

## IN THE NEWS

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### World News

The Watts Bar nuclear plant became the first new US nuclear power generating facility in two decades [1]. The new plant adds 1,150 megawatts of electricity capacity to southeastern Tennessee [2]. However, as this reactor comes on line, plans are to shutter the Diablo nuclear plant in California [3]. So as there appears to be a lack of concern over the nuclear weapons from China, North Korea, Iran, Pakistan, India, Russia, and others; nuclear power generation continues to struggle in the US.

As the US continues to export jobs, wealth, and technology to China, the communist giant is advancing. For instance, China developed the world's fastest supercomputer and didn't use any US made integrated circuits [4]. It's interesting to note, fifteen years ago, China did not have any of the top 500 supercomputers; now they have the most including one 5 times faster than the best US machine [5]. In other Chinese news, the Chinese navy released pictures of its new the 093B "Shang" nuclear attack submarine [6].

Elsewhere in Asia, North Korea test fired two nuclear capable missiles with an estimated range of 2,500 miles [7]. Then Vice President Biden warned China that in response to North Korean aggression, Japan could go nuclear overnight [8]. If Japan does develop its own nuclear weapons and China continues its aggression in the South China Sea; the potential for nuclear war becomes more likely.

After two years of fighting, Iraqi forces are still trying to oust the Islamic State (IS) from Fallujah [9]. However, one report indicates the Iraqi military has secured Fallujah [10]. What's more, the IS continues to push back in Iraq, Syria, and Libya [11].

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#### Special points of interest:

- UK to leave the EU

### Security

Once again, state sponsored cyber-attacks are in the news. Case in point, Russian government hackers broke into the Democratic National Committee network and compromised databases, email, and Chat traffic [1]. Concurrently, Chinese espionage and intelligence activities are reported to be at an all-time high [2].

There seems to be a bit of a mystery regarding access to a sensitive database. One

piece indicates a database containing 154 million voter names, their political affiliation, and gun ownership; was unsecured and accessed by Serbia [3].

Most of the news reporting regarding malicious cyber-attacks focus on the big breaches. In turn, planners are warning of retaliatory attacks if critical government systems are disrupted [4]. However, the problem is impacting people, business, and government at all

levels. For instance, bad actors attacked the Minnesota Judicial Branch's website [5]. Unfortunately, the crappy products developed without security consideration are the current standard all systems operate on. What's sad is many of the current problems could have been avoided if early security work was included. The problem then was security didn't sell. Few developers wanted to believe securi-

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## Security

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ty problems common today could occur. Back in the late 80's the phrase that stays: "Computer viruses will never be more than curiosities. You are wasting your time..."

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2. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Asia Times: Chinese Espionage and Intelligence Activities at All Time High*, June 14, 2016.
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4. Shalal, Andrea, Reuters, *Massive cyber attack could trigger NATO response: Stoltenberg*, June 16, 2016.
5. Lopez, Ricardo, Minneapolis Star Tribune, *Minnesota courts cyberattack underscores growing threat*, June 25, 2016.

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*It is far better to be alone,  
than to be in bad  
company—George  
Washington*

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## World News

(Continued from page 1)

- tor in decades. And climate change has made that a very big deal, June 17, 2016.
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4. Thibodeau, Patrick, Computer World, *China builds world's fastest super-computer without U.S. chips*, June 20, 2016.
5. Dongarra, Jack, Wired, *China's New Supercomputer Puts the US Even Further Behind*, June 21, 2016.
6. Ernst, Douglas, The Washington Times, *Chinese navy offers glimpse of secretive nuclear-attack submarine*, June 23, 2016.
7. Marks, James 'Spider', CNN, [Don't blink over North Korea](#), June 24, 2016.
8. Kyodo/Japan Today, *Japan could go nuclear 'virtually overnight,' Biden tells Xi*, June 25, 2016.
9. Banco, Erin, International Business Times, *ISIS In Iraq: Why The Iraqi Military Has Taken So Long To Defeat Islamic State Group In Fallujah*, June 22, 2016.
10. AP/New York Times, *Iraqi Commander: Fallujah 'Fully Liberated' From IS*, June 26, 2016.
11. Issa, Philip, and George, Susannah, AP/ABC News, *Islamic State Militants Push Back in Syria, Iraq and Libya*, June 23, 2016.

## Terrorism

Once again the Islamic State (IS) is claiming responsibility for terrorist attacks against Western nations. In France, a police commander and his partner were killed by a terrorist claiming IS allegiance [1]. What's more, the terrorist streamed the live video of the murder [2]. In Orlando, Florida, the terrorist responsible for killing at least 49 people called 911 and pledged his allegiance to the IS [3]. The Orlando terrorist act was the deadliest mass shooting in US history [4].

Attacks on Westerners extend to the Philippines. For instance, an Islamic terrorist group beheaded a second Canadian national [5].

Meanwhile, the Taliban are continuing to expand in Afghanistan [6]. The Taliban in Karachi, claimed responsibility for killing a beloved Pakistani singer [7]. By one account, the Taliban now holds more ground in Afghanistan than at any time since 2001

[8].

In Africa, Islamic terrorism continues. For instance, the al-Shabab terrorists claimed responsibility for killing at least 14 in another hotel attack in Mogadishu, Somalia [9].

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5. Ullah, Zahra, et. al., CNN, *Second Canadian in Philippines executed by Abu Sayyaf militants*, June 14, 2016.
6. Chalfant, Morgan, Washington Free Beacon, *Pentagon: Taliban Continues to Expand in Afghanistan*, June 21, 2016.
7. Johnson, Kay, Reuters, *Pakistan mourns murdered singer in attack claimed by Taliban*, June 23, 2016.
8. O'Donnell, Lynne, AP, *The Taliban now hold more ground in Afghanistan than at any point since 2001*, June 16, 2016.
9. AP, *Gunmen Take Guests Hostage at Somalia Hotel, 14 Killed: Report*, June 25, 2016.

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*The pacifist is as surely a  
traitor to his country and  
to humanity as is the most  
brutal wrongdoer—  
Theodore Roosevelt*

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# Economy

Readers may recall the concern over Greece’s debt and the threats to the European Union (EU) if they left [1]. While the focus in the past was on Greece, this has shifted to the United Kingdom (UK).

The big news from Europe is a majority of voters in the UK approved leaving the EU [2]. In the interim, the UK will remain part of the EU until all the exit negotiations are complete [3]. The initial result was global stock markets fell [4]. Moreover, there are those in the EU that want to punish the UK and are demanding they speed up the exit [5].

Back in the US, according to the Labor Department, for the week ending June 11, the number of first time unemployment claims was 277,000 [6]. Then for the following week, the number was

259,000 [7]. Moreover, there is more bad news to report on the economic front. Eight states had a negative GDP during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter [8].

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3. BBC News, Reality Check: 'Do I need a new passport?' and other Brexit questions, June 24, 2016.
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5. Masters, James, CNN, Brexit: EU leaders demand quick UK exit as economic fallout grows, June 25, 2016.
6. Reuters, US weekly jobless claims total 277,000 vs 270,000 estimate, June 16, 2016.
7. Jamrisko, Michelle, Bloomberg, Jobless Claims in U.S. Declined More Than Forecast Last Week, June 23, 2016.
8. Meyer, Ali, Washington Free Beacon, Eight State Economies Shrank in 4th Quarter, June 14, 2016.

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When you live under the  
power of terror and  
segregation, you can't ever  
start a work of art—Jeanne  
Moreau

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