

ASIA-PACIFIC & GLOBAL SITUATIONAL AWARENESS UPDATE

16 DECEMBER 2015

A WEEKLY OPEN-SOURCE NEWS UPDATE ACROSS THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AND THE GLOBE

ASIA-PACIFIC

Rethinking North Korean Missile Capabilities



<http://thediplomat.com/2015/12/rethinking-north-korean-missile-capabilities/>

U.S. Expert Calls For More Serious Attention To North Korea's H-Bomb Claims

<http://www.koreatimesus.com/us-expert-calls-for-more-serious-attention-to-n-koreas-h-bomb-claims/>

38 North: Did Somebody Say H-bomb?

<http://38north.org/2015/12/jlewis121415/>

Does North Korea Have A Highly Destructive Hydrogen Bomb? The Answer May Lie Somewhere In Between

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/news/a18505/north-korea-claims-to-have-h-bomb/>

China's Repatriation Of North Korean Defectors Must End, U.N. Says

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2015/12/15/Chinas-repatriation-of-North-Korean-defectors-must-end-UN-says/8921450203576/?spt=sec&or=tn

North Korean Musical Groups Abruptly Cancel Concerts in Beijing



<http://thediplomat.com/2015/12/north-korean-musical-groups-abruptly-cancel-concerts-in-beijing/>

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/entertainment/north-korean-pop-band-lea/2341772.html>
<http://www.koreatimesus.com/n-korean-girl-bands-performance-in-beijing-canceled/>

Why Did Kim Jong-un's Showcase Band Cancel Their China Show?

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/12/why-did-kim-jong-uns-showcase-band-cancel-their-china-show/>
http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2015/12/15/2015121501078.html

North Korea To Face The Music After Cancelling Moranbong Shows

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/15/north-korea-moranbong-kim-jong-un>

China Still Mum On North Korean Band's Abrupt Cancellation

<http://www.koreatimesus.com/china-still-mum-on-n-korean-bands-abrupt-cancellation/>

North, South Korea End Talks Without Any Breakthroughs

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/north-korea-restart-talks-meant-ease-animosity-35729212>

North Korea Says Inter-Korea Quickly-Announced Talks Worsened Ties



<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/north-korea-says-inter/2349200.html>

North Korea Conflict Could Become 'Trans-Regional,' : CJCS



http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2015/12/14/North-Korea-conflict-could-become-trans-regional-US-official-says/9851450145926/

The Navy's Colossal Stealth Destroyer Heads Out to Sea



<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/navy-ships/a18449/uss-zumwalt/>
<http://www.popsci.com/this-is-zumwalt-at-sea>

The U.S. Navy Is Slowly Realizing It May Have to Sink Ships Again in the Future



The problem started with the end of the Cold War. Defense budget cuts in the 1990s slashed the size of the navy, and pushed back a replacement for the venerable Harpoon missile. This was understandable—with the demise of the Soviet Navy, the U.S. Navy had no peer in projecting sea power. 9/11 further shifted priorities.

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/a18391/the-us-navy-is-slowly-realizing-it-may-have-to-sink-ships-again-in-the-future/>

U.S. Not Expected To Stage Another 'Freedom Of Navigation' Patrol In South China Sea This Year

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/12/15/asia-pacific/u-s-not-expected-stage-another-freedom-navigation-patrol-south-china-sea-year/>

Undeterred By China, Navy Ops Continue In South China Sea

<http://www.stripes.com/news/undeterred-by-china-navy-ops-continue-in-south-china-sea-1.384138>

China Can't Stop U.S. Naval Operations, Pacific Fleet Commander Says

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2015/12/15/China-cant-stop-US-naval-operations-Pacific-Fleet-commander-says/6161450196226/?spt=sec&or=tn

Underestimating U.S. in Asia a 'Severe Miscalculation': Senior Defense Official



<http://thediplomat.com/2015/12/underestimating-us-in-asia-a-severe-miscalculation-senior-defense-official/>

Obama Expected To Move On Taiwan Arms Sales Before Year End

It comes a year after Congress passed the Naval Transfer Act authorizing the sale of up to four Perry-class frigates to Taiwan in December 2014.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/12/15/asia-pacific/obama-expected-move-taiwan-guided-missile-frigate-sales-year-end/>

<http://www.ibtimes.com/obama-expected-move-taiwan-arms-sales-year-end-2225266>

U.S. Navy Commander Warns Of Possible South China Sea Arms Race

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/12/15/asia-pacific/u-s-navy-commander-warns-possible-south-china-sea-arms-race/>

Australia Conducting 'Freedom Of Navigation' Flights In South China Sea



<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-35099445>

China Warns BBC Plane Away From Artificial South China Sea Island



<http://www.stripes.com/news/china-warns-bbc-plane-away-from-artificial-south-china-sea-island-1.384122>

Role of Submarines in the Western Pacific

<https://www.stratfor.com/analysis/role-submarines-western-pacific>

The Chinese Submarine Threat



<http://thediplomat.com/2015/12/the-chinese-submarine-threat/>

China's Submarines Add Nuclear-Strike Capability, Altering Strategic Balance

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/chinas-submarine-fleet-adds-nuclear-strike-capability-altering-strategic-balance-undersea-1414164738>

Chinese Threats To U.S. Surface Ships: Assessment Of Relative Capabilities, 1996–2017

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9858z4.html

Sea Transportation: The Chinese Threat



China is the most frequent abuser of the 1994 treaty, which it signed. For example China claims that American electronic monitoring ships are conducting illegal espionage while in the Chinese EEZ. But the 1994 treaty says nothing about such matters. China is simply doing what China has been doing for centuries, trying to impose its will on neighbors, or anyone venturing into what China considers areas under its control. China is not alone, but because China is pushing the limits of how the 1994 law can be interpreted (or misinterpreted) other nations with similar opportunities to lay claim to crucial chunks of the seascape are ready to emulate China if some of the more aggressive Chinese ploys actually work.

