ASIA-PACIFIC & GLOBAL SITUATIONAL AWARENESS UPDATE

13 APRIL 2016

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

ASIA-PACIFIC

Senior-Ranking North Korean GBR Leader and a Diplomat Defected Last Year: Seoul



The defector was a senior colonel with the North Korean Reconnaissance General Bureau, which is in charge of espionage operations against South Korea, according to South Korean Defense Ministry http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2016/04/116_202368.html
http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2016/04/12/2016041201000.html
http://www.cnn.com/2016/04/11/asia/north-korea-official-defects/
http://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-defectors-idUSKCN0X80CV

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-36012288

In 2015, North Korea's GBR Got Permission From China To Send Over 100 Additional Agents Into China North Korea's General Reconnaissance Bureau (GBR) operates agents in South Korea and China. In 2015 the GBR got permission from China to send over a hundred agents additional agents into China. These men were trained them to speak better Chinese and how to operate under cover in China. These GBR men were to seek out defectors in China, kidnap them and return them to North Korea (where they go straight to a labor camp, possibly for life). This program was meant to make North Koreans less willing to flee the country. The GBR teams were told to concentrate on those defectors attempting to get to South Korea (via South Korean embassies in places like Thailand). China tolerates GBR agents as long as they do not carry weapons or create much fuss. This policy is apparently changing as China put more pressure on North Korea. Another South Korean report told of a North Korean diplomat who defected in early 2015. But the GBR colonel is the more important defector. The GBR was formed in 2009 by combining several other intel agencies and that required a lot of data to get reorganized and combined. GBR handles a lot of Cyber War operations and provides information for attacks on South Korea. This includes the 2010 attacks. Getting an GBR insider is a big deal.

https://www.strategypage.com/qnd/korea/articles/20160412.aspx

13 North Korean Restaurant Workers Defect En Masse To South



Defectors who flee North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's regime usually are debriefed before spending 12 weeks at a government-run resettlement facility aimed at helping them to adjust to life in South Korea. More than 29,000 North Koreans have defected to South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, according to South Korean government records.

http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2016/04/08/13-north-korean-restaurant-workers-defect-enmasse-south-korea/82783440/

http://www.nbcnews.com/news/north-korea/north-korean-senior-spy-agency-official-defects-south-seoul-n553921

'Defectors Are Children Of Ranking North Korean Officials'

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2016/04/116 202439.html

North Korea Threatens South Korea Over 13 Defectors, Accuses Seoul of Abducting Defectors

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/13/world/asia/north-korea-threatens-south-korea-over-13-defectors.html? r=0

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html dir/2016/04/13/2016041300711.html

Speculation Grows Over China's Role In N. Korean Mass Defection

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2016/04/485 202350.html

South Korean Government Thinks More Mass Defections From North Koreans Working Abroad Could Happen



http://www.rokdrop.net/2016/04/korean-government-thinks-more-mass-defections-from-north-koreans-working-abroad-could-happen/

http://www.arirang.co.kr/News/News_View.asp?nseq=189993

Disaffection Growing Among North Korea's Elite

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html dir/2016/04/12/2016041201292.html

Instability In North Korean Regime Triggers N. Korean Elites To Defect: Experts



http://www.arirang.co.kr/News/News View.asp?nseq=190025

North Korean Diplomats Live on the Breadline

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2016/03/15/2016031501492.html

High-Level Defections May Hold Key to Reform in North Korea

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html dir/2016/04/12/2016041201512.html

NK Defections: Cause For Reasonable Readiness For What May Follow?

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinon/2016/04/202 202357.html

More North Korean Ships With Corpses On Board Washing Ashore In Japan

http://www.latimes.com/world/asia/la-fg-japan-ghost-ships-20160410-story.html

South Korea To Introduce More Loudspeakers To Step Up Anti-North Broadcasting

http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2016/04/12/70/0301000000AEN20160412009000315F.html

North Korea Holds Massive Outdoor Rally



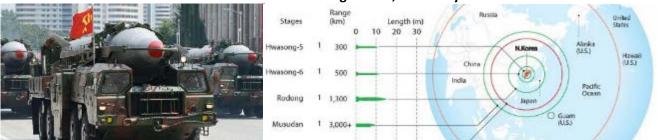
North Korean soldiers hold a massive outdoor rally to pledge their loyalty to the Kim dynasty ahead of the 104th birth anniversary of the state's founder Kim II Sung. Rough cut http://www.reuters.com/video/2016/04/12/soldiers-rally-in-north-korea?videoId=368083744

U.S. Sources: Signs Of North Korea Mobile Ballistic Missile Launch



http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2016/04/12/0401000000AEN20160412009653315.html http://www.cnn.com/2016/04/12/politics/north-korea-mobile-ballistic-missile-launch/index.html

North Korea Able to Mount Nuclear Warhead on Rodong Missile, South Says



http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/06/world/asia/north-korea-nuclear-warhead-rodong-missile.html https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2013/04/04/map-this-is-how-far-those-north-korean-missiles-can-actually-reach/

North Korea's Nuclear Missiles: Now With Increased Range

http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/north-koreas-nuclear-missiles-now-with-increased-range/

North Korea Says It Tested An Engine For An Intercontinental Ballistic Missile



A new engine for an intercontinental ballistic missle (ICBM) is tested at a test site at Sohae Space Center in Cholsan County, North Pyongan province in North Korea in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency.

http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/04/09/473624408/north-korea-says-it-tested-an-engine-for-an-intercontinental-ballistic-missile http://www.reuters.com/news/picture/editors-choice?articleId=USRTX29FEB

38 North: North Korea's Large Rocket Engine Test Is A Significant Step Forward for Pyongyang's ICBM Program



http://38north.org/2016/04/schilling041116/

North Korea Jams GPS Signals In South Korea, Launches Another Missile Into Sea Of Japan http://learningenglish.voanews.com/content/north-korea-jams-gps-launches-missile/3265073.html

Satellite Picks Up Activity At North Korea Plutonium Lab http://www.cbsnews.com/news/satellite-picks-up-activity-at-north-korea-plutonium-lab/

Kim Jong Un Attends Advanced Strategic SAM Test



https://www.nknews.org/2016/04/kim-jong-un-attends-advanced-strategic-sam-test/

Chance Of New N. Korean Nuclear Test High, S. Korean Defense Minister - KPA Could Also Soon Deploy New 300mm Rocket Launcher Systems



https://www.nknews.org/2016/04/chance-of-new-n-korean-nuclear-test-high-s-korean-defense-minister/

North Korea's Nuclear Weapons Not Its Worst Threat

https://www.nknews.org/2016/04/north-koreas-nuclear-weapons-are-not-its-worst-threat/

Secretive North Korea Lifts Veil On Arms Program Ahead Of A Rare Ruling Party Congress Next Month http://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-nuclear-idUSKCN0X91LD

Artillery: North Korea Steals From China What Was Stolen From Russia http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htart/articles/20160402.aspx

South Korea: Kim's Power 'Unshakable' After Nuclear Tests



http://www.voanews.com/content/north-korean-leader-solidifies-power-with-nuclear-defiance/3271413.html

North Korean Submarine Attempts To Test-Fire Ballistic Missile: MBN



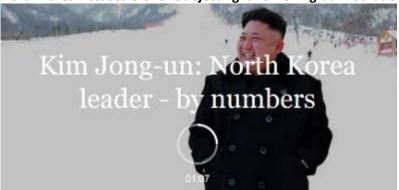
https://www.nknews.org/2016/04/n-korean-submarine-attempts-to-test-fire-ballistic-missile-mbn/http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/report-korean-submarine-attempts-missile-test-launch-160407161600861.html

THAAD's Effect on South Korea's Neighbors



http://www.rand.org/blog/2016/04/the-effect-on-south-koreas-neighbors.html

North Korea Accuses U.S. Of Subjecting It To 'Leningrad Blockade'



http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/04/north-korea-accuses-us-of-subjecting-it-to-leningrad-blockade/

North Korea's Rebukes 'Anachronistic' Sanctions, Urges U.S. To Seek Talks http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20160404000505

North Korea Boasts Of Ability To Overcome Sanctions



https://www.nknews.org/2016/04/north-korea-boasts-of-ability-to-overcome-sanctions/

Chinese Local Governments Formally Notified Of Sanctions Against North Korea http://www.nkeconwatch.com/2016/03/21/chinese-local-governments-formally-notified-of-sanctions-against-north-korea/

China Cuts Online Access to North Korean Trade



https://www.nknews.org/2016/04/china-cuts-online-access-to-north-korean-trade-data/

Panama Papers Show How Syria And North Korea 'Evaded Sanctions'



http://www.euronews.com/2016/04/05/panama-papers-show-how-syria-and-north-korea-evaded-sanctions/

Panama Papers: Mossack Fonseca 'Helped Firm With Links To North Korea's Nuclear Weapons Program'

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/panama-papers-mossack-fonseca-helped-firm-with-links-to-north-korea-s-nuclear-weapons-programme-a6968951.html

Who Dodged U.S. Sanctions in Panama?

http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/04/panama-papers-sanctions/477015/

North Korea Writes Open Letter To Obama — In The Voice Of Abraham Lincoln: 'Hi There, Obama. I Understand How Perplexed You Must Feel Nowadays...'



