

IN THE NEWS

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World News

The US continues to press its war on terrorism, In Somalia, a US air attack on an al-Shabab training camp reportedly left over 150 terrorists dead [1].

It appears China has taken over another area of the South China Sea. Case in point, Chinese warships have secured the Quirino Atoll (Jackson Atoll) for over a month [2]. In a reef seized from the Philippines there appears to be a precursor to more land reclamation by China [3]. As China continues to create and then militarize islands we should not forget their commitment to an expanded navy. Case in point, they are constructing a second aircraft carrier; nearing the start of a 10,000+ ton class cruiser; starting a third generation nuclear powered attack submarines; and adding a third marine brigade [4]. The Type 055 Chinese cruiser is believed to: weigh 11,500 tons; measure 175 meters long and 21 meters wide; move at speeds up to 32 knots; include upgraded radars; and have 96 VLS launchers [5].

Meanwhile, China and Russia are continuing to advance their ability to attack US military assets. Case in point, both potential adversaries are planning space attacks against US satellites using Kinetic and laser weapons [6].

Elsewhere in Asia, the North Korean Communist nation is causing regional anxiety. For instance, on March 18, they fired two 500 mile range ballistic missile off its east coast [7].

1. BBC News, *Al-Shabab denies US strike in Somalia killed 150 fighters*, March 8, 2016.
2. Iyengar, Rishi, Time, *Has Taken Over Another Disputed Territory in the South China*, March 2, 2016.
3. Brunnstrom, David, and Shalal, Andrea, Reuters, *Exclusive: U.S. sees*

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Security

The race to keep software vulnerabilities patched continues. Microsoft's patch Tuesday addressed 44 vulnerabilities [1]. Additionally, Google issued patches to fix 16 bugs [2].

Meanwhile, the effort to maintain patch management is getting expensive. In one survey, many IT enterprises struggle to keep patches up to date [3]. To be sure, keeping patches

up to date is ever important given state sponsored cyberattacks. Case in point, six months after pledging to halt cyber espionage, it appears China is continuing its effort against the United States [4].

The types of cyberattacks hitting the US continue to exploit critical infrastructure weaknesses. For instance, the small Bowman Avenue Dam, located in Rye Brook, about 20 miles north of New York City;

had its control system hacked by sources in Iran [5].

1. Olenick, Doug, SC Magazine, *Microsoft's March Patch Tuesday: 13 bulletins covering 44 vulnerabilities*, March 8, 2016.
2. Davis, Seth, SC Magazine, *Google patches 16 Android bugs, including 7 critical flaws*, March 8, 2016.

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Special points of interest:

- China starts building a new island
- First bank in 2016 shuttered

Security

from Iran, March 13, 2016.

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3. Able, Robert, SC Magazine, *IT depts. suffering from 'patch fatigue,' study says*, March 11, 2016.
4. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *China Continuing Cyber Attacks on U.S. Networks*, March 18, 2016.
5. Eltman, Frank, AP, *Schumer: Dam cyberattack was 'shot across the bow'*

The survivors (of a nuclear war) would envy the dead—
Nikita Khrushchev

World News

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- new Chinese activity around South China Sea shoal, March 18, 2016.
4. Aviation Week & Space Technology, *China's Defense Prepares for Overhaul*, February 16, 2016.
5. Goldstein, Lyle J., The National Interest, *Can China's 'Dreadnought' Tip the Naval Balance?*, March 19, 2016.
6. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *China, Russia Planning Space Attacks on U.S. Satellites*, March 16, 2016.
7. Kwon, KJ, et. al., CNN, *North Korea launches ballistic missiles*, March 18, 2018.