<http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htseamo/articles/20150415.aspx>

Is China's 'Belt and Road' a Strategy?

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/12/is-chinas-belt-and-road-a-strategy/>

China's Political, Military Clout Stabilizes Asia-Pacific

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/commentary/2015/12/13/commentary-chinas-political-military-clout-stabilizes-asia-pacific/77023902/>

U.S. – Vietnam Ties: The China Dimension



<http://cimsec.org/us-vietnam-ties-the-china-dimension/20403>

Russia-Vietnam: Cooperation In The Arctic? Likely To Strengthen Ties In Energy Sector



<http://thediplomat.com/2015/12/russia-vietnam-cooperation-in-the-arctic/>

South China Sea Arbitration: Beijing Puts Forward Her Own Views Part One, Chinese Attitudes Towards International Law

<http://cimsec.org/south-china-sea-arbitration-beijing-puts-forward-views-part-one/19917>

The Russian Navy: Strategies And Missions Of A Force In Transition

<http://cimsec.org/russian-navy-strategies-missions-force-transition/20144>

Everything You Need To Understand The Fed's Interest Rate Hike



<http://qz.com/573350/absolutely-everything-you-need-to-understand-the-feds-interest-rate-hike/>

PHILIPPINES

More Than 800,000 Evacuated As Typhoon Melor Batters Philippines



<http://qz.com/573870/typhoon-melor-has-forced-nearly-800000-people-to-evacuate-their-homes-in-the-philippines/>

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/14/asia/philippines-typhoon-melor/>
<http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/melor-to-threaten-philippines/54139705>
<http://www.rappler.com/nation/special-coverage/weather-alert/115965-typhoon-nona-dec14-5pm>

Typhoon Melor Leaves 3 Million Without Electricity

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/15122015-philippines-typhoon-melor-leaves-3-million-without-electricity/>

Philippine Troops Clash With Militants, 15 Dead

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/philippine-troops-clash/2349672.html>

THAILAND

Tensions Test U.S.-Thai Relations As Strategic Talks Resume



<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/12/15/asia-pacific/tensions-test-u-s-thai-relations-strategic-talks-resume/>

Exclusive: Managing the Strained US-Thailand Alliance

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/12/exclusive-managing-the-strained-us-thailand-alliance/>

SINGAPORE

Singapore's New Fast Patrol Boat Is Practically a Submarine



<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/news/a18361/singapores-new-fast-patrol-boat-is-practically-a-submarine/>

MALAYSIA

Malaysia Wants Expanded Naval Protocol Amid South China Sea Disputes

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/12/malaysia-wants-expanded-naval-protocol-amid-south-china-sea-disputes/>

INDONESIA

Why Is Indonesia Not In The Saudi-Led Sunni Coalition Against Terror?



<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/why-is-indonesia-not-in-the-saudi-led-sunni-coalition-against-terror-a6774551.html>

Haze Fires Cost Indonesia \$22b, Twice Tsunami Bill: World Bank

<http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/haze-fires-cost-indonesia-22b-twice-tsunami-bill-world-bank>

AUSTRALIA

Australia Passes New Law to Strip Jihadists of Citizenship

<http://time.com/4136195/australia-law-citizenship-terror-convict/>

JAPAN

Abe's Diplomatic Successes Are Being Constrained By His Ideological Leanings

<http://thediomat.com/2015/12/japan-tangle-of-ideology-and-diplomacy/>

NORTH KOREA

North Korea Puts Off Party Congress Till Oct. 10

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2015/12/16/0200000000AEN20151216000500315.html?input=rss>

Kim Jong-Un Likely To Replace Ruling Elites In May: Report

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2015/12/15/19/0301000000AEN20151215006300315F.html>

Long-Serving North Korean Army General Dies, Is Respectfully Carried On Armored Personnel Carrier at Funeral



<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/a18257/when-a-military-hero-dies-in-north-korea-his-funeral-hearse-is-an-apc/>

SOUTH KOREA

South Korea's Labor Protests Weren't an Aberration



<http://thediplomat.com/2015/12/south-koreas-labor-protests-werent-an-aberration/>

President Park Renews Call For Correct History Education

<http://www.koreatimesus.com/park-renews-call-for-correct-history-education/>

CHINA

China May Be Reverse-Engineering MAHEM, the Pentagon's Handheld Railgun

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/a18386/china-mahem-railgun-darpa/>

China's Plainclothes Officers A Force Against Dissent



<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/12/15/asia-pacific/crime-legal-asia-pacific/chinas-plainclothes-officers-force-dissent/>

RUSSIA-UKRAINE

Washington's Distorted View of Russia and Putin



<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/kremlin-caricature-washingtons-distorted-view-russia-putin-14620>

Putin Signs Law Allowing Russia To Overturn Rulings Of International Rights Courts: Makes It Clear Russia's Constitution Takes Precedence Over International Law