"This letter shows that Pyongyang is trying to ease tension with the U.S. even by imitating America's most well-known figure to make themselves as 'American' as they can be," the North Korean expert told NK News. http://taskandpurpose.com/north-korea-resurrects-abraham-lincoln-latest-assault-white-house/

S. Korea, U.S., Japan To Hold Series Of Talks Next Week http://www.arirang.co.kr/News/News_View.asp?nseq=190087

U.S. Ready To Raise Pressure On North Korea, Open To Talks



http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/us-ready-to-raise/2685604.html

Pulling the Rabbit Out of the Hat: Kim Jong Un's Path Out of the Nuclear Crisis: 38 North http://38north.org/2016/04/rcarlin040416/

American Comedian Conan O'Brien And Actor Steven Yeun Host Talk Show On North Korean Side Of The DMZ



http://www.cnn.com/videos/entertainment/2016/04/10/conan-north-korea-visit-soldiers-teamcoco.team-coco http://qz.com/659047/watch-american-diplomat-conan-obrien-host-a-talk-show-on-the-north-korean-side-of-the-dmz/

Secretary of State John Kerry Visits Hiroshima Memorial and Underlines U.S.-Japan Alliance



http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/12/world/asia/john-kerry-hiroshima-wwii-japan.html http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-36012206

John Kerry Pays 'Gut-Wrenching' Visit To Hiroshima But Offers No U.S. Apology

Kerry became the highest-ranking U.S. diplomat to visit the Hiroshima Peace Park, located at ground zero for the first of two atomic bombs dropped by the United States on Japanese cities near the end of World War II. An estimated 140,000 Japanese died in the Aug. 6, 1945, bombing. He laid a wreath and visited the nearby Atomic Bomb Museum, which includes haunting displays and artifacts related to the bombing. "It is a stark, harsh, compelling reminder not only of our obligation to end the threat of nuclear weapons, but to re-dedicate all our effort to avoid war itself," Kerry wrote in a guest book at the memorial, according to local news reports. Top U.S. officials had avoided visiting Hiroshima for many decades because of the sensitivity of the issue. http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/04/11/kerry-pays-gut-wrenching-visit-hiroshima/82883866/

It's Okay Not To Apologize For Hiroshima, Says Chinese State Media

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/04/11/its-okay-not-to-apologize-for-hiroshima-says-chinese-state-media/?tid=pm_world_pop_b





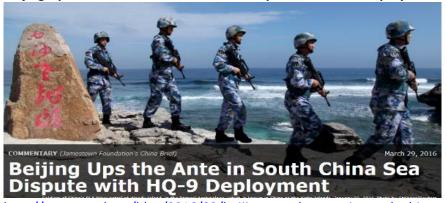
http://warontherocks.com/2016/04/dont-let-the-tyranny-of-jointness-rule-the-indo-pacific/

China Deploys Fighters to S. China Sea Island



http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/china-deploys-fighters-to-s-china-sea-island

Beijing Ups the Ante in South China Sea Dispute with HQ-9 Deployment



http://www.rand.org/blog/2016/03/beijing-ups-the-ante-in-south-china-sea-dispute-with.html

How China's Maritime Courts Bolster China's Sovereignty Claims



http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/chinas-maritime-courts-defenders-of-judicial-sovereignty/

The South China Sea's 'White-Hull' Warfare: SE Asia's Coast Guards On The Front Lines



http://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-south-china-seas-%E2%80%98white-hull%E2%80%99-warfare-15604

China's Secret Weapon At Sea: Chinese Commercial Ships Follow Navy And Coast Guard Orders To Collect Intel And Block Movement Of Foreign Ships, Including Warships

Chinese commercial ships, particularly freighters and ocean-going fishing ships, are considered part of a military maritime reserve force and are expected to follow orders from navy or coast guard ships whenever called upon. The commercial ships are expected to collect intelligence and even risk damage and injuries by using their ships to block the movement of foreign ships (including warships). https://www.strategypage.com/htmw/httpara/articles/20160410.aspx

China Sea Strategy Boosts Military Use of Civilian Ships



http://www.voanews.com/content/china-sea-strategy-boost-military-use-of-civilian-ships/2836413.html

South China Sea: 3 Ways to Win the Money War



http://nationalinterest.org/feature/south-china-sea-3-ways-win-the-money-war-15749

Allied Forces Gathering In The Philippines For Joint Military Exercises As A Show Of Force To Counter China's Controversial Territorial Claims

http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/04/04/us-military-exercises-in-philippines-counter-china/82607514/

U.S.-Philippine War Games Begin As China Warns 'Outsiders'



http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/us-philippine-war-games-begin-as-china-warns-outsiders-116040400453 1.html

 $\frac{http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/international/asia-pacific/2016/04/04/us-philippine-wargames-begin-china-warns-outsiders/82636000/$

U.S. Defense Secretary Carter Coming to Visit Annual Philippine-U.S. Exercise

http://www.mb.com.ph/balikatan-opens-us-defense-secretary-carter-coming-for-annual-exercise/

5 US Navy Ships To Participate In This Year's 'Balikatan' Exercises

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) had said militaries from 11 other countries - Japan, India, South Korea, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Timor-Leste have been invited to observe this year's Balikatan exercises.

http://www.mb.com.ph/5-us-navy-ships-to-participate-in-this-years-balikatan-exercises/

Philippine Diplomat To China: Don't Turn Shoal Into Island

http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/apr/12/philippine-diplomat-to-china-dont-turn-shoal-into-/

Japan Shifting Amphibious, Coastal Defense Units Closer to China; Australia Boosts its Own Capability

The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) is increasing its amphibious capability with an eye on its southwestern-most islands – past Okinawa, all the way to its farthest inhabited island of Yonaguni, which sits closer to mainland China than it does to Okinawa. With only two Japan Air Self-Defense Force radar sites between Okinawa and Yonaguni, the Japanese ground force has taken a renewed interest in protecting these islands, Col. Masashi Yamamoto, military attaché at the Embassy of Japan in Washington, said last week at a Center for Strategic and International Studies event. https://news.usni.org/2016/04/05/japan-shifting-amphibious-coastal-defense-units-closer-to-china-australia-boosts-its-own-capability

Japanese Navy Destroyers Visit Vietnam For 1st Time Since WWII



http://atimes.com/2016/04/japanese-navy-destroyers-visit-vietnam-for-1st-time-since-wwii/

China Rebuffs Vietnamese Criticism of Oil Rig Move

http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/china-rebuffs-vietnamese-criticism-of-oil-rig-move

Vietnam Seizes Chinese Oil Tanker

http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/vietnam-seizes-chinese/2664196.html

What India Thinks About the South China Sea

http://www.nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/what-india-thinks-about-the-south-china-sea-15619

Dredging Up Disaster in the South China Sea

http://nationalinterest.org/feature/dredging-disaster-the-south-china-sea-15612

Saving the South China Sea Without Starting World War III



http://nationalinterest.org/feature/saving-the-south-china-sea-without-starting-world-war-iii-15624

G-7 Ministers Issue Joint Statement On Maritime Disputes, Calls For Restraint



http://www.voanews.com/content/g7-ministers-issue-joint-statement-on-maritime-dispute/3279910.html http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/g7-calls-for-restraint-in/2686276.html

China Expresses Anger At G7 Statement On East, South China Seas

http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/china-expresses-anger-at/2687606.html

China Blasts G-7 Statement on South China Sea



http://www.voanews.com/content/china-blasts-g-7-statement-on-south-china-sea/3282676.html

2 Guided Missiles Containers Found Bobbing In The Pacific Southeast of Alaska

http://www.ktuu.com/news/news/box-that-originally-contained-guided-missile-found-floating-in-southeast-alaska/38978248

http://www.stripes.com/news/us/2-guided-missiles-containers-found-bobbing-in-the-pacific-1.404172

THAILAND

Bomb Wounds 3 Soldiers In Narathiwat

http://www.scoopnest.com/user/BangkokPostNews/716832334960418816

Thailand: Saying No To China

http://www.strategypage.com/qnd/thai/articles/20160403.aspx

Temps Above 100 Degrees Every Day, Thailand Bracing For Record Heat Wave This Month http://www.thestar.com.my/news/regional/2016/03/18/thailand-bracing-for-record-temperatures-next-month/

Thai Opposition Leader Says Military-Drafted Charter Should Be Rejected at August Vote

Jatuporn Prompan, leader of the "red shirt" movement loyal to ousted former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, said the military-backed constitution would damage the country and he would urge his activists to vote 'no' in the referendum. "The red shirts will show their strength again on August 7," Jatuporn told Reuters in an interview. "If the constitution passes it will be devastating for both politics and the economy," he said. "We need to overthrow this constitution." The junta discarded the previous constitution and has defended the new draft saying it wants to promote stability and good government, not prolong its power.

http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/thai-opposition-leader-sa/2686108.html

Thailand's Junta Digs In

http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/thailands-junta-digs-in/

SINGAPORE

Singapore, Myanmar To Mark 50 Years Of Diplomatic Ties On Tuesday

http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/singapore-myanmar-to-mark/2686746.html

MALAYSIA

Heatwave Closes 259 Schools in Malaysia

A heatwave brought on by the El Nino weather phenomenon brings high temps to Malaysia. http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/259-malaysian-schools/2684868.html

