

# IN THE NEWS

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## World News

June, 1950 marked the start of the Korean War; a war not yet concluded with a peace treaty [1]. Consequently, any efforts to finally conclude the conflict are newsworthy. To this end, a face-to-face meeting between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un took place in Singapore on June 12 [2]. Afterwards, the North Korean press declared the meeting a success and praised the US President [3].

In other news from Asia, China continues to militarize the South China Sea. For instance, one report indicates China is deploying the 340 mile range YJ-12B anti-ship cruise missiles to its islands [4]. What's more, during a face-to-face meeting, President Xi Jinping informed Defense Secretary Jim Mattis that China would not give up one inch of territory in the South China Sea [5]. The longer range goals of China appear to be more militaristic. For instance, one piece suggests China will possess 7 aircraft carriers by 2025 [6].

This comes as there are indications China may be subjecting US personnel to low level attacks. For instance, one piece suggests China is using sonic attacks against US diplomats [7]. Additionally, Chinese operatives are reportedly using lasers in the East China Sea to blind US military pilots [8]. That China would engage in open acts of hostility with embarking on a rapid arms race does not bode well for the future.

1. CNN Library, *Korean War Fast Facts*, April 30, 2018. Van Buren, Peter, Reuters, *Commentary: Whatever happens next, the Trump-Kim summit is a win*, June 12, 2018.
2. McKirdy, Euan, CNN, *North Korean media praises Trump in 'meeting of the century'*, June 13, 2018.
3. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *China Adds Advanced Missiles to South China Sea Islands*, June 14, 2018.
4. Gibbons-Neff, Thomas, and Myers, Steven Lee, NY Times, *China Won't* (Continued on page 2)

## Security

Security is based on confidentiality, integrity, and availability; referred to as the CIA triad. So whenever a business reports a denial of service problem, we have to consider cyber security. For instance, an American Airlines regional carrier cancelled all its flights on the morning of June 19 due to a reported computer bug [1]. In another example, Comcast customers experienced a service outage the company

blamed on a severed fiber cable [2].

Many cyber-attacks are based on realizing profit. For example, bad actors launched a wiper malware attack on a Chilean bank (Banco de Chile) as cover to steal \$10 million from SWIFT transactions [3].

Meanwhile, state sponsored cyber-attacks continue. For instance, one report indicates a China successfully breached a defense contrac-

tor in Virginia [4].

1. Robinson, Teri, SC Magazine, *Wiper attack at Chilean bank provided cover for \$10M SWIFT heist*, June 13, 2018.
2. Newman, Lily Hay, Wired, *Friday's Massive Comcast Outage Shows How Fragile The Internet Is*, June 29, 2018.
3. Pascus, Brian, Business Insider, *A computer glitch forced American*

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### Special points of interest:

- NASDAQ Record High

## Security

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*Airlines to cancel hundreds of flights, and customers are furious, June 20, 2018.*

4. Nesi, Ted, WPRI, *Chinese hack of Newport Navy contractor is 'very serious,' Reed says, June 11, 2018.*

## World News

(Continued from page 1)

*Yield 'Even One Inch' of South China Sea, Xi Tells Mattis, June 27, 2018.*

5. Ait, Abraham, *The Diplomat, Will China Have 7 Aircraft Carriers by 2025?*, June 30, 2018.
6. Crabtree, Susan, *Washington Free Beacon, Rep. Wilson Wants Formal Reports on U.S. Response to Sonic Attacks in China, Cuba, June 29, 2018.*
7. Johnson, Jesse, *Japan Times, U.S. military pilots in East China Sea targeted in laser attacks, June 22, 2018.*

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*The meaning of peace is the absence of opposition to socialism.—Karl Marx*

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## Terrorism

With the successful military actions within Syria, terrorism has seen a downturn. However, the war in Yemen is back in the news. Saudi-led coalition forces launched an attack on the port city of Hodeidah [1]. In another incident, two missiles launched by Yemen's Houthi militia were intercepted over the Saudi Arabia capital, Riyadh [2]. That rebels are in possession of advanced missiles indicates outside influences to keep the war going. In particular, Iran is reported to be one of the state sponsors of the conflict [3].

It's not enough for the Taliban and the Afghanistan government to negotiate peace. Case in point, on day 3 of the Afghanistan cease-fire, the Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that left at least 26 dead [4].

1. Domonoske, Camila, NPR, *Saudi Arabia And Its Allies Strike Yemen's Main Port City*, June 13, 2018. .

2. Reuters, *Saudi air defences intercept missiles above capital – coalition*, June 24, 2018.
3. O'Connor, Tom, Newsweek, *Iran Says Saudi Arabia Will 'Suffer More' Over Yemen War as U.S. Sends Kushner to Kingdom*, June 20, 2018.
4. Jain, Rupam, and Sediqi, Qadir, Reuters, *Afghanistan Eid car bomb, claimed by Islamic State, kills 26*, June 17, 2018.

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*War is peace. Freedom is  
slavery. Ignorance is  
strength.—George Orwell*

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## Economy

In other good news, the value of stocks continue to remain high. For instance, on June 12 the Nasdaq composite set a new record high [1]. Then on July 13, the Nasdaq composite rose to a new intraday high [2]. Unfortunately, the Fed raised interest rates for the second time this year [3]. Then on June 14, the Nasdaq rose 0.9% to close at a new record high [4]. However, these highs were not sustained [5].

For the week ending June 9, the number of first time unemployment claims fell to a 44 year low of 218,000 [6]. Then for the week ending June 16, the number of claims was 218,000 [7]. Finally, for the week ending June 23, the

number reported was 227,000 [8].

1. Arancibia, Juan Carlos, Investor's Business Daily, *Nasdaq Climbs To Record High, And This Other Index Also Hits New High*, June 12, 2018.
2. Franck, Thomas, and Gibbs, Alexandra, CNBC, *Dow falls nearly 120 points after Fed hikes rates, points to more increases in 2018*, June 13, 2018.
3. Borak, Donna, CNN Money, *Fed raises interest rates and signals faster hikes on the way*, June 13, 2018.
4. Imbert, Fred, and Amaro, Silvia, CNBC, *Nasdaq posts record close as media and tech stocks jump on dealmaking*, June 14, 2018.
5. Imbert, Fred, and Gibbs, Alexandra, cnbc, *Dow erases 285-point gain, stocks fall as tech and financials roll over*, June 27, 2018.
6. Reuters/CBNC, *US weekly jobless claims total 218,000, vs 224,000 expected*, June 14, 2018.
7. Reuters/CNBC, *US weekly jobless claims total 218,000, vs 220,000 expected*, June 21, 2018.
8. Nasdaq, *U.S. Weekly Jobless Claims Rise More Than Expected To 227,000*, June 28, 2018.

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*Courageous people do not  
fear forgiving, for the sake  
of peace.—Nelson Mandela*

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