<http://www.reuters.com/article/uk-russia-court-putin-idUKKBN0TY0JQ20151215>

<http://qz.com/574352/putin-signs-a-law-that-allows-russia-to-ignore-international-court-rulings-that-it-doesnt-like/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35007059>

Russian Defense Ministry Announces Military Procurement Plan



http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2015/12/15/Russian-Defense-Ministry-announces-military-procurement-plan/6111450202620/?spt=sec&or=bn

4 Ways Russia's Military Is More Advanced Than You Might Think

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/a18331/russias-military-tech/>

7 Modern Russian Military Vehicles We Respect: From Radar Jammers to Inflatable Decoys



<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/a5939/modern-russian-military-vehicles-we-respect/>

EUROPE

NORDEFECO Cooperation and the Russian Threat



<http://cimsec.org/nordefco-cooperation-russian-threat/19653>

USAF-Europe Chief Sees Russia Air Defenses As Top Concern

<HTTP://WWW.STRIPES.COM/NEWS/USAFE-CHIEF-SEES-RUSSIA-AIR-DEFENSES-AS-TOP-CONCERN-1.383189>

General: Russia's 'Significant' Buildup Along Baltic Sea 'Worrisome'

<https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/2015/12/11/general-russias-significant-buildup-along-baltic-sea-worrisome>

Russia Could Block Access to Baltic Sea, US General Says

<HTTP://WWW.DEFENSEONE.COM/THREATS/2015/12/RUSSIA-COULD-BLOCK-ACCESS-BALTIC-SEA-US-GENERAL-SAYS/124361/?OREF=D-DONTMISS>

Tanks, Heavy Vehicles To Be Fully Positioned In Eastern Europe Next Year

<HTTP://WWW.STRIPES.COM/NEWS/EUROPE/TANKS-HEAVY-VEHICLES-TO-BE-FULLY-POSITIONED-IN-EASTERN-EUROPE-NEXT-YEAR-1.383125>

Hilary Benn's Powerful Speech On Syria Moved British Lawmakers from Both Parties To Tears And Applause



<http://www.follownews.com/v/sof>

<http://www.follownews.com/one-politicians-powerful-speech-on-syria-moved-british-lawmakers-to-tears-and-applause-gszm>

<http://www.follownews.com/hashtag/hillary-benn>

Voters Split 50/50 On Pulling Out Of Europe For The First Time, Heaping More Pressure On Cameron Ahead Of Summit



<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3360290/Voters-evenly-split-pulling-Europe-Poll-puts-leave-remain-sides-neck-neck-time-heaping-pressure-Cameron-ahead-summit.html>

Merkel Promises To 'Noticeably Reduce' Refugee Inflow



<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/world/2015/12/15/merkel-promises-to-noticeably-reduce-refugee-inflow/>

Merkel Rewarded With 7-Minute Standing Ovation As She Falls On Both Sides Of Immigration Issue



<http://nytlive.nytimes.com/womenintheworld/2015/12/15/after-speech-on-refugees-merkel-receives-nine-minute-standing-ovation/>

Le Pen Lost a Battle But May Win the War in France

<http://time.com/4147837/marine-le-pen-france-regional-elections/>

EU Considers Its Own Border Patrol To Control Flow Of Refugees

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2015/12/15/EU-considers-its-own-border-patrol-to-control-flow-of-refugees/9681450197737/?spt=sec&or=tn

MIDDLE EAST

Saudi Arabia Forms 34-Nation Islamic Counterterrorism Coalition: Does Not Initially Include Iran, Iraq, Syria, or U.S.



Two things stand out immediately about this new Saudi-based Islamic Coalition. The Shia-majority nations of Iran and Iraq are noticeably absent, as is their ally Syria. The absence of Iran, Iraq and Syria, three countries battling the Islamic State group, raised questions about whether the alliance was intended to present a unified front against the extremists or Tehran, Saudi Arabia's main regional rival. The Saudi statement said Islam forbids "corruption and destruction in the world" and that terrorism constitutes "a serious violation of human dignity and rights, especially the right to life and the right to security." It was not immediately clear what role, if any, the United States would play in the coalition. U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said he is looking forward to learning more about what Saudi Arabia has in mind.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35099318>

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/12/15/saudi-forms-islamic-anti-terrorist-coalition.html>

<http://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/saudi-arabia-forms-islamic-counterterrorism-coalition-1.384145>

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/world/2015/12/15/saudi-arabia-forms-islamic-counterterrorism-coalition/egMSDYNtYlMQ7tjq08UnK/story.html>

Putin-Erdogan Meeting Cancelled as Ties Continue to Deteriorate



<http://www.haaretz.com/world-news/1.691729>

Russia, Turkey And A Tit-For-Tat Tale

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35094172>

Kerry Calls For Common Ground With Russia On Syria, Ukraine



<http://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/kerry-calls-for-common-ground-with-russia-on-syria-ukraine-1.384151>

Assad: "I Never Thought About Leaving Syria Under Any Circumstances"

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/politics/2015/12/11/assad-never-thought-about-leaving-syria-under-any-circumstances/>

Syria's Assad Says He Won't Negotiate With 'Terrorists' As U.S. Wants

<http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKBN0TU23H20151211>

Syrian Armed Groups Get Most Seats In Committee Set For Talks With Assad

<http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Syrian-armed-groups-get-most-seats-in-committee-set-for-talks-with-Assad-437061>

U.S.-Backed Syrian Rebel Group On Verge Of Collapse

<http://www.stripes.com/news/us-backed-syrian-rebel-group-on-verge-of-collapse-1.383853>