Gunmen Storm Tug in Malaysia

http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/gunmen-storm-tug-in-malaysia

INDONESIA

U.S. Navy Joins China, Other Nations For Komodo Sea Exercise In Indonesia

http://www.stripes.com/news/us-navy-joins-china-other-nations-for-komodo-sea-exercise-in-indonesia-1.404056

Indonesia's Naval Power in the Spotlight with Exercise, Fleet Review and Symposium

http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/indonesias-naval-power-in-the-spotlight-with-exercise-fleet-review-and-symposium/

PHILIPPINES

Philippines: Local ISIL Franchise Runs Out of Allies And Cash

http://www.strategypage.com/qnd/phillip/articles/20160405.aspx

United Front Needed To Counter ISIS' Growing Campaign In South-East Asia

http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/united-front-needed-to-counter-isis-growing-campaign-in-south-east-asia

AUSTRALIA

Australia Needs Soft Power as Asia's Strategic Balances Shift

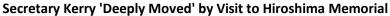
http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/australia-needs-soft-power-as-asias-strategic-balances-shift/

Australian Veteran Injured By Islamic Radical Cellmate

http://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/australian-veteran-injured-by-islamic-radical-cellmate-1.403768

JAPAN

Will President Obama Visit Hiroshima? White House Confirms Obama Weighing Visit During G-7 Trip http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2016/04/11/473790973/will-president-obama-visit-hiroshima-http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2016/04/13/national/history/white-house-confirms-obama-weighing-visit-hiroshima-g-7-trip/





http://www.voanews.com/content/secretary-kerry-visits-hiroshima-peace-park/3279203.html

Japan's Nuclear Weapons Conundrum

http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/japans-nuclear-weapons-conundrum/

Japan Prepares For Release Of Tritium From Fukushima Plant

http://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/japan-prepares-for-release-of-tritium-from-fukushima-plant-1.404041

Japan's Military to Get New Assault Amphibious Vehicles

http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/japans-military-to-get-new-assault-amphibious-vehicles/

Ghost Ships With Corpses From North Korea Mystify Japan



http://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/ghost-ships-from-north-korea-mystify-japan-1.404022

NORTH KOREA

How North Korea Became The World's Longest-Lasting Totalitarian State



http://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/04/11/books-great-leader-fighter-pilot

Inside The North Korean Military (Photos)



http://www.reuters.com/news/picture/inside-the-north-korean-military?articleId=USRTX29LSR http://www.businessinsider.com/inside-the-north-korea-military-2016-4

North Korea Works Around The Clock To Prepare For Kim Jong Un's '70-Day Campaign'

North Korea is holding the first congress of its ruling Workers' Party in 36 years next month, and all hands are on deck. Literally all hands.

Kim Jong Un's regime has mobilized people around the nation for a "70-day campaign" to prepare for the Communist shindig, at which the Great Successor is expected to announce major policy directives and personnel changes.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/04/07/north-korea-is-conducting-a-70-day-campaign-whats-that-all-about/

Rumors, Reports Of Kim Jung-Un Death And Assassination Attempt Are Possibly Attempts To Try And Strengthen Kim's Position Prior To May's KWP Congress

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3524683/RIP-beloved-Supreme-Leader-Bizarre-rumour-claiming-North-Korean-dictator-Kim-Jong-dead-sweeps-Twitter.html

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2016/04/07/Kim-Jong-Un-assassination-suspects-arrested-source-says/9171460035491/

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3529098/Two-hitmen-arrested-Chinese-border-tried-enter-North-Korea-bid-ASSASSINATE-dictator-Kim-Jong-un.html

What North Korea Really Fears

North Korea is constantly talking of American aggression against them but the North Koreans rarely go into details. The truth is that what North Korea is really complaining about is American (and South Korean and Japanese) culture, customs and cash getting into the country and undermining loyalty to the communist dictatorship that has been running North Korea into the ground since the late 1940s. This became much worse after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 and Russia halted its massive annual contributions of cash, fuel and food. The socialist dictatorship did not quite know how to handle it. http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htintel/articles/20160406.aspx

Kim Jung-un Appears to Be Gaining Weight as North Korea Faces Famine

Kim, who at 33 walks with a cane and reportedly suffers from gout, won't miss any meals. Last September, South Korea disclosed that Kim appeared to have added nearly 70 pounds to his 5-foot, 9-inch frame over the previous five years, reaching an estimated weight of 290 pounds. http://nypost.com/2016/03/31/kim-jong-un-weighs-nearly-300-pounds/





https://www.nknews.org/2016/04/n-korean-media-says-freight-rail-suffering-from-acute-shortage/

The 2016 North Korean Budget Report: 12 Observations



http://38north.org/2016/04/rfrank040816/

North Korean University Facing Financial Difficulties



http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2016/04/07/North-Korean-university-facing-financial-difficulties/6801460048023/?spt=sec&or=tn

Hiding in Plain Sight: Cowboys, Conmen and North Korea's \$6 Trillion Natural Resource Prize



http://38north.org/2016/04/jrmailey040616/

More North Korean-Run Restaurants Forced To Close

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2016/04/11/2016041101251.html

Inside The World Of North Korea's Restaurants Overseas



At current count, there are more than 100 North Korean restaurants around the world, mostly branded under the Pyongyang restaurant chain (Okryugwan, a famous restaurant from Pyongyang, also operates branches abroad). These restaurants first existed in China for decades, but after the 1990s they gradually spread throughout much of Southeast Asia. Nowadays, they can be found in surprisingly farflung places: There's a Pyongyang restaurant in Dubai, for example, and one opened in Amsterdam, though it later renamed itself and eventually closed.

 $\underline{\text{https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/04/08/the-weird-world-of-north-koreas-overseas-restaurants/}$

North Koreans: Brutal Work Abroad Better Than Life Back Home

 $\underline{\text{http://www.stripes.com/news/pacific/n-koreans-brutal-work-abroad-better-than-life-back-home-}} \\ \underline{1.404060}$

Deforestation In North Korea Continues, New Data Shows

http://www.nkeconwatch.com/2016/03/24/deforestation-in-north-korea-continues-new-data-shows/

SOUTH KOREA

Korea's Military Strength Ranks 11th In World

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20160413000069

South Korea's Deadly Infantry Fighting Vehicle Is a Terror on the Battlefield



http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/south-koreas-deadly-infantry-fighting-vehicle-terror-the-15751

People Flee North Korea, Only To Be Adrift In The South, 'In North Korea, People Were Afraid Of Me, They Knew I Could Just Drag Them Away'

A middle-aged man is walking through a quiet Seoul neighborhood when he suddenly stops. He lights a cigarette, cupping his hands to shield the flame from the winter wind, and takes a deep draw, remembering how things used to be. He's a former policeman, a broad-shouldered man with a growling voice and a crushing handshake. Back where he came from, he says, he was someone who mattered. "In North Korea, people were afraid of me," he says. He says it wistfully, almost sadly, like a boy talking about a dog he once had. "They knew I could just drag them away."

When they do get jobs, seemingly simple things - such as knowing they need to arrive at work on time — can leave them flummoxed, their pride badly battered. "It has happened so many times: They show up for work for one or two days, then get into a fight with their colleagues and quit," says Ahn Kyung-su, a Seoul-based researcher who has spent years working with exiles.

http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20160404/they-flee-north-korea-only-to-be-adrift-in-the-south

In South Korea, You're Free To Express Your Opinion On Most Topics — Except North Korea: North Korea Threat Keeps Cold-War Era Security Law Around

http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2016/04/11/473760643/the-north-korea-threat-keeps-a-cold-war-era-security-law-around

South Korea, China Extend Currency Swap Deal



http://www.arirang.co.kr/News/News View.asp?nseg=190089

TAIWAN

Kenya Deporting More Taiwanese Citizens to China

http://www.voanews.com/content/kenya-deporting-more-taiwanese-citizens-to-china/3281036.html

Taiwan Accuses Kenya of Illegal Deportations as More Are Sent to China

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/13/world/asia/taiwan-china-kenya.html?ribbon-ad-

 $\underline{idx=7\&rref=world/asia\&module=Ribbon\&version=origin\®ion=Header\&action=click\&contentCollection=Asia\%20Pacific\&pgtype=article}$

Taiwan Denies Role in Spy Case Involving U.S. Navy Officer

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/13/world/asia/taiwan-us-navy-spy-investigation.html?ribbon-ad-idx=7&rref=world/asia&module=Ribbon&version=context®ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Asia%20Pacific&pgtype=article

Taiwan Air Defense Analysis: Rand Report



http://www.defensenews.com/story/breaking-news/2016/04/05/analysis-radical-rand-report-spells-doom-taiwan/82643422/http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1051.html

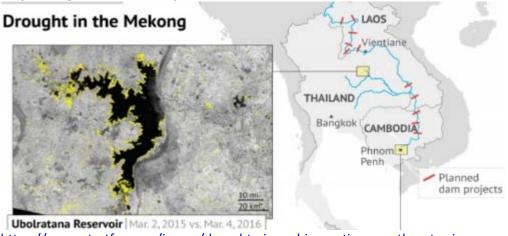
Taiwan Moves Forward on Sub Upgrades



http://www.defensenews.com/story/breaking-news/2016/04/04/taiwan-moves-forward-sub-upgrades/82603916/

