

## IN THE NEWS

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### World News

The last leader of the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev, warned the deteriorating relationship between Russia and US is becoming dangerous [1]. One piece suggests US and Russian relationship has reached a low not seen since 1973 [2].

In Iraq, there was a publicized lead-up to the fight as forces prepared to attack Mosul [3]. Concurrently, the Islamic State (IS) was observed preparing for the expected attack [4]. Then thousands of Iraqi forces were reported moving in for combat [5]. Following the start of fighting; on October 20, Kurdish fighters opened a second front, attacking north of Mosul [6]. While the battle for Mosul continued, IS launched attacks against the Iraqi city of Kirkuk [7].

One report suggests North Korea could possess 100 nuclear weapons by 2020 [8]. However, delivery systems remain problematic. For instance, a recent intermediate range ballistic missile test exploded shortly after lift-off [9].

While much of the world focus has been elsewhere, China continues to advance their science and research. For instance, the communist giant sent two astronauts into space to dock with the recently launched Chinese space station [10]. China also scored a victory when Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte announced separation with the United States in favor of China [11].

1. AFP, Gorbachev warns of 'dangerous point' as US-Russia ties sour, October 10, 2016.
2. Lederer, Edith M., AP/ABC News, *Russia Envoy: Tensions With US Are Probably Worst Since 1973*, October 15, 2016.
3. AP/New York Times, *Iraqi Forces Poised to Launch Operation to Re-*

(Continued on page 2)

### Security

The race to fix security holes continues. Adobe released patches to correct 74 vulnerabilities [1]. Microsoft released patches to correct 45 vulnerabilities, five of which were zero day bugs [2].

In the current election cycle, there are suggestions that Russian hackers breached the email account of John Podesta and released the stolen information [3]. This comes after indications of voter ma-

chines vulnerabilities surfaced [4].

On Friday, October 21, many East Coast Internet services were degraded or unavailable due to a distributed denial of service attack [5]. The attack appears to have targeted Twitter [6].

Although much of the news covers state sponsored attacks, the insider threat remains ever-present. For instance, a 51-year-old government contract work-

ing for the National Security Agency is accused of stealing 50-terabytes of classified information over a 20 year period [7],

1. Olenick, Doug, SC Magazine, *Patch Tuesday: Adobe fixes critical Flash Player, Acrobat and Reader vulnerabilities*, October 11, 2016.
2. Olenick, Doug, SC Magazine, *Patch Tuesday: Microsoft patches*

(Continued on page 2)

#### Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Economy	4

#### Special points of interest:

- Robots replacing people in China tech industry
- Record taxes collect while budget deficit increases

## Security

(Continued from page 1)

- five zero day vulnerabilities*, October 11, 2016.
3. Cordes, Nancy, CBS News, *Cybersecurity experts: Podesta infiltrated by Russian hackers*, October 20, 2016.
  4. Spunt, David, CBS Philadelphia, *New Report Warns Of Possible PA Voting Machine Issues*, October 3, 2016.
  5. Blumenthal, Eli, and Weise, Elizabeth, USA Today, *East coast Internet service attacks 'coming in waves'*, October 21, 2016.
  6. AP/Los Angeles Times, *Attacks on the Internet keep*

*getting bigger and nastier*, October 22, 2016.

7. Johnson, Kevin, USA Today, *Feds: Massive data theft at NSA could bring espionage charges*, October 20, 2016.

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*I'm proud to be called the father of the H-bomb. It was necessary.—Edward Teller*

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## World News

(Continued from page 1)

- take Mosul*, October 16, 2016.
4. Blau, Max, et. al., CNN, *Battle for Mosul: Iraqi forces close in*, October 17, 2016.
  5. Nordland, Rod, New York Times, *In ISIS-Held Mosul, Beheadings and Hints of Resistance as Battle Nears*, October 16, 2016.
  6. Gordon, Michael R., New York Times, *Kurdish Forces Open Attack on Mosul From the North*, October 20, 2016.
  7. AP/New York Times, *Under Fire in Mosul, IS Attacks Another Iraqi City*, October 21, 2016.
  8. Roy, Ananya, International Business Times, *US think tank warns North Korea could develop up to 100 nuclear weapons by 2020*, October 10, 2016.
  9. AP/Wall Street Journal, *North Korean Missile Reportedly Explodes Soon After Liftoff*, October 16, 2016.
  10. Bloomberg, *China Sends Astronauts Into Space for Longest Mission Yet*, October 16, 2016.
  11. Mohammed, Arshad, and

Alexander, David, Reuters, *U.S. to seek explanation of Duterte's comment on 'separation'*, October 20, 2016.