Syria: Al Assad Reportedly To Visit Tehran In January

<https://www.stratfor.com/situation-report/syria-al-assad-reportedly-visit-tehran-january>

Grand Ayatollah Criticizes Turkish Deployment



<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1008342/grand-ayatollah-criticises-turkish-deployment/>

Shiite Militias Demand Turkish Troops Withdraw From Iraq

<http://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/shiite-militias-demand-turkish-troops-withdraw-from-iraq-1.383690>

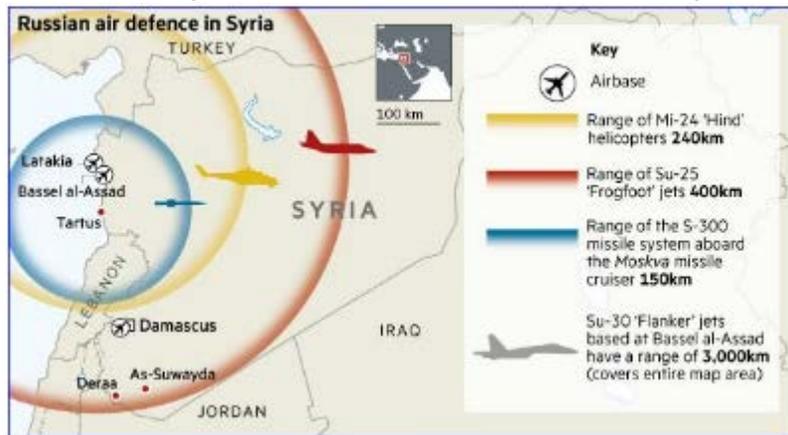
Iraq's Top Shiite Cleric Speaks Out Against Turkish Troops' Presence Near IS-Held Mosul City

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2015/12/11/iraq-top-shiite-cleric-speaks-out-against-turkish-troops-presence-near-is-held/>

Turks Keeping Troops In Iraqi Camp, Baghdad Turns To U.N.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/mideast-crisis-turkey-iraq-idINKBN0TU1FV20151211>

Russian Warships Shut Down Israeli Air Force Access to Syria



<http://sofrep.com/43626/russian-warships-shut-israeli-air-force-access-syria/>

IS Militants Launch Counter-Attacks In Iraq's Ramadi

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35091680>

15 Islamic State Suicide Car Bombs Targeting Iraq Forces 'Repelled'

<http://news.yahoo.com/15-suicide-car-bombs-targetting-iraq-forces-repelled-193735965.html>

Iraqi Armed Forces See Chance For Redemption As They Close In On Ramadi



<http://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/iraqi-armed-forces-see-chance-for-redemption-as-they-close-in-on-ramadi-1.383936>

ISIS' Distributive Operations in Anbar

<http://sofrep.com/37514/isis-distributive-operations-in-anbar/>

Most Islamic State Weapons Were Seized From Iraqi Army, Some U.S. Supplied

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/12/8/most-isil-weapons-seized-from-iraqi-army.html>

Look Inside ISIS's Secret Tunnels Stocked With American Ammo



<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/a18335/look-inside-isis-secret-tunnels/>

Texas Plumber Sees His Truck In Hands Of Jihadists In Syria



<http://www.eurasiareview.com/15122015-texas-plumber-sees-his-truck-in-hands-of-jihadists-in-syria/>

ISIS Fatwa: No Mercy for Disabled Children

<http://www.australianetworknews.com/isis-fatwa-no-marcy-disabled-children/>

Spanish Embassy In Kabul Attacked By Taliban



<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-35074866>

Spain: Gunmen Entered Embassy In Kabul After Car Bomb Attack



Attackers entered the Spanish Embassy in Kabul after a deadly car bombing in a diplomatic neighborhood of the Afghan capital, engaging in an hour-long shootout with security forces while staff hid in bunkers,

<http://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/spain-gunmen-entered-embassy-in-kabul-after-car-bomb-attack-1.383679>

Afghans Shocked By Brutal Murder Of Family Of Eight

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/afghans-shocked-by-brutal/2349714.html>

Fresh Taliban Assaults Test Boundaries Of U.S. 'Noncombat' Mission

<http://www.stripes.com/news/fresh-taliban-assaults-test-boundaries-of-us-noncombat-mission-1.384245>

Dunford On First Afghanistan Visit As Joint Chiefs Chair: 'Years Of Work' Ahead

<http://www.stripes.com/news/dunford-on-first-afghanistan-visit-as-joint-chiefs-chair-years-of-work-ahead-1.382878>

General Campbell: Afghan Islamic State loyalists growing

<http://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/campbell-afghan-islamic-state-loyalists-growing-1.384222>

Afghanistan Is A Blessing And A Curse For India And Pakistan



<http://qz.com/574099/afghanistan-is-a-blessing-and-curse-for-india-and-pakistan/>

Iran Deal Fallout



<http://www.jpost.com/Jerusalem-Report/Iran-deal-fallout-436825>

UN Closing The Books On Decade-Long Nuclear Probe Of Iran



**IRAN,
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF**

<http://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/un-closing-the-books-on-decade-long-nuclear-probe-of-iran-1.384159>

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/12/15/iaea-closes-iran-nuclear-bomb-probe.html>

The Real Threat Of Iran's Suicide Drone

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/flight/drones/a2953/iran-raad-kamikaze-drone/>

60% Of Palestinians Support Violent Intifada Against Israel



<http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Survey-shows-60-percent-of-Palestinians-support-a-violent-intifada-against-Israel-437288>