CHINA

Map: Drought Gives China Options in Southeast Asia



https://www.stratfor.com/image/drought-gives-china-options-southeast-asia

Chinese Dams Blamed For Exacerbating Southeast Asian Drought



http://www.chron.com/news/world/article/Chinese-dams-blamed-for-exacerbating-Southeast-7221811.php

MYANMAR/BURMA

Aung San Suu Kyi to Push for Release of Myanmar Political Prisoners

http://www.voanews.com/content/myanmar-aung-san-suu-kyi-promises-release-of-political-prisoners/3274791.html

INDIA

U.S., India Agree To Improve Military Cooperation

 $\frac{\text{http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/india-and-united-states-agree-to-deepen-military-ties-technology-collaboration/http://www.abc6.com/story/31698685/us-india-agree-to-improve-military-cooperation}$

U.S.-India Military Logistics Agreement Still Not Finalized



 $\underline{http://www.voanews.com/content/us-india-military-logistics-agreement-still-not-finalized/3282252.html$

Carter: U.S. Backs India's Naval Expansion

http://www.stripes.com/news/carter-us-backs-india-s-naval-expansion-1.403910

Why India's Upset About Obama's Post-Nuclear Security Summit Remarks

http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/why-indias-upset-about-obamas-post-nuclear-security-summit-remarks/

What's Behind Ties Between Assad and India?

http://warontherocks.com/2016/04/whats-behind-ties-between-assad-and-india/

Pakistan Accuses India of Plotting Against Deal With China



http://www.voanews.com/content/pakistan-accuses-india-plotting-against-deal-with-china/3282979.html

India Plans \$20B Investment in Iranian Port



http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/india-plans-20b-investment-in-iranian-port

RUSSIA

Russian Officer and Hero: 'Tell My Family I Love Them' Last Words Before Blitzing ISIS



"I am surrounded, they are outside, I don't want them to take me and parade me, conduct the airstrike, they will make a mockery of me and this uniform. I want to die with dignity and take all these bastards with me. please my last wish, conduct the airstrike, they will kill me either way." In his last communication he said: "This is the end commander, thank you, tell my family and my country I love them. Tell them I was brave and I fought until I could no longer. Please take care of my family, avenge my death, goodbye commander, tell my family I love them."

http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/russian-rambo-said-tell-family-7683914

What's Behind the Creation of Russia's New National Guard?

In a sweeping reorganization of the Russian internal security apparatus, President Vladimir Putin has announced the creation of the National Guard – a powerful new paramilitary unit charged with combating terrorism and organized crime and maintaining social order. Why did the president decide to create the new unit now?

Putin Puts An Army At His Command

http://www.stripes.com/opinion/putin-puts-an-army-at-his-command-1.403994

Analysts: Putin's National Guard Meant to Put Down Public Unrest



http://www.voanews.com/content/analysts-putin-national-guard-meant-to-put-down-public-unrest/3274829.html

Putin Creates New National Guard In Russia 'To Fight Terrorism'



http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35975840

Russia's Next Two Submarine Projects Feature Some Very Exotic Tech



http://www.nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/russias-next-two-submarine-projects-feature-some-very-exotic-15618

Russia's Deadly T-90 Tank Vs. America's TOW Missile: Who Wins?



http://www.nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/russias-deadly-t-90-tank-vs-americas-tow-missile-who-wins-15611

Procurement: Russian Tech Is A Hard Sell



http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htproc/articles/20160407.aspx http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-arms-idUSKCN0WV1TB

UKRAINE

Netherlands Rejects EU-Ukraine Partnership Deal http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35976086

A Softer Iron Curtain Falls in Ukraine

https://www.stratfor.com/weekly/softer-iron-curtain-falls-ukraine

A Pivotal Time for Ukraine: The U.S. Should Redouble Its Support

http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/04/a-pivotal-time-for-ukraine-the-us-should-redouble-its-support

EUROPE

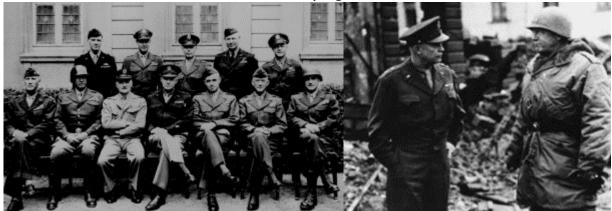
President Obama Defends NATO as a 'Lynchpin'

http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/2016/04/04/obama-defends-nato-lynchpin/82635912/

Is It Time for America to Quit NATO?

http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/it-time-america-quit-nato

Buchannan: Is Presidential Candidate Donald Trump Right About NATO?



The first NATO supreme commander, Gen. Eisenhower, said in February 1951 of the alliance: "If in 10 years, all American troops stationed in Europe for national defense purposes have not been returned to the United States, then this whole project will have failed."

http://buchanan.org/blog/trump-right-nato-125052

Trump's NATO Question, At Least, Was Valid

http://www.stripes.com/opinion/trump-s-nato-question-at-least-was-valid-1.403368

Behind Closed Doors, Top Republicans Echo Trump's Criticism of NATO Arrangement

http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/04/06/senators-slam-nato-free-riders-in-closed-door-meeting-with-secretary-general/

The NATO Alliance Trump Doesn't See

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-nato-alliance-trump-doesnt-see/2016/04/03/da19479e-f765-11e5-8b23-538270a1ca31 story.html

Does NATO Need a Facelift? Former Secretary Of Defense Robert Gates Also Voiced Dim Views Of NATO

http://blogs.voanews.com/us-opinion/2016/04/07/does-nato-need-a-facelift/

Comparing NATO with its Russian Counterpart



https://www.stratfor.com/video/conversation-comparing-nato-its-russian-counterpart

Opaque Strategy and U.S. Troops in Eastern Europe

http://nationalinterest.org/blog/paul-pillar/opaque-strategy-us-troops-eastern-europe-15636

Germany/NATO: ISIL and Russia - The Debt Must Be Paid In Cash Or Blood http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htlead/articles/20160405.aspx

EU Commission Buys Time To Decide On Visas For U.S., Canada http://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-usa-visas-idUSKCN0X922M

Top Brass Go To War With British PM Over Women In Front-Line Combat: Senior Officer Warn Move Could Endanger Troops

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3424725/Top-brass-war-PM-women-combat-line-Senior-officer-warn-endanger-troops.html

Stranded in Greece, Afghan Interpreters Feel Abandoned By U.S., Coalition



http://www.voanews.com/media/video/3275044.html

Europe Begins Sending People Back Across The Sea, Defying Human Rights Outcry



https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/eu-to-begin-sending-people-back-across-the-seadefying-human-rights-outcry/2016/04/03/7c5f6382-f5e3-11e5-958d-d038dac6e718_story.html?tid=pm_world_pop_b

Traumatized Afghan Refugees Fear Deportation From EU



 $\frac{http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/03/traumatised-afghan-refugees-fear-deportation-eu-160331125730152.html$

At Macedonian Border, Tensions Between Migrants And Police Erupt Into Violence



http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/04/11/473808217/at-macedonian-border-migrant-police-tensions-erupt-into-violence

Tensions High on Greece-Macedonia Border Following Migrant Clash



 $\frac{http://www.voanews.com/content/tensions-remain-high-on-greece-macedonia-borderfollowing-migrant-clash/3279406.html}{}$

Fears Grow That ISIS Is Planning A Bizarre Biological Attack As Rotting Animal Testicles Found In Suspected Terrorist's Backpack



http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/7060944/Fears-ISIS-is-planning-a-primitive-biological-attack-intensifies-as-rotting-animal-testicles-a-found-in-suspected-terrorists-backpack.html

Brussels Attackers Had Planned To Strike Paris Instead, Investigators Say

http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/04/10/473704749/brussels-attackers-had-planned-to-strike-paris-instead-investigators-say

Paris And Brussels Attack Network Is A 'Supercell' Of ISIS Extremism With Dozens Of Members Moving Unnoticed In Europe's Criminal Underworld

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3534382/Paris-Brussels-attacks-network-supercell-extremism.html

Paris and Brussels Attackers: Tale of Binding Ties

http://www.voanews.com/content/paris-and-brussels-attackers-tale-of-binding-ties/3280098.html

Does ISIS Even Have a European Strategy?



http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-skeptics/does-isis-even-have-european-strategy-15658 http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2014/09/05/isis-launches-world-war-that-could-unite-rival-powers/(2014)

Lessons Of Belgium Ignored

http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htterr/articles/20160408.aspx

Teachers Working In Predominantly Islamic Parts Of Brussels Claim 90% Of Their Students Hail Isis Attacks On Paris And Brussels, View Attackers As 'Heros'

"How is it that people who were born here in Brussels, in Paris, can call heroes the people who commit violence and terror?"

http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/660149/isis-islamic-state-is-isil-daesh-brussels-paris-attacks-molenbeek-terror

Most Young Arabs Reject Isis And Think 'Caliphate' Will Fail, Poll Finds



http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/12/vast-majority-young-arabs-isis-shunning-poll

New Video Of Airport Bombing Suspect



http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35989759

ISIS Supporters Threaten The UK With Terror Attacks In New Propaganda Video

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/isis-supporters-threaten-london-with-terror-attacks-in-new-propaganda-video-a6969006.html

