

IN THE NEWS

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World News

China is using its newfound wealth to purchase high tech companies. For example, a Chinese investment group offered to buy Integrated Silicon Solution Inc., a specialty memory chips manufacturing company, for \$639 million [1]. With the technology from purchased industries, China will be in a better position to enhance its military. One piece posits the question; is China modernizing its military or preparing for war [2]? For instance, China argues the need for artificial islands is in part because of the risk of typhoons in an area [3]. By one estimate, China has added 4 square kilometers of reclaimed land over the past few months [4]. One report suggests the island construction could result in de facto control of the South China Sea territory claimed by China [5]. This comes as satellite images of the Fiery Cross Reef shows a runway more than 500 meters and paved sections of apron [6]. Nevertheless, there are concerns the Chinese island reclamation has a military dimension [7]. Indeed, at a news conference, without going into detail, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunyu stated the artificial islands would meet China's military defense needs [8]. At the same time, China is complaining over resumption of construction on an island facility by the Philippines [9]. This would tend to support the argument that China is preparing for war.

Determining which terrorist organization will control Yemen continues to be a challenge. For example, al-Qaida fighters captured an oil terminal and major airport in South Yemen [10]. Meanwhile one report indicates Iran sent a destroyer and one other ship to the troubled Yemen waters [11]. What's more, Secretary of State Kerry expressed concern over Iran's support for the Shiite rebels in Yemen [12]. At this time, the US has seven warships near Yemen waters that could be used [13]. Iran's actions extend beyond Yemen. For instance, one report indicates the Nuclear framework deal with Iran does not address the Parchin military facility a key nuclear facility believed to have been used to develop nuclear weapons [14]. This suggests a final deal will be difficult to

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Security

One report indicates bad actors are using drive by exploits to compromise targeted users instead of phishing attacks [1]. As long as sloppy code continues to permeate the market, such exploits will continue. One approach posited to improve code security is to litigate the software companies [2]. In the meantime, the race to fix security holes continues. For instance, the

latest Oracle patch includes 98 security fixes [3]. Then Microsoft's patch Tuesday included fixes for 26 vulnerabilities [4].

We often associated military security as the highest standard. However, there is an increasing risk, especially since back doors have been discovered in military chips [5]. Another threat comes from Foreign governments

penetrating US Government networks. Case in point, last October, it was discovered that White House and State Department networks were compromised for a number of months by Russian bad actors [6]. Additionally, bad actors infected FAA administrative computing systems earlier this year [7].

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Special points of interest:

- War in Yemen
- IS operating a base in Mexico only 8 miles from the US
- The IS is issuing photo ID cards

Security

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secure and enforce.

As many nations continue to expand their nuclear capability, the US is going in the opposite direction. Case in point, the US now deploys only 1,597 nuclear warheads [15].

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No advance in wealth, no softening of manners, no reform or revolution has ever brought human equality a millimeter nearer—George Orwell

Terrorism

The Islamic State (IS) continues to advance its terrorist agenda. For instance, IS terrorists breached the perimeter of Iraq's largest refinery in Baiji but were beaten back [1]. On April 10, IS fighters attacked the capital of Iraq's Anbar province at multiple locations [2]. And in a preview of things to come, the city of Tikrit is now free of IS fighters but the city is in ruin [3]. This as the destruction of Iraqi history continues. Case in point, IS terrorists are destroying artifacts in the ancient city of Nimrud [4]. However, in a further sign the fight for Iraq will be bloody, IS launched an offensive near the capital of Iraq's Anbar province [5].

The IS activities continues to extend outside of Iraq. For instance, the attacks of the South Korean and Moroccan embassies in Libya were claimed by IS [6]. The IS also claimed responsibility for a suicide attack in Afghanistan that left dozens dead [7].

The threat from the IS is not limited to overseas locations. One report indicates the IS has an operating camp located eight miles from El Paso, Texas, in the Anapra neighborhood of Juárez [8]. A question here is why is the US allowing

such a threat to operate next to the US border?

One report indicates the IS is issuing photo identity cards to men in certain areas it now occupies [9]. For instance, the new photo identification cards are reportedly in use with Mosul, Iraq [10]

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*Quickness is the essence of
the war—Sun Tzu*

Economy

The global news; China continues unabated in polluting the planet and billowing out increasing amounts of industrial waste byproducts [1]. In response, the US continues to urge global growth, pointing out the US cannot be the only engine of demand [2].

Meanwhile, the jobs situation continues to be weak. According to the Labor Department, the number of first time unemployment claims for the week ending April 4 was

281,000 [3]. Then for the following week, the number reported increased to 294,000 [4].

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*Don't fight a battle if you
don't gain anything by
winning—Erwin Rommel*