Israeli Merkava III Tank Crews Celebrate Its Enduring Relevance After 25 Years In Use



<http://www.jpost.com/Magazine/Man-and-machine-436902>

Egypt's Inquiry Into Plane Crash Finds No Evidence of Terrorism



http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/15/world/middleeast/egypt-sinai-russian-plane-crash.html?_r=0

Egypt Plane Crash: If ISIS Didn't Blow Up The Russian Passenger Jet – What Could Have Happened To It?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/egypt-plane-crash-if-isis-didn-t-blow-up-the-russian-passenger-jet-here-s-what-could-have-happened-a6772766.html>

Egypt To Hire Foreign Company To Improve Security At Airports

<http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Egypt-to-hire-foreign-company-to-improve-security-at-airports-437278>

152 Feared Dead in Yemen Ballistic Missile Strike

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/2015/12/14/united-arab-emirates/77289732/>

Yemen Peace Talks Begin In Switzerland As Cease-Fire Takes Effect

<http://america.aljazeera.com/artides/2015/12/15/yemen-talks-begin-in-switzerland.html>

Six Gulf States Will Start Taxing People For The First Time Citing Military Campaigns And Drop In Global Oil Prices



<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/six-gulf-states-will-start-taxing-people-for-the-first-time-a6768206.html>

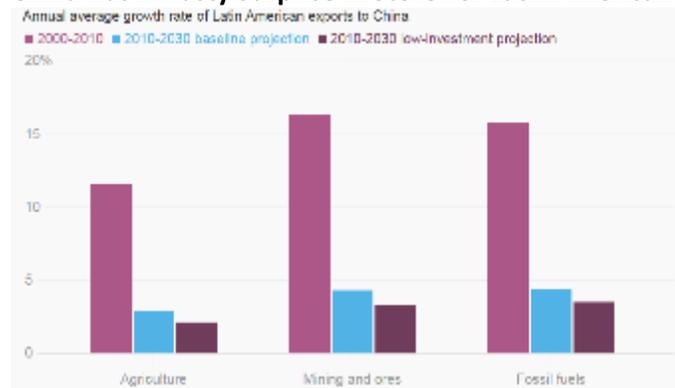
AFRICA

Support: The Missing Link In Africa

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htcbtsp/articles/20151209.aspx>

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

China Has A Nasty Surprise In Store For Latin American Economies



<http://qz.com/573618/china-has-a-nasty-surprise-in-store-for-latin-americas-economies/>

CUBA

President Obama Releases Dangerous Jihadists - Then Misleads Country About It



<http://www.weeklystandard.com/obama-releases-dangerous-jihadists-then-misleads-country-about-it/article/2000221>

Obama Defends Gitmo Closure As Detainees Return To Fight

<http://news.yahoo.com/obama-defends-gitmo-closure-detainees-return-fight-164858492.html>

Obama Signs Defense Bill, Schemes To Sneak Around Provisions Blocking Gitmo Closure

<http://dailycaller.com/2015/11/26/obama-signs-defense-bill-schemes-to-sneak-around-provisions-blocking-gitmo-closure/>

No-Go On Gitmo Closure

http://www.annistonstar.com/opinion/bob-davis-no-go-on-gitmo-closure/article_74bb5350-a063-11e5-b17e-cb1aaf099173.html

Gitmo Ideal For Detaining Islamic State Prisoners

<http://www.stripes.com/opinion/gitmo-ideal-for-detaining-islamic-state-prisoners-1.383994>

Shaker Aamer: 'Guantanamo Is Built On How To Destroy A Human Being', He Urged President Barack Obama To Close Gitmo



<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/shaker-aamer-guantanamo-built-how-destroy-human-being-n479431>

Video Games, DVDs, and a Soccer Field: The Perks of Being a Gitmo Detainee



<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2015/12/14/video-games-dvds-soccer-field-perks-gitmo-detainee/>

Shaker Aamer: A 'Very Bad Man' Or Simply Wronged?



<http://www.theguardian.com/world/blog/2015/dec/15/shaker-aamer-guantanamo-bay-very-bad-man-simply-wronged>

CANADA

Canadian Children Performed The Same Song For Refugees That Was Sung To Mohamed When He Sought Refuge



http://i100.independent.co.uk/article/canadian-children-performed-the-same-song-for-refugees-that-was-sung-to-mohamed-when-he-sought-refuge--bkgmHgATicl?utm_source=indy&utm_medium=top5&utm_campaign=i100

DoD/US

Obama Touts Military Gains, But Signals No Strategy Shift In ISIS Fight



<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/12/14/obama-touts-military-gains-but-signals-no-strategy-shift-in-isis-fight.html>

U.S. Official: Islamic State 'Is In No Way Defeated Yet'

<http://www.armytimes.com/story/military/pentagon/2015/11/16/us-official-islamic-state-no-way-defeated-yet/75892710/>

Iraq Does Not Want US, British Ground Troops for ISIS Fight



<http://www.defenseone.com/threats/2015/12/iraq-does-not-want-us-british-ground-troops-isis-fight/124435/?oref=channelriver>

NBC: With Security In Mind, Only 34% of Americans Approve Of President Obama's Handling Of Islamic State Terror Threat

<http://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press/nbc-wsj-poll-terror-fears-reshape-2016-landscape-n479831>

President Warns Islamic State Group Leaders: 'You Are Next'