What It Was Like Being in Brussels During the Terrorist Attacks

In the months following the Paris attacks, Belgian intelligence and security were unable to track Salah Abdeslam — believed to be the sole surviving participant of the Paris attacks — and his aides, who had sought shelter in Molenbeek, the very neighborhood where Abdeslam grew up. The sense of frustration among the general public about the perceived effectiveness of, and coordination among, the Belgian intelligence and security authorities is even more prevalent now.

http://www.rand.org/blog/2016/03/what-it-was-like-being-in-brussels-during-the-terrorist.html

Former Counterterrorism Official Says A Recent Visit To Molenbeek Shows Why ISIL Is Thriving In Europe



http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/03/brussels-attacks-terrorist-safe-haven-213768

The Islamic State of Molenbeek

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/12/opinion/the-islamic-state-of-molenbeek.html? r=0

Inside Belgium's Jihadi Problem



http://theweek.com/articles/615770/inside-belgiums-jihadi-problem

All of Europe Is a Battleground Against Terrorism

http://www.nationalinterest.org/blog/the-skeptics/all-europe-battleground-against-terrorism-15594

Europe Must Address Roots Of Extremism

A political deal in Syria will focus efforts to conquer Raqqa and rid most of the country of Daesh fighters. While much more difficult, the liberation of Mosul will effectively end the terrorist organisation's presence in Iraq as well. But it is too early to say that the war against Daesh has been won. But while Daesh's strength in the Middle East is diminishing, its worldwide threat continues to rise. The challenge for Europe is different from that of Syria and Iraq. In these countries an equitable political settlement that will satisfy ethnic and sectarian groups will certainly contain and reduce the threat of religious militancy. The major political players in Iraq now realise that and are pushing for a new deal that will bring the country's Sunnis back into the political fold.

http://gulfnews.com/opinion/thinkers/europe-must-address-roots-of-extremism-1.1700240

Former German Soldiers Join ISIS In Syria And Iraq: Intelligence Report

http://aranews.net/2016/04/former-german-soldiers-join-isis-syria-iraq-intelligence-report/

Swiss Anger At Muslim Handshake Exemption In Therwil School

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35967349

Air France Faces Staff Mutiny In Headscarf Row



http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/03/air-france-faces-staff-mutiny-in-headscarf-row

Air France Crew Allowed To Refuse To Work On Route To Iran Over Requirement They Must Wear A Headscarf

http://www.foxnews.com/travel/2016/04/04/air-france-crew-allowed-to-refuse-to-work-on-route-to-iran.html

MIDDLE EAST

U.S. Embassy Warns Of Possible Attack On Hotel In Kabul

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-afghanistan-warning-idUSKCN0X81YO

Taliban Announce Start Of Spring Offensive In Afghanistan



http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/12/taliban-announce-start-of-spring-offensive-in-afghanistan http://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-taliban-idUSKCN0X90D1

Taliban Name Afghan Spring Offensive After Founder And First Emir Mullah Omar



http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/04/taliban-name-afghan-spring-offensive-after-founder-and-first-emir-mullah-omar.php

Suicide Bomber Kills at Least 12 Afghan Army Recruits on Bus



http://www.voanews.com/content/bomb-kills-two-education-ministry-workers-in-kabul/3279331.html http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/12/world/middleeast/suicide-bomber-kills-at-least-12-afghan-army-recruits-on-bus.html? r=0

Senior Islamic State Khorasan Leaders Defect To Taliban

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/04/senior-islamic-state-khorasan-leaders-defect-to-taliban.php

'They Just Like Beheadings': Taliban Fighters Who Fled ISIS's Brutal Regime Reveal Horror Of Jihad Group's Ruthless Reign Of Terror In Afghanistan

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3535527/They-just-like-beheadings-Taliban-fighters-fled-ISIS-s-brutal-regime-reveal-horror-jihad-group-s-ruthless-reign-terror-Afghanistan.html

Taliban App's Publication Points To Holes In Google's App Review Process

http://techcrunch.com/2016/04/04/the-taliban-apps-publication-points-to-holes-in-googles-app-review-process/

Lahore Bombing Shows Fragility Of Coexistence



http://gulfnews.com/opinion/thinkers/lahore-bombing-shows-fragility-of-coexistence-1.1699402

Will Pakistan Be Able To Counter Expanding Extremism?

http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2016/01/pakistan-counter-expanding-extremism-160121060707240.html

Afghanistan: Taliban Child Soldier Recruitment Surges; Children Trained in Madrasas to Hate, Fight, Plant IEDs



Children are very vulnerable in conflict-ridden areas such as Afghanistan and need to be protected. The use of children as soldiers causes significant psychological and physical development challenges. Many of these children mostly aged less than 18 years old are used to do hard physical labor or are sexually abused. These children are both taken by force or are recruited by the Taliban and Afghan police forces as fighters.

https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/02/17/afghanistan-taliban-child-soldier-recruitment-surges

http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/asiapcf/05/11/afghanistan.madrassa/

http://www.khaama.com/child-soldiers-a-tool-to-sustain-power-in-the-afghan-war-1689

http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/apicazo/2010/11/child-soldiers-other-taliban-and-al-gaeda-militants

Treasury Department: Charity Run By Scottish-Born Jihadist An Al Qaeda 'Front Organization'



http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/04/treasury-department-charity-run-by-scottish-born-jihadist-an-al-gaeda-front-organization.php

Sharia 'Court' Set Up in Lahore



http://www.voanews.com/content/sharia-court-set-up-in-lahore/3275253.html

Pakistan Probes Islamic Court Set Up In Lahore, Describes It As An 'Arbitration Service' http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/pakistan-probes-islamic-court-set-lahore-160407174840427.html

Afghanistan Train Women to Fight in Armed Forces





More than 50 Afghan women volunteered for intensive anti-terrorism training in the Herat camp, hoping to bring an end to the horrific scenes witnessed on Easter Saturday. Women in Afghanistan are told not to mingle with men outside of their family.

http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/504454/afghan-troops-women-soldiers-fight-taliban-afghanistan





ASRIYA, Iraq — The suicide bomber who blew up a youth soccer match late last month left barely a dent in the hard, dry earth, a faint scorch on a concrete wall nearby. But he gouged a chasm of grief in the heart of the small community that lost more than two dozen of its sons in a single moment, at 6:15 on the evening of March 25. A total of 43 people died in the bombing at the game, according to figures provided by the local government. Of them, 29 were boys younger than 17 who had either been participating in the match or were watching their friends play.

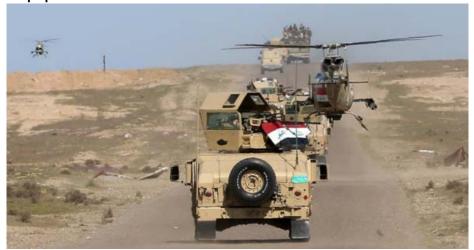
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/the-unbearable-grief-of-a-village-that-lost-its-boys-to-a-suicide-bomber/2016/04/07/e7fb2e8a-faa4-11e5-813a-90ab563f0dde story.html?tid=pm world pop b

Iraqi Forces Oust ISIL From Key Anbar Town



http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/iraqi-forces-oust-isil-key-anbar-town-160408144126609.html

Iraqi Special Forces Lead March On ISIL-Controlled Heet



http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/03/iraqi-special-forces-lead-march-isil-controlled-heet-160331151456076.html

U.S. Military Kills 2 Swedish Islamic State Fighters In Iraq During Airstrikes

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/04/us-military-kills-2-swedish-islamic-state-fighters-in-iraq.php

Iraqi Soldiers Celebrate After Foiling ISIS Car Bomb Attack With Missile



http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/iraqi-soldiers-celebrate-after-foiling-7663118

Iraq Christian militia fighting Islamic State



http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35998716

Iraq: People Remember

https://www.strategypage.com/qnd/iraq/articles/20160410.aspx

Chances Of Shia Uprising Against The Baghdad Government Are Increasing

http://www.stripes.com/opinion/chances-of-shia-uprising-against-the-baghdad-government-are-increasing-1.403387

Obama to Ask Gulf Nations to Help Finance Iraq's Rebuilding

http://www.voanews.com/content/obama-to-ask-gulf-nations-to-help-finance-iraq-rebuilding/3279854.html

Syria Civil War: ISIL Kidnaps 300 Factory Workers Then Agrees To Free Abducted Workers



http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/syria-war-isil-agrees-free-abducted-plant-staff-160408165030071.html http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/syria-civil-war-isil-kidnaps-300-factory-workers-160407133133867.html

The Islamic State in Turkey: A Deep Dive into a Dark Place

http://warontherocks.com/2016/04/the-islamic-state-in-turkey-a-deep-dive-into-a-dark-place/

There Is No Military Solution for Syria, How to End the Tragedy

http://www.thenation.com/article/there-is-no-military-solution-for-syria/

Palmyra's Liberation Proves Assad is the Lesser Evil

http://nationalinterest.org/feature/palmyra-proves-assad-the-lesser-evil-15613

Palmyra Must Not Be Fixed. History Would Never Forgive Us



A Russian army sapper works at the historic part of Palmyra <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/jonathanjonesblog/2016/apr/11/palmyra-isis-syria-restored-3d-printers-vandalism-http://www.reuters.com/news/picture/editors-choice?articleId=USRTX29FEB