Terrorism

Terrorism is continuing to target civilians overseas. In Turkey's capital, Ankara, a terrorist car bomb exploded near bus stop killed at least 34 people [1]. Then a Kurdish rebel group claimed responsibility for a car bomb attack that killed at least 37 people in the Turk capital [2]. As a response, Turkish warplanes struck Kurdish targets in Iraq [3]. Additionally, a suicide attacker detonated a bomb on an Istanbul shopping street killing at least 5 people [4]. What's more, the spread of religious war is expected to continue. For example, Iranian Maj. Gen. Mohammad Ali Jafari, who commands the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, is reported to claim the wars in Iraq and Syria are a gateway for spreading Islamic revolution throughout the world [5].

Africa continues to suffer

from terrorist attacks, For instance, in Nigeria, two female suicide bombers left at least 24 dead at a mosque [6]. In the Ivory Coast, al-Qaeda linked terrorist attacked a hotel resulting in at least 22 people dead [7]. The killers were reported to speak in perfect English [8].

1. Fraser, Suzan, AP, *Car bomb in Turkey's capital kills at least 34, wounds 125*, March 13, 2016.
2. Botelho, Greg, CNN, *Kurdish rebels claim deadly Ankara blast as strain on Turkey grows*, March 17, 2016.
3. New York Times/AP, *Turkey Carries Out Air strikes After Deadly Bombing*, March 14, 2016.
4. AP/USA Today, *Suicide bomber kills 5, injures dozens in Istanbul shopping area*, March 16, 2016.

5. Scarborough, Rowan, *The Washington Times*, *Iran says Iraq, Syria conflicts gateway to spreading Islamic revolution worldwide*, March 15, 2016
6. Sieff, Kevin, Washington Post, *Suicide bombers trigger deadly blast in Nigerian mosque*, March 16, 2016.
7. Mieu, Baudelaire, et. al., Bloomberg, *Al-Qaeda Claims Ivory Coast Attack That Left 22 People Dead*, March 14, 2016.
8. McKenzie, David, and Formanek, Ingrid, CNN, *Bartender, victim's widow describe massacre at Ivory Coast beach*, March 18, 2016.

*The goal of socialism is
communism—Vladimir
Lenin*

Economy

According to the Labor Department, for the week ending March 5, the number of first time unemployment claims was 259,000 [1]. Then for the following week, the number of claims reported was 265,000 [2].

Meanwhile, financial institutions continue to fail. For instance, on March 11, the North Milwaukee State Bank was shuttered by regulators [3].

In many cases, when a US company decides to move operations to another country the decision is based on profit. Case in point, the decision by Carrier to displace 1,400 US workers and move manufacturing to Mexico was based on cost [4]. So unfair trade continues to sap the US of good paying jobs, wealth, and the tax base necessary to fund government programs. With the newfound wealth, non-US industries are purchasing American companies and then further eliminating US jobs. For instance, Chicago Nabisco bakery was purchased

by Mondelez International; as a consequence, 1,200 US worker jobs will be eliminated as Oreo cookies moves manufacturing to Mexico [5].

So what can we expect Chinese companies purchasing US assets to do? For example, GE sold its appliance division to China's Haier Group [6]. So in addition to gaining the manufacturing technology, the foreign company now has greater access for moving made in China appliances into American households.

1. Reuters/CNBC, *US weekly jobless claims total 259,000 vs 275,000 estimate*, March 10, 2016.
2. Reuters, *Unemployment Claims Rise; Job Openings Hit Six-Month High*, March 17, 2016.
3. Milwaukee Business Journal, *North Milwaukee State Bank closed, taken over by North Carolina bank*, March 11, 2016.
4. Schwartz, Nelson D., New York Times, *Carrier Workers See Costs, Not*

Benefits, of Global Trade, March 19, 2016.

5. Trotter, Greg, Chicago Tribune, *Oreo bakers union, Mondelez halt negotiations*, March 1, 2016.
6. Erchi, Zhang, and Yunxu, Qu, Asia Times, *With GE Appliances deal, Haier fulfills an American dream*, March 6, 2016.

*A wall is a hell of a lot
better than a war—John F.
Kennedy*