<http://www.ibtimes.com/obama-isis-speech-president-warns-islamic-state-group-leaders-you-are-next-2224425>

Obama: ISIS Strategy 'Moving Forward With A Great Sense Of Urgency', Meet With National Security Team Monday

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/14/politics/obama-pentagon-isis-strategy/index.html>

http://townhall.com/tipsheet/katiepavlich/2015/12/14/as-isis-threat-grows-obama-to-meet-with-national-security-council-n2093440?utm_source=BreakingOnTownhallWidget_7&utm_medium=story&utm_campaign=BreakingOnTownhall

President Obama Planning a Major and Devastating Attack Against ISIS

<http://www.redstate.com/2015/11/25/president-obama-planning-a-major-and-devastating-attack-against-isis/>

Carter: US, Allies Will Deliver 'A Lasting Defeat' to ISIL

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/commentary/2015/12/13/carter-us-allies-deliver-lasting-defeat-isil/76939816/>

America's Top General Says We're Not Ready to Defeat ISIS



<http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2015/12/15/America-s-Top-General-Says-We-re-Not-Ready-Defeat-ISIS>

Stratfor: Why the U.S. Cannot Leave the Middle East

<https://www.stratfor.com/analysis/why-us-cannot-leave-middle-east>

Jack Murphy: Why Carpet Bombing ISIS Won't Work



<http://sofrep.com/44877/why-bombing-the-shit-out-of-isis-wont-work/>

U.S. Keeps Wraps On New Commando Force For Iraq

<http://www.stripes.com/news/middle-east/us-keeps-wraps-on-new-commando-force-for-iraq-1.383081>

The CIA is Unprepared to Counter and Subvert ISIS

<http://sofrep.com/45180/cia-unprepared-counter-subvert-isis/>

Fight Against ISIS Cannot Be Won Militarily

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-skeptics/fight-against-isis-cannot-be-won-militarily-14628>

ISIS Is Adapting Its Strategy, Obama Should Too



<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/isis-adapting-its-strategy-obama-should-too-14629>

Give With One Hand, Take With The Other: Why The US And Its Gulf Allies Are Failing In The Fight Against ISIS

<http://www.ibtimes.com/give-one-hand-take-other-why-us-its-gulf-allies-are-failing-fight-against-isis-2214272>

The Islamic State And U.S. Policy – Analysis

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/14122015-the-islamic-state-and-us-policy-analysis/>

President Obama Likely to Leave a Legacy of Three Wars Instead of Ending Two

<http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2015/10/31/Obama-Likely-Leave-Legacy-Three-Wars-Instead-Ending-Two>

Hillary Clinton Details Plan To Defeat Islamic State Overseas, In U.S. And On Internet

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2015/12/15/Hillary-Clinton-details-plan-to-defeat-Islamic-State-overseas-in-US-and-on-Internet/5551450224556/?spt=sec&or=tn

Obama Says Immigrants 'Renew' America



<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/12/15/obama-says-immigrants-and-refugees-renew-america.html>

Muslims Who Shaped America

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/08/donald-trump-famous-muslims-us-history>

Hundreds Of Migrants Arriving In Norway Had Mobile Phones Containing Images Of Executions, Severed Heads And Dead Children: Police



<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3359901/Hundreds-migrants-arriving-Norway-mobile-phones-containing-images-executions-severed-heads-dead-children-police-reveal.html>

Why Trump's Immigration Pause Plan May be More Prudent Than President Obama's Open Optimism
<http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/1.691576>

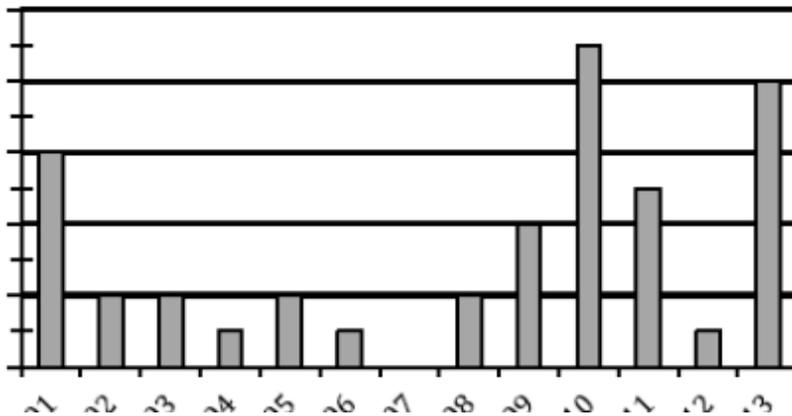
No Consensus About Legality Of Trump's Idea Of Muslim Ban: Experts Divided
<http://news.yahoo.com/no-consensus-legality-trumps-idea-muslim-ban-141104278--election.html#>
<http://news.yahoo.com/trumps-idea-muslim-ban-legal-experts-divided-085000205--election.html#>

Secret U.S. Policy Blocks Agents From Looking at Social Media of Visa Applicants, Former Official Says
<http://abcnews.go.com/US/secret-us-policy-blocks-agents-social-media-visa/story?id=35749325>

How Virtual Identities Explain The San Bernardino Attacks
<http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2015/12/how-virtual-identities-explain-the-san-bernardino-attacks.html>