Photos: ISIS Militants Attack Military Airport In Al Nasiri, Syria



 $\frac{\text{http://heavy.com/news/2016/04/new-isis-islamic-state-news-pictures-videos-wilayat-al-khayr-aldgam-military-airbase-airport-attack-photo-report/}$

Syrian Cease-fire Fraying; Aleppo in Regime Sights

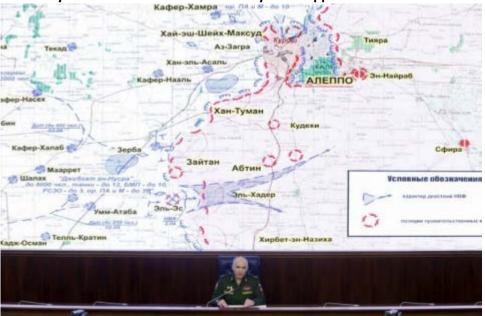


http://www.voanews.com/content/syrian-cease-fire-fraying-aleppo-in-regime-sights/3279948.html

Syrian Army Sends Reinforcements To Aleppo

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idUSKCN0X81ZU

Russia Says There Are No Plans To Storm Syria's Aleppo



http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-russia-idUSKCN0X81YA

The Fate of Syria Rests in Aleppo: STRATFOR

https://www.stratfor.com/analysis/fate-syria-rests-aleppo

Syrian Fighter Jet Downed In Aleppo Province



http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/04/syrian-fighter-jet-downed-in-aleppo-province.php

Why Russia's Air War in Syria Could Make Its Military Even Stronger



http://www.nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/why-russias-air-war-syria-could-make-its-military-even-15620

Analysis: Russian Gunships Replace Jets In Syria



http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/gunships-replace-jets-russias-air-campaign-syria-160407111014579.html

How Russia Profits From Syria

https://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htproc/articles/20160412.aspx

U.S. Deploys B-52 Bombers To Middle East For The First Time In 25 Years

http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/apr/9/us-deploys-b-52-bombers-middle-east-first-time-25-/

ISIS Found Using Robot-Controlled Sniper Rifles To Gun Down Enemies



http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/isis-found-using-robot-controlled-7685347

Did ISIS Just Reveal Its Plans?

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2016/04/did isis just reveal its plans.html

What's in a Name: A Strategic Analysis of The Islamic State

http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/what%E2%80%99s-in-a-name-a-strategic-analysis-of-the-islamic-state

Five Ways to Devastate ISIL



http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/03/five-ways-to-devastate-isil-213763

Time for Common Sense About ISIS

http://nationalinterest.org/feature/time-common-sense-about-isis-15729

Women and Preventing Violent Extremism at the Grassroots Level



http://warontherocks.com/2016/04/women-and-preventing-violent-extremism-at-the-grassroots-level/

What Factors Cause Youth to Reject Violent Extremism?

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research reports/RR1118.html

The Cure For Islamic Terrorism

http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htwin/articles/20160406.aspx

Is ISIS Faithful to Islam?

Yet when "moderate, peaceful Muslims" were called to testify as defense witnesses, says McCarthy, they could not contradict the Blind Sheikh's claim that he had correctly interpreted the Quran. The questions that arise are crucial. http://buchanan.org/blog/isis-faithful-islam-125039

ISIS or Islam: Which Breeds Terrorism?

https://pjmedia.com/homeland-security/2016/04/07/terrorism-isis-or-islam/

Do the Roots of Jihad Lie in the Quran?

https://sofrep.com/50709/roots-jihad-lie-guran/

The Media Owes Us The Truth About Peaceful Islam

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ahmed-khan/the-media-owes-us-the-truth-about-islam b 9628280.html

The Presidents Of Russia, Iran And Azerbaijan Planning To Hold Talks On Security Cooperation In The Caspian Sea Region



http://www.voanews.com/content/russia-nagorno-karabakh-azerbaijan-armenia/3279945.html

Russian Efforts In Armenia

https://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htun/articles/20160412.aspx

U.S. Navy: Iranian Weapons Confiscated At Sea — And It's The Third Time In Two Months



https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2016/04/04/navy-iranian-weapons-confiscated-at-sea-and-its-the-third-time-in-two-months/?tid=pm world pop b

EU Extends Sanctions Against Iran Over Human Rights

http://www.timesofisrael.com/eu-extends-sanctions-against-iran-over-human-rights/

The Difference Between Israel's 1948 Generation and Today's



Yesterday we buried my uncle. I loved him very much. He was my boyhood hero. I admired him for being the coach of the Israeli handball team and for having fought in 1948. As a child in front of the mirror, I'd buckle on the military belt he kept from 1948. A belt that had belonged to his best friend who was killed, and after whom I was named.

Only towards the end of his life did his beliefs begin to crack. This was not easy. Like many of his generation he began to ask if this was the state he had dreamt of and fought for. For years I thought his opinions were medieval. Now that he has died, I miss their innocence, an innocence no longer seen in this cursed place, the establishment of which my uncle fought for in 1948.

http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-1.713121

The Salman Doctrine: The U.S. Abandoned The Arab World, Riyadh Is Picking Up The Slack



http://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-salman-doctrine-the-saudi-reply-obamas-weakness-15623

What Obama May Find in Arabia Next Week: A Sense of Authority in Crisis http://smallwarsjournal.com/blog/what-obama-may-find-in-arabia-next-week-a-sense-of-authority-in-crisis

The New Normal in U.S.-Saudi Relations



http://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-new-normal-us-saudi-relations-15762

The Myth Of Saudi Power: The 'Salman Doctrine' Can't Back Up Its Tough Talk



http://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-myth-saudi-power-15727

Rheinmetall Denel Munition Factory Opens In Saudi Arabia



http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/2016/04/06/rheinmetall-denel-munition-factory-opens-saudi-arabia/82695922/

Why Saudi Arabia Is Hammering Yemen, Hopes To Put The Shia Awakening To Bed http://nationalinterest.org/feature/why-saudi-arabia-hammering-yemen-15748

Saudi King Announces Bridge Over Red Sea To Egypt



http://www.dawn.com/news/1250764/saudi-king-announces-bridge-over-red-sea-to-egypt

Egypt Hands Saudi Arabia Two Islands In Gratitude, Egyptians Are Outraged

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/04/11/egypt-hands-saudi-arabia-two-islands-in-gratitude-egyptians-are-outraged-2/?tid=pm_world_pop_b

Saudi King Visits Turkey in Sign of Improving Relations



http://www.voanews.com/content/saudi-king-visits-turkey-in-sign-of-improving-relations/3279931.html

Why India and Saudi Arabia Continue to Grow Closer

http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/why-india-and-saudi-arabia-continue-to-grow-closer/

U.S. Considering Moving Sinai Troops, Partly Due to ISIS Threat

http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/international/mideast-africa/2016/04/05/us-considering-moving-sinai-troops-media/82687286/

Egypt, France To Sign Arms Deal Mid-April



http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/policy-budget/industry/2016/04/06/egypt-france-fighter-jet-frigate-satellite/82695674/

World's Largest Maritime Exercise Underway in Middle East



The International Mine Countermeasures Exercise, the largest maritime exercise in the world, kicked off April 4, with international naval and civilian maritime forces from more than 30 nations spanning six continents training together across the Middle East. The exercise is organized and led by U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, which leads U.S. Navy and afloat Marine Corps forces across the more than 2.5 million square miles of ocean in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. "These participating nations are united by a common thread -- the need to protect the free flow of commerce from a range of maritime threats including piracy, terrorism and mines," http://www.knoxvilledailysun.com/news/2016/april/worlds-largest-maritime-exercise.html

U.S. Leads Mideast Anti-Mines Maritime Exercise

http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/naval/2016/04/04/us-leads-mideast-anti-mines-maritime-exercise/82635928/

AFRICA

2,000 Hostages Freed As African Troops Close In On Boko Haram

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2016/04/06/2000-hostages-freed-as-African-troops-close-in-on-Boko-Haram/5471459947821/?spt=mps&or=4&sn=tn

Nigerian Army Clears Boko Haram Out Of Two Of The Remaining Three Large Areas Boko Haram Still Controlled

http://www.strategypage.com/qnd/nigeria/articles/20160401.aspx

Boko Haram Crisis: 'Huge Rise' In Child Suicide Bombers http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-36023444

Islamic State West Africa Reaffirms Loyalty To Al Baghdadi



http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/04/islamic-state-west-africa-reaffirms-loyalty-to-al-baghdadi.php

Tunisian Al Qaeda Battalion Claims Ambush Near Algerian Border

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/03/tunisian-al-qaeda-battalion-claims-ambush-near-algerian-border.php

French Soldier Killed By Landmine In Northern Mali http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-36025945

The Sun Sets on Libya Dawn



https://www.stratfor.com/analysis/sun-sets-libya-dawn

Ex al-Shabab Official Executed by Somali Government for Journalists' Killings http://www.voanews.com/content/somalia-publicly-executes-former-al-shabaab-spokesman/3279283.html

The World Looks Away As Blood Flows In Burundi



http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/10/burundi-ethnic-violence-refugees

Drought Leaves 6 Million Ethiopian Children Hungry

http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/drought-leaves-6-million-ethiopian-children-hungry-160408134745829.html

