

IN THE NEWS

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World News

The war in Yemen continues to escalate. For instance, the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier was dispatched to Yemen amid reports Iran was sending a naval force to resupply Houthi rebels [1]. One piece indicates the US State Department has determined, the rescue of trapped Americans in Yemen is too risky [2]. However, the Iranian expansion is not limited to Yemen. For example, the Iran is expanding its presence in South America [3].

On Friday, April 24, Iranian ships intercepted the Maersk Kensington, a US flagged ship, in the Strait of Hormuz [4]. Later, the Iranian navy seized the Marshall Islands flagged Maersk Tigris in the same area [5]. Note, the Marshall Islands is a US protectorate meaning the US provides military defense [6]. In response, US Navy ships started escorting American flagged ships through this area [7].

In Syria, reports indicate Israel aircraft struck Syrian army and Hezbollah near the Syria and Lebanon border [8]. Meanwhile, in Northwestern Syria, the town of Jisr al-Shughour was bombed by Syrian aircraft and at least 34 people were killed in the attack [9].

One piece indicates Chinese nuclear experts warned the US that North Korea's nuclear weapons inventory is larger than expected [10]. By one estimate, the North Koreans will have 40 nuclear warheads by 2016 [11].

Forty years ago, North Vietnamese forces moved their forces south in preparation for the ultimate fall of Saigon [12]. The key take away was for the first time in the war, North Vietnamese targets were fully exposed. Had the US bombed there unprotected forces; Vietnam would look much different today. Unfortunately, the US Congress cut off all funding for the war [13]. The difference between victory and defeat is often predicated on the speed of execution. Consider when the Islamic State was in the open and making moves in Iraq. By not attacking the threat then, the terrorists were able to enter cities such as Mosul and the cost to remove them will be significantly higher.

China's navy continues to expand its operational range. For instance, this month, Russia and China will conduct naval exercises in the Mediterranean Sea [14].

In Iraq, the Islamic State (IS) captured a barracks and a dam in the Anbar region [15]. Additionally, one report indicates that despite aerial

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Special points of interest:

- War in Yemen continues
- Iran seizes US Protectorate flagged ship in the Strait of Hormuz

Security

As vendor products gain greater market share, the products become greater hacker targets. In turn this necessitates ever increasing patch management. Case in point, the latest Oracle patch fixed nearly 100 security issues [1].

We are learning that the hack of White House email

last year was more damaging than originally reported. For example, the President's unclassified blackberry email messages were hacked by the Russian bad actors [2].

Once again, the role of the Chinese government in cyber attacks is making the news. Case in point, the FBI is pointing to China's

government as the responsible source of mass data disruption attacks on American websites [3].

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Russian Hackers Read Some of Obama's Email, Report Says, April 26, 2015.

3. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *FBI Links Chinese Government to Cyber Attacks on U.S. Com-*

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World News

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bombardment, IS now controls the largest oil refinery in Iraq [16].

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2. Fox News, *State Department reportedly deems mission to rescue Americans in Yemen too risky*, May 2, 2015.
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4. Starr, Barbara, et. al., CNN, *First on CNN: U.S.-flagged ship intercepted by Iranian patrol*, April 28, 2015.
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14. Blanchard, Ben, Reuters, *China, Russia to Hold First Joint Mediterranean Naval Drills in May*, May 1, 2015.
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*A horse never runs so fast
as when he has other
horses to catch up and
outpace—Ovid*

Terrorism

A century ago, chemical weapons were introduced during World War 1 [1]. Now we are seeing images of Sarin gas attacks against civilian targets in Syria [2]. With the Islamic State (IS) capturing more land, it is unclear how much and what types of chemical weapons will fall into its hands. Given the porous US border, might this pose a domestic threat?

This as the situation in Syria continues to deteriorate. For example, US backed fighters are coordinating with al-Qaeda rebels [3]. So the question here is, if Syria falls, who will control what's left?

The Taliban terrorist organization has started its spring offensive in Afghanistan [3]. Concurrently, the US is in

negotiations with Qatari officials to keep restrictions on the five Taliban leaders exchanged for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl [4]. Additionally, one report indicates the US still has no idea how many Afghans soldiers actually belong to the Taliban [5].

1. Pruszewicz, Marek, BBC World Service, *How deadly was the poison gas of WWI?*, January 30, 2015.
2. Pelley, Scott, CBS News, *A Crime Against Humanity*, April 19, 2015.
3. Reuters, *CIA-Backed Rebels Fight Alongside al-Qaeda Wing in Syria*, April 30, 2015.
4. Stancati, Margherita, and Hodge, Nathan, *Wall Street Journal*, *Afghan Forces Press Counter-*

Offensive To Defend New Front Line Against Taliban, April 29, 2015.

5. Fox News, *US reportedly in talks on keeping restrictions on 'Taliban Five' as deal set to lapse*, May 2, 2015.
6. Broder, Jonathan, *Newsweek*, *U.S. Doesn't Know How Many Afghans Are Fighting the Taliban*, April 29, 2015.

*Your own safety is at stake
when your neighbor's wall
is ablaze—Horace*

Economy

According to the Labor Department, the number of first time unemployment claims, for the week ending April 18, increased to 295,000 [1]. Then for the following week, the number reported was 262,000 [2].

What's more, according to the Commerce Department; for the first three months of this year, the US economy only grew at a 0.2% rate of growth [3]. To put this in another perspective, this is not the actual growth, only the rate of growth. Thus the actual growth would be only 0.05% for the quarter.

The American worker is again under fire from cheaper im-

ported labor. Case in point, a number of Disney IT workers were displaced with H-1B visa workers [4]. Note, the H-1B visa allows foreign nationals to work in the US. A question here is; what is the incentive for a college degree?

What's more, one report estimates that by 2025 robots will take 30% of our jobs and by 2029 robots will have human intelligence [5]. With so many jobs gone, where will the American workers find employment?

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Power has no limits–
Tiberius