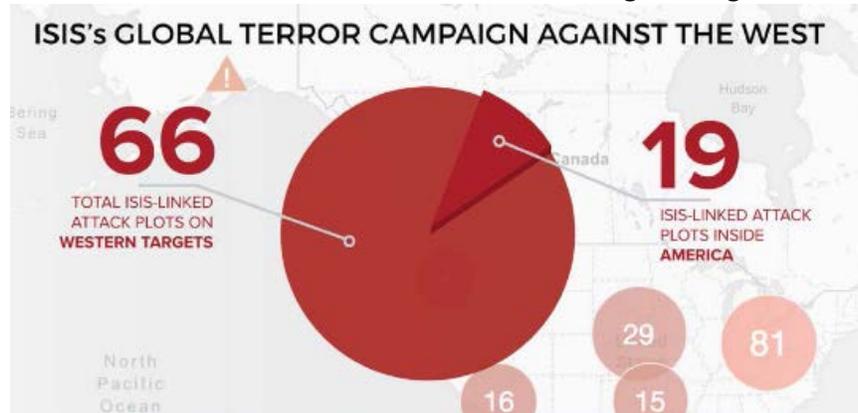
Senator Cotton: Terror Watch List 'Notoriously Inaccurate'
<http://www.weeklystandard.com/cotton-terror-watch-list-notoriously-inaccurate/article/2000136>

Attacks on the Federal Government 2001-2013
2001 through 2013*



<https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=788758>

'2015 Will Be Seen as a Watershed Year in This Long War' Against Jihadists



<https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/December-Terror-Threat-Snapshot.pdf>

As Army Shrinks, Milley Considers Ways to Regenerate Force

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/land/2015/12/14/army-shrinks-milley-considers-ways-regenerate-force/77308854/>

Understanding Military Strategy and the Four Levels of War

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/a18360/four-levels-of-war/>

How a Coalition Ground, Air Campaign Could Mostly Defeat Daesh

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/commentary/2015/12/13/commentary-how-coalition-ground-air-campaign-could-mostly-defeat-daesh/76933520/>

'Coalition of the Coalitions' Needed in ISIS Fight

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/commentary/2015/12/13/commentary-coalitions-needed-isis-fight/76903912/>

Former Intelligence Chief Calls 'Top Secret' Info on Hillary's Server 'Unreal'

<http://dailycaller.com/2015/12/15/former-intelligence-chief-calls-top-secret-info-on-hillarys-server-unreal/>

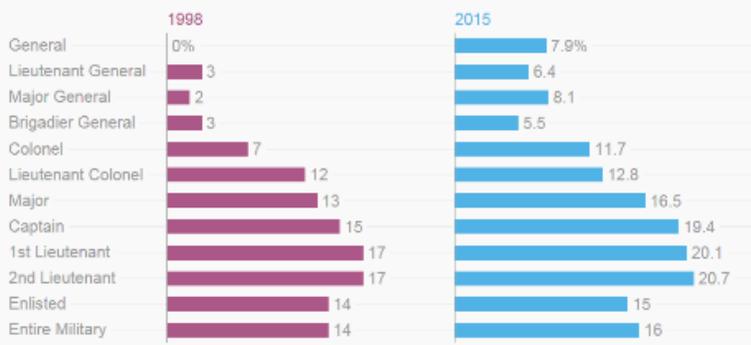
Bergdahl Will Face Desertion Charge In General Court-Martial



<http://www.stripes.com/news/us/bergdahl-will-face-desertion-charge-in-general-court-martial-1.384058>

Comparison of Percentage of Women in the Military 1998, 2015

Share of women in the military, by rank
(includes Navy equivalent)



https://atlas.qz.com/charts/4JGMP_B4e

Special Ops Survey Showed 85% Opposed Serving With Women

<http://www.defenseone.com/management/2015/12/special-ops-survey-showed-85-opposed-serving-women/124194/?oref=d-dontmiss>

Female Ranger Graduate Speaks Out On Special Ops Resistance To New Gender-Integrated Policy

"None of these arguments is new," she wrote. "And all of them ignore the fundamental fact that brute strength is not the only, or even the most important, factor in a successful combat mission. Courage, ingenuity, strategic thinking, levelheadedness, marksmanship and an ability to read people all factor into whether a unit succeeds or a mission goes south. Yes, we will maintain physical standards, and some women will fail, but the ones who succeed will bring new strengths as well, making their units stronger and more agile."

<http://www.stripes.com/news/us/elite-us-troops-fear-pms-a-deeper-look-at-the-special-ops-gender-study-1.384023>

RAND: Implications of Integrating Women into the Marine Corps Infantry

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1103.html

Has The Army Lost Its Way?

Our Army has turned from a fighting force that used to concentrate on 'closing within and destroying the enemy' into a business that is concerned more with numbers, colors, and manning strength.

<http://sofrep.com/22676/has-the-army-lost-its-way/>

Is Pentagon Spending Really Leading to 'Failure' and 'Regret'?