Remembering Rwanda: Capturing A Vision Of Hell



But it was the parish church that conveyed the full incomprehensible horror. Amid overturned pews, a discarded crucifix and an alter caked in blood, were the bodies - some limbless, others headless - piled on top of one another. The stench of death was unbearable. I vomited. There were so many bodies that it was almost impossible to walk between them as I documented the aftermath of the carnage. I inadvertently stepped on one and felt the decomposing flesh fall away beneath my feet. It is something I regret and which continues to haunt and disturb me to this day.

http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/04/rwanda-capturing-vision-hell-160407111638338.html http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2014/04/interactive-how-rwanda-genocide-unfolded-2014478459557910.html

Why China's Djibouti Presence Matters

http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/why-chinas-djibouti-presence-matters/

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Congressional Panel Recommends Impeachment For Brazilian President Rousseff



http://www.voanews.com/content/congressional-panel-recommends-impeachment-brazil-president-rousseff/3280793.html

Brazil President Denounces 'Coup', Suggests Her VP Is One Of 'Plotters' http://www.arirang.co.kr/News/News View.asp?nseq=190105

El Salvador Grasps To End Its Gang Wars

http://www.stripes.com/opinion/el-salvador-grasps-to-end-its-gang-wars-1.404084

Cartels Are Using These 'Narco-Submarines' To Move Tens Of Thousands Of Pounds Of Drugs At A Time



http://www.businessinsider.com/cartel-narco-submarines-2016-4

CUBA

U.S. Transfers 2 Guantanamo Detainees To The Republic Of Senegal



http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/04/us-transfers-2-guantanamo-detainees-to-senegal.php

150 Years Of US-Cuba History, Told In 6 Minutes (Video)

http://www.vox.com/2016/4/12/11411358/cuba-opening-history-video

CANADA

Canada Sounds Alarm Over Aboriginal Teenage Suicide Epidemic http://www.reuters.com/article/us-canada-aboriginal-suicides-idUSKCN0X927D

Canadian Group Meets Pastor Detained In North Korea; Family Fears For His Health http://www.cnn.com/2016/04/09/asia/north-korea-hyeon-soo-lim/

Rail Mega-Deal Pushed All The Wrong Buttons



Canadian Pacific Railway's \$28 billion bid for rival Norfolk Southern pushed all the wrong deal buttons. The now-abandoned, unsolicited offer managed to alienate nearly every ally the railway needed: U.S. regulators, the target's board, customers, lawmakers – even the American military. http://blogs.reuters.com/breakingviews/2016/04/11/rail-mega-deal-pushed-all-the-wrong-buttons/

DoD/U.S.American Ground Troops Return To Iraq



http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htmurph/articles/20160405.aspx

In Case You Missed It, The U.S. Is Solidly Back In Iraq

http://www.stripes.com/opinion/in-case-you-missed-it-the-us-is-solidly-back-in-irag-1.403534

Can American End Its War in the Greater Middle East?



http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-skeptics/can-american-end-its-war-the-greater-middle-east-15696

I Made The Journey Home From Afghanistan My Fallen Husband Never Could



http://taskandpurpose.com/afghan-war-widow-took-flight-home-fallen-husband-never/

2 Veterans Embark On Epic Mission To Be The First Combat Amputees To Climb Everest



http://taskandpurpose.com/2-veterans-embark-epic-mission-first-combat-amputees-climb-everest/

Suicides of Servicemembers and Veterans

http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htatrit/articles/20160406.aspx

U.S. Navy Officer Charged With Spying, Possibly For China, Taiwan

Lin "speaks fluent Mandarin and had been a department head for the Hawaii-based Special Projects Patrol Squadron Two 'Wizards' (VPU-2) that flew EP3-E Aries II signals intelligence aircraft," USNI News reports, adding that his job was to manage the collection of electronic signals.

 $\frac{\text{https://news.usni.org/2016/04/10/u-s-naval-flight-officer-lt-cmdr-edward-lin-accused-of-giving-u-s-secrets-to-china-http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-china-espionage-idUSKCN0X80DL}{}$

http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/04/11/473804022/spy-charges-leveled-at-u-s-navy-officer-who-worked-in-reconnaissance

Obama Says Hillary Clinton's Private Server Did Not Endanger National Security: 'There's Classified, And Then There's Classified'



http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/apr/10/obama-says-hillary-clinton-emails-did-not-endanger/http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2016/04/10/obama-clinton-emails/

Obama's 'Classified' Comments Strike Nerve

http://thehill.com/policy/national-security/275887-obamas-classified-comments-strike-nerve

Shrinking the Tactical Civilian-Military Divide



http://warontherocks.com/2016/04/shrinking-the-tactical-civilian-military-divide/

Weathering the Storm: Civil-Military Tension During Presidential Transitions



As a former senior civil servant and political appointee who weathered several administration transitions, I offer four observations on how to ease unproductive civil-military friction at the end of an administration's term.

 $\underline{\text{http://warontherocks.com/2016/04/weathering-the-storm-civil-military-tension-during-presidential-transitions/}$

President Obama: Libya Aftermath 'Worst Mistake' Of Presidency



http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-36013703

http://www.voanews.com/content/obama-worst-mistake-was-no-plan-for-libya-after-overthrowing-gadhafi/3279717.html

Next Steps For Addressing ISIS Genocide: Consider Whether Victims Of Iraqi And Syrian Genocide Qualify For Priority 2 (P-2) Status Under The United States Refugee Admissions Programs http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2016/04/next-steps-for-addressing-isis-genocide

How The National Security Council Hijacked U.S. Foreign Policy: The Next President Must Unleash America's Diplomats

http://nationalinterest.org/feature/how-the-nsc-hijacked-us-foreign-policy-15625

The End Of The American Empire: Retired Senior Diplomat Addresses U.S. Approach To Strategy And Foreign Affairs



http://warontherocks.com/2016/04/the-end-of-the-american-empire/

U.S. National Security Decisionmaking Processes Need Streamlining



http://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PE192.html

Terrorism and Presidential Messaging

http://www.nationalinterest.org/blog/paul-pillar/terrorism-presidential-messaging-15586

America's Major Alliances Date Back Six To Seven Decades, Should We Reevaluate Cost-Sharing? http://nationalinterest.org/feature/americas-free-riders-must-fight-their-own-battles-15759

Why a General Should Be President

http://www.spousebuzz.com/blog/2016/04/why-a-general-should-be-president.html

Five Military Leaders Republicans Could Draft For A Run For President

 $\frac{https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-partisan/wp/2016/04/11/five-military-leaders-republicans-could-draft-for-a-run-for-president-hint-it-worked-before/http://www.stripes.com/opinion/5-military-leaders-gop-could-draft-for-president-1.404083$

Thinking About General James Mattis' Presidential Prospects



http://smallwarsjournal.com/blog/thinking-about-general-james-mattis%E2%80%99-presidential-prospects http://www.rokdrop.net/2016/04/could-general-mattis-win-a-third-party-campaign-for-us-president/

How Mattis Could Actually Become President

http://taskandpurpose.com/mattis-actually-become-president/

A Three-Star Marine Corps General Is Running for Congress



Retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Jack Bergman announced Tuesday that he is officially running for Congress in Michigan.

Presidential Candidate Donald Trump on Nuclear Weapons, East Asia and Implications for Australia

Trump has been misreported somewhat. He doesn't want to see nuclear weapons proliferate, and he'd rather these countries reimburse the U.S. and maintain the status quo. It's just that Trump won't abide the threat of proliferation being used to force the U.S. to bear security burdens that are patently unreasonable. And again, there is some legitimacy to these complaints.

Japan hates nuclear weapons, but is willing to incur great sacrifice if they're ever used – fighting to the very last American.

Of course there are serious risks if Korea and Japan do go nuclear. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty would be destroyed and efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to other parts of the world could be terminally eroded. Moreover, the US is often a constraining influence on allies, reducing the risk of crisis escalation and moderating responses to low-level provocations – this could be complicated if nuclear armed allies are exerting greater independence. Trump's prescription is a radical departure from the longstanding norm but does reflect one school of thought in American defense circles.

http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/donald-trump-nuclear-weapons-east-asia-implications-15745

America Can Afford To Reduce Its Global Military Presence: In Europe And In Asia, America Must Take Better Advantage Of Its Security Structure And Change The Status Quo Of Being The World's First Line Of Defense

http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/strategic-depth-america%E2%80%99s-security-future

Growing Political Consensus In Favor Of Economic Nationalism Runs Counter To Views Of Practically All Economists: 'When Goods Don't Cross Borders, Armies Will'



http://nationalinterest.org/feature/sanders-trump-are-dead-wrong-free-trade-15614

Why Soviet Refugees Aren't Buying Presidential Candidate Bernie Sanders' Socialism http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/04/bernie-sanders-trump-russians/477045/

Why Pentagon Priorities Will Soon Change No Matter Who Becomes President http://smallwarsjournal.com/blog/why-pentagon-priorities-will-soon-change-no-matter-who-becomes-president

A New Kind of Battlefield Awaits the U.S. Military — Megacities http://www.rand.org/blog/2016/04/a-new-kind-of-battlefield-awaits-the-us-military-megacities.html

DoD Forging Strategy, Joint Staff Revamp for Complex Fights

http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/2016/04/05/dod-forging-strategy-joint-staff-revamp-complex-fights/82475484/