## Terrorism

Back in 2000, the USS Cole was heavily damaged by a suicide attack in Yemen [1]. Now two missiles were fired from territory in southern Yemen controlled by Iran-backed Shiite rebels at the guided missile destroyer, USS Mason [2]. The same warship was again targeted by a missile attack and salvos were fired in response to the missiles [3]. In turn, the US launched cruise missiles and destroyed radar sites controlled by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels [4]. Then Iran deployed some of its warships to patrol the area [5]. Finally, for a third time, missiles were fired at US ships from territory controlled by the Iranian backed rebels [6]. Meanwhile, the Islamic State (IS) continues acts of terrorism. Case in point, at least 35 were killed at a funeral in Baghdad by a suicide bomber [7].

In Afghanistan the Taliban continue using suicide bomb-

ings. For example, the Taliban released a from video of a suicide bombing against a police base [8].

1. CNN, *USS Cole Bombing Fast Facts*, October 6, 2016.
2. Onyanga-Omara, Jane, *USA Today*, *Two missiles fired from Yemen land near U.S. warship*, October 10, 2016.
3. Stewart, Phil, and Ali, Idrees, *Reuters*, U.S. Navy destroyer again targeted by missiles from Yemen: U.S. officials, October 12, 2016.
4. Lee, Matthew, and Baldor, Lolita C., *AP/Washington Post*, *US strikes in Yemen risk wider entanglement in civil war*, October 13, 2016.
5. Fox News, *Iran deploys warships off Yemen after US, Houthis trade fire*, October 13, 2016.
6. Tomlinson, Lucas, *Fox News/AP*, *US warship possibly targeted by Yemen rebels for a third time*, October 16, 2016.
7. Fox News/AP, *ISIS suicide bomber strikes Baghdad funeral tent, killing 35*, October 15, 2016.
8. Stanekzai, Zainullah, *Reuters*, *Taliban release drone footage of suicide attack*, October 22, 2016.

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*The only use for an atomic  
bomb is to keep somebody  
else from using one—  
George Wald*

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# Economy

The transfer of American wealth to China continues. For instance, the number of billionaires in China now exceeds that of the US [1]. It is interesting to look at how China is dealing with the increased cost of labor. For instance, Foxconn now has 40,000 robots and may eventually replace all factory workers with robots [2]. So why must we buy our electronics from China? Meanwhile, HP announced plans to cut 4,000 jobs over the next three years [3].

According to the Labor Department, the number of first time unemployment claims for the week ending October 8 was 246,000 [4]. Then for the following week, the number reported was 260,000 [5]. During fiscal year 2016, the US Government collected a record \$3.27 trillion in taxes

[6]. Nevertheless, the US government budget debt increased 34% over last year to \$587 billion [7]. Once again, the US Treasury Department refused to label China a currency manipulator; thereby preventing economic penalties for Chinese imports [8].

1. BBC News, China tops US in numbers of billionaires, October 13, 2016.
2. China Tech News, No More Humans: Foxconn Deploys 40,000 Robots In China, October 13, 2016.
3. Bort, Julie, Business Insider, HP workers brace for 4,000 more job cuts over the next 3 years, October 13, 2016.
4. Reuters, US weekly jobless claims total 246,000 vs 254,000 estimate, October 13, 2016.
5. Crutsinger, Martin, AP,

US Claims for Unemployment Benefits Rise by 13,000, October 20, 2016

6. Meyer, Ali, Washington Free Beacon, Government Collects \$3.27 Trillion in Taxes in Fiscal Year 2016, October 14, 2016.
7. McClatchy, Obama administration: Budget deficit increases to \$587B, October 14, 2016.
8. Mayeda, Abdrew, and Mohsin, Saleha, Bloomberg, China No Currency Manipulator, Obama Treasury Says for Last Time, October 14, 2016.

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*All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.*—Arthur Schopenhauer

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