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-skeptics/pentagon-spending-really-leading-%E2%80%98failure%E2%80%99-%E2%80%98regret%E2%80%99-14625>

The Rise of Private Military Security Companies (Pt. 3)

<http://sofrep.com/44963/rise-private-military-security-companies-pt-3/>

Four Vietnam Vets Share Life's Ups And Downs, 50 Years After Induction: As Controversial As The Vietnam War Became, 'We Had No Political Agenda, We All Expected To Be Drafted, We Were Soldiers'



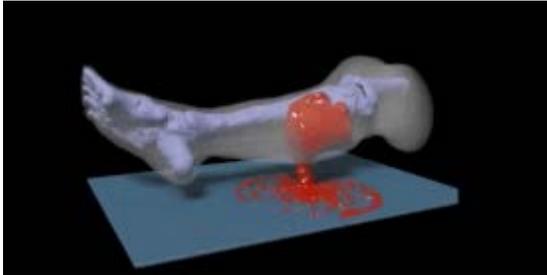
<http://www.stripes.com/military-life/military-history/four-vietnam-vets-share-life-s-ups-and-downs-50-years-after-induction-1.384057>

TECHNOLOGY

Infantry: I Really Can Kill You With My Brain

<http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htinf/articles/20151209.aspx>

Virtual Wounded Legs Can Be Used to Train Combat Medics



<http://www.popularmechanics.com/military/a18348/virtual-leg-wound-used-to-train-combat-medics/>

Navy To Spend \$4M On Tossable, Versatile Robots



<http://www.stripes.com/news/navy-to-spend-4m-on-tossable-versatile-robots-1.383920>

An Intruder-Chasing Drone Just Went On Sale In Japan



<http://qz.com/573726/an-intruder-chasing-drone-just-went-on-sale-in-japan/>

These Are the Decisions the Pentagon Wants to Leave to Robots

<http://www.defenseone.com/technology/2015/12/these-are-decisions-pentagon-wants-leave-robots/124480/?oref=d-mostread>

SECURITY-SAFETY

Los Angeles Schools Shut Over Email Threat To Students



<http://abc7.com/news/lapd-confirms-all-laUSD-schools-closed-due-to-unspecified-threat/1123243/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-35102954>

Gun And Bomb Attack Threat Closes Los Angeles Schools In Likely Hoax



<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-los-angeles-threat-idUSKBN0TY1YR20151216>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/education/wp/2015/12/15/all-los-angeles-public-schools-closed-due-to-threat/?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-low_losangeles-1022am%3Ahomepage%2Fstory

Los Angeles School Closures And Bomb Threat: What We Know

<http://www.vox.com/2015/12/15/10216682/laUSD-bomb-threat>

Hunter Finds Explosives in Missouri Forest

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/1919073-hunter-finds-explosives-in-missouri-forest/>

Don't Be a Victim of Tax Refund Fraud in '16

<http://krebsonsecurity.com/2015/12/dont-be-a-victim-of-tax-refund-fraud-in-16/>

13 Million MacKeeper Users Exposed

<http://krebsonsecurity.com/2015/12/13-million-mackeeper-users-exposed/>

Revisiting the Value of a Hacked PC



<http://krebsonsecurity.com/2012/10/the-scrap-value-of-a-hacked-pc-revisited/>

Experiment Shows Cars Connected To Internet Can Be Hacked Via Smartphone

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/12/15/national/experiment-shows-japanese-cars-can-hacked-smartphones-connected-internet/>

Millions of Smart TVs and Remote Control Apps Vulnerable

<http://www.scmagazine.com/millions-of-smart-tvs-and-remote-control-apps-vulnerable/article/458816/>

WORLD

United Nations Wants World Leaders to Sign Climate Deal April 22

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/world-leaders-sign-climate-deal-april-22-35761663>

Moving Ahead with the Climate Change Agreement



<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/paul-pillar/moving-ahead-the-climate-change-agreement-14611>

Economic Consequences of COP21



<http://www.weeklystandard.com/the-economic-consequences-of-cop21/article/2000218>

Global Business Sends Clear Message To Policymakers For Ambitious Deal At COP21 (May 2015)



The establishment of an alliance between business and governments leading to the integration of climate policies into the mainstream economy. This should include enhanced public-private dialogues at global and national level, backed by a commitment to raise ambition in line with developments in climate science.

<http://www.iccwbo.org/News/Articles/2015/Global-business-sends-clear-message-to-policymakers-for-net-zero-deal-at-COP21/>

Climate Agreement Will Only Hasten Transition Beyond Oil

<https://www.stratfor.com/analysis/climate-agreement-will-only-hasten-transition-beyond-oil>

The Nuremberg Diary: A Front Row Seat To Evil



<http://www.jpost.com/Magazine/The-Nuremberg-Diary-434645>

33 Maps That Explain Terrorism

<http://www.vox.com/2015/12/15/10133138/terrorism-maps>

ASIA NEWS

State Department - Asia <http://www.state.gov/p/eap/index.htm>

State Dept Travel Warnings http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

Defense Department <http://www.defense.gov>

Pacific Stars and Stripes <http://www.stripes.com/news/pacific>

CNN <http://edition.cnn.com/ASIA/index.html>

Reuters <http://www.reuters.com/news/world>

Yahoo <http://news.yahoo.com/asia>

Maritime News <http://www.maritime-executive.com/news>

PACIFIC DISASTER CENTER

<http://www.pdc.org>

WEATHER

Joint Typhoon Warning Center <http://www.usno.navy.mil/JTWC/>

Japan's Meteorological Agency <http://www.jma.go.jp/en/typh/>

Japan Weather Warnings <http://www.jma.go.jp/en/warn/index.html>

Korea Meteorological Administration <http://web.kma.go.kr/eng/>

NASA Storm Tracking http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/hurricanes/main/index.html

Typhoon Definitions <http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/tcfaq>, <http://agora.ex.nii.ac.jp>

EARTHQUAKES

USGS <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/map/>

Earthquakes Today <http://earthquakestoday.info/>

TSUNAMI

Pacific Tsunami Warning Center <http://ptwc.weather.gov>

GLOBAL HEALTH MAP

<http://healthmap.org/en/>

<http://healthmap.org/predict/>