

IN THE NEWS

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World News

Back when the Ukraine had nearly 2,000 nuclear weapons, the US, UK, and Russia agreed to protect the Ukrainian border in exchange for giving up its nuclear weapons [1]. In the most recent turn of events along the Russia/Ukraine border, a Malaysian 777 appears to have been shot down [2]. Indications are it was shot down by an SA-11 radar guided mobile air defense system capable of reaching aircraft flying at 80,000 feet [3]. Then two Ukrainian fighter jets were shot down [4]. So once again, Russia teaches us the need for a strong nuclear weapons capability. What's more, the US has backtracked on tough sanctions against Iran [5]. As a consequence, any sanctions against Russia will likely be difficult.

It has been over a month since the Malaysian flight 370 disappeared [6]. What is puzzling about this is the ready availability of public web sites that track every airplane in the air [7]. Moreover, one report indicates there was full satellite tracking of the Flight 17 aircraft of the same design that was shot down over the Ukraine [8]. The question here is how does a Boeing 777 plane disappear without notice?

The Middle-East continues to be a violent geographic area. After multiple rockets were launched by Hamas, Israel was forced to launch a ground invasion into the Gaza Strip [9].

Once again, as the world looks elsewhere, China continues to expand in the South China Sea. Case in point, as the US is trying to build its Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), China is deploying an anti-LCS referred to as the Type 056 corvette [10]. Meanwhile, China tested another missile designed to destroy satellites [11].

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4. Reuters, *Ukraine Says Pro-Russia Rebels Shot Down Two Fighter Jets*, July 23, 2014.
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Special points of interest:

- Malaysian plane shot down over Ukraine
- Israel launches ground attack
- 14th bank shuttered

Security

Once again, China's government is believed to be behind distributing products with malicious software (Malware). For example, scanners from a Chinese factory were found to include an embedded zero-date-attack Malware designed to compromise the victim company's EPR servers [1]. Then a

Chinese man operating from Canada, was arrested for stealing 65-gigabytes of C-17 related data from Boeing [2].

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charged with hack of Boeing, Lockheed Martin aircraft data, July 14, 2014.

*If I am shot at, I want no
man to be in the way of
the bullet—Andrew
Johnson*

(Continued from page 1)

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6. Bradsher, Keith, and Buckley, Chris, New York Times, *Malaysia and Australia, Still Seeking Missing Plane, Strained by Second Disaster*, July 21, 2014.
7. Daily Mail (UK), *Rush hour in the skies: Real time map that shows you every plane in the air right now*, September 19, 2012.
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World News

Terrorism

By one estimate, the total world Jewish population is approximately 13.75 million, with 43% residing in Israel [1]. In recent history, the Jewish people have routinely been targeted by various terrorist organizations. Yet, in response to its military actions, Israel is experiencing global pressure to stop its fight to eliminate rocket launches from the Gaza strip [2]. Moreover, there are protests around the world directed against the Jewish state. Case in point, thousands protested in France [3]. Even in the New York City, thousands protested Israel's actions [4].

Before the US sent forces into the first Gulf War, the Iraqi spokesperson, Tariq Aziz, was a Christian [5]. That is, Christianity was allowed in Iraq under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. In contrast, we are witness to the Christian religion being systematically destroyed in Iraq by ISIS terrorists [6]. This cleansing also includes churches, tombs, and other religious sites [7]. And as the Christian cleansing continues throughout the Middle East; the world instead focuses on Israel actions in the Gaza strip.

To further compound the problem, many Western nations have effectively placed sanctions against Israel. For instance, following a rocket

impact approximately a mile away from Tel Aviv's major airport, many Western countries suspended commercial flights to Tel Aviv [7]. However, after complaints suggesting the flight boycott imposed by regulators was in effect economic sanctions, at least the FAA lifted the ban [8].

During the second week of fighting, the death toll in fighting between Israel and the Hamas fighters in the Gaza Strip exceeded 700 [9]. However, this pales in comparison to the carnage ongoing in Syria. For example, approximately 700 people were killed in 2 days of fighting around Homs [10].

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7. Fox News, *ISIS militants wreak havoc on Iraq's cultural treasures*, July 27, 2014.
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*It was considered the most
dangerous route in the
Hills, but as my reputation
as a rider and quick shot
was well known, I was
molested very little, for the
toll gatherers looked on me
as being a good fellow, and
they knew that I never
missed my mark.—*

Calamity Jane

Economy

For the week ending July 12, the number of first time unemployment claims as reported by the Labor Department, was 302,000 [1]. Then for the following week, the number reported was 284,000 [2]. The improvement in fewer first time unemployment claims was partially offset by a weakening in the new home sales market. The new homes sales number reported by the Commerce Department was 8.1% lower for June and the previous number reported for May was revised lower [3]. The Eastside Commercial Bank in Georgia became the 13th bank shuttered by regulators this year [4]. Then on July 25, regulators closed the GreenChoice Bank in Illinois [5].

There is more bad economic

news for Americans. One study indicates the average inflation adjusted income fell by 36% over the past 10 years [6].

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3. Morath, Eric, and Hudson, Kris, Wall Street Journal, *New-Home Sales Tumbled in June*, July 24, 2014.
4. AP/ABC News, *US Regulators Close Small Bank in Georgia*, July 18, 2014.
5. AP/Salt Lake Tribune,

U.S. regulators close small bank in Chicago, July 25, 2014.

6. Bernasek, Anna, New York Times, *The Typical Household, Now Worth a Third Less*, July 26, 2014.

*It is only those who have
neither fired a shot nor
heard the shrieks and
groans of the wounded
who cry aloud for blood,
more vengeance, more
desolation. War is hell.—*

William Tecumseh

Sherman

China Pollution

The pollution in China is causing corporations to pay pollution hazard pay in order attract talented workers. For example, Coca Cola is offering employees an environmental hardship allowance of up to 15% [1].

Elsewhere, water pollution once again made the news. In Zhejiang province residents awoke to find a local river completely red, the result of suspected illegal dumping [2].

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