplets from a sneeze could spread Ebola*, October 29, 2014.

Investors are sometimes too busy looking for profits to notice where the truth ends and the deception begins—
Andrew Ross Sorkin