The Approaching Modernization 'Bow Wave' and Military Balance



The U.S. Military will encounter the modernization "bow wave" beginning in the early 2020s. "A modernization bow wave typically forms as the overall defense budget declines and modernization programs are delayed or stretched in the future."

http://warontherocks.com/2016/04/the-bow-wave-and-the-military-balance/

Call Out Pentagon Projects That Should Be Cut

http://www.stripes.com/opinion/call-out-pentagon-projects-that-should-be-cut-1.402013

In the Midst of Military Personnel Reform Pentagon Still Struggling How to Define Talent https://news.usni.org/2016/04/12/in-the-midst-of-military-personnel-reform-pentagon-still-struggling-how-to-define-talent

How Chinese PLA Training Stacks Up Against Its U.S. Counterpart



http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/chinese-pla-training-a-window-on-military-culture/

Will This Weapon Change Infantry Warfare Forever?



http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/will-this-weapon-change-infantry-warfare-forever/

Lightening Body Armor



http://www.rand.org/capabilities/solutions/lightening-body-armor.html

Female U.S. Navy Recruits The First To Wear Iconic 'Dixie Cup' Headwear



http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2016/04/06/Female-US-Navy-recruits-the-first-to-wear-iconic-dixie-cup-headwear/3411459978938/?spt=mps&or=3&sn=tn

Fort Stewart General: Women in Combat Jobs Will Improve Army

http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/04/04/fort-stewart-general-women-in-combat-jobs-will-improve-army.html

Will Gender-Integration Enhance Or Endanger Combat Fighters' Lives And Missions Against Overwhelmingly Male Adversaries? (videos)



PHYSIOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SEXES (Army Physical Fitness Field Manual)
SIZE

The average 18- year-old man is 70.2 inches tall and weighs 144.8 pounds, whereas the average woman of the same age is 64.4 inches tall and weighs 126.6 pounds. This difference in size affects the absolute amount of physical work that can be performed by men and women.

MUSCLES

Men have 50 percent greater total muscle mass, based on weight, than do women. A woman who is the same size as her male counterpart is generally only 80 percent as strong. Therefore, men usually have an advantage in strength, speed, and power over women.

FAT

Women carry about 10 percentage points more body fat than do men of the same age. Men accumulate fat primarily in the back, chest, and abdomen; women gain fat in the buttocks, arms, and thighs. Also, because the center of gravity is lower in women than in men, women must overcome more resistance in activities that require movement of the lower body.

BONES

Women have less bone mass than men, but their pelvic structure is wider. This difference gives men an advantage in running efficiency.

HEART SIZE AND RATE

The average woman's heart is 25 percent smaller than the average man's. Thus, the man's heart can pump more blood with each beat. The larger heart size contributes to the slower resting heart rate (five to eight beats a minute slower) in males. This lower rate is evident both at rest and at any given level of submaximal exercise. Thus, for any given work rate, the faster heart rate means that most women will become fatigued sooner than men.

FLEXIBILITY

Women generally are more flexible than men.

LUNGS

The lung capacity of men is 25 to 30 percent greater than that of women. This gives men still another advantage in the processing of oxygen and in doing aerobic work such as running.

https://sddc.aep.army.mil/sites/599th/Default.aspx

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRfCpQx FDE&nohtml5=False

http://www.weeklystandard.com/obama-admins-ruling-on-women-in-combat-will-endanger-marines/article/2000095

Navy Secretary To Marines: Women In Combat Is Irreversible: Marine General Told Senators 'A Decision Has Been Made But Hope Is Not A Course Of Action On The Battlefield'

http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/navy-secretary-discuss-women-combat-camp-pendleton-38324946

Can You Pass The Navy SEAL Physical Fitness Screening Test?



https://sofrep.com/50958/can-pass-navy-seal-physical-screening-test/

Why We Still Need the Draft

http://warontherocks.com/2016/02/why-we-still-need-the-draft/

Tricare Is About To Make It Easier For Families To Get Urgent Care

http://taskandpurpose.com/tricare-make-easier-families-get-urgent-care/

Military Takes Cues from Colleges for Sex Assault Prevention

http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/04/07/military-takes-cues-colleges-sex-assault-prevention.html

Lawmakers View Push For Tolerance As A Threat

http://www.stripes.com/opinion/lawmakers-view-push-for-tolerance-as-a-threat-1.403925

Why Student Vets Using The GI Bill Aren't Immune To Debt

http://taskandpurpose.com/gi-bill-expert-know/

TECHNOLOGY





We may be on the verge of creating a new life form, one that could mark not only an evolutionary breakthrough, but a potential threat to our survival as a species.

http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/features/inside-the-artificial-intelligence-revolution-a-special-report-pt-2-20160309 http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/features/inside-the-artificial-intelligence-revolution-a-special-report-pt-1-20160229

To Avoid Disaster, We Must Also Teach Robots To Disobey Us: Explaining Morality And Law To Robots

To handle these complications of human instructions, robots need to be able to reason through consequences of actions.

http://gz.com/658413/to-avoid-disaster-we-must-teach-robots-to-disobey-us/

Stealth Spray-on Technology is Immanent

https://sofrep.com/51073/spray-stealth-technology-way/

Tiny Terrors Of The Deep

https://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htsub/articles/20160411.aspx

SECURITY-SAFETY

Do Significant Terrorist Attacks Increase the Risk of Further Attacks?

Using the Global Terrorism Database, the researchers find an absence of clustering for terrorist events around trigger events since 1994, no increases in terrorism on significant dates, and a decline of terrorism in the West since the 1970s, suggesting that the threat of terrorism should not affect individuals' behavior and decisions in the United States and Western Europe — not even in the wake of a significant terrorist event. However, heightened security may be justified. http://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PE173.html

Ex-FBI Agent Was Gunman in Texas Base Shooting

http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/04/10/ex-fbi-agent-was-gunman-texas-base-shooting.html

Here's What You Think About More Guns on Base

http://www.spousebuzz.com/blog/2016/04/heres-what-you-think-about-more-guns-on-base.html?comp%3D1199462148439%26rank%3D1

Brussels Terror Attacks Are Symptoms Of A Larger Problem



Deaths from jihadist assaults rose from an annual average of roughly 2,500 innocents per year from 2001 to 2006, to an average of 3,300 per year in 2007-2011, to 9,000 per year in 2012-2013 and more than tripled to an average of more than 28,000 in 2014-2015. Frightening scenarios will unfold over the coming months and years should current trends advance unchecked."

http://www.examiner.com/article/brussels-terror-attacks-are-symptoms-of-a-larger-problem

Ten Years After the Safe Port Act, Are America's Ports Secure?



http://www.rand.org/blog/2016/04

Dozens Punished by T.S.A. for Whistle-Blowing Are Later Exonerated

Since its creation after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the T.S.A., which employs 55,000 people at 440 domestic airports and at embassies and consulates in more than 20 countries, has been rocked by leadership changes, high turnover and low morale.

Even those workers who were reinstated after their complaints were found to have merit have had to spend thousands of dollars fighting the T.S.A. in court or in complaints before whistle-blower agencies, resulting in a chilling effect.

"These workers look around and see what's happening with those who report security violations, and remain silent because they have kids to feed and a mortgage to pay," said Robert J. MacLean, a federal air marshal who last year won a case against the agency for wrongful firing that went all the way to the Supreme Court.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/09/us/politics/dozens-punished-by-tsa-for-whistle-blowing-are-later-exonerated.html

Sen. Boxer Asks FBI To Explain Its Response To Ransomware As Hospitals Across the Country Fall Victim To Cybercriminals

http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/apr/11/sen-boxer-asks-fbi-explain-its-response-ransomware/

Ransomware Hackers Are Coming for Your Health Records



http://www.rand.org/blog/2016/04/ransomware-hackers-are-coming-for-your-health-records.html

iPhone los 9.3.1 Bug Lets Anyone See Iphone's Photos And Contacts Using Siri



http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/iphone-bug-ios-931-photos-contacts-siri-workaround-passcode-a6969331.html

WORLD

The Unruled World: The Case for Good Enough Global Governance



While campaigning for president in 2008, Barack Obama pledged to renovate the dilapidated multilateral edifice the United States had erected after World War II. He lionized the generation of Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and George Marshall for creating the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions, and NATO. Their genius, he said, was to recognize that "instead of constraining our power, these institutions magnified it." But the aging pillars of the postwar order were creaking and crumbling, Obama suggested, and so "to keep pace with the fast-moving threats we face," the world needed a new era of global institution building.

https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2013-12-06/unruled-world

U.S. President To Travel The Globe In 2016 To Seal Foreign Policy Legacy



http://www.politico.com/story/2015/12/obama-travel-world-217180

Obama Has A Perfect Chance To Push Bold Reform Of Global Illegal Drug Policy: To Steer It Away From Its Historic Reliance On Prohibition And Incarceration



http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/united-nations-drug-policy-ungass us 56e19763e4b0860f99d7fcd1

What Is Davos? A Glimpse Into The Future World: Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Smart Cities, Future Of Energy, Space Travel, Digital Currency, Shared Economy, Big Data, And The Internet Of Things http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kirkanthony-hamilton/what-is-davos-a-glimpse-into-world-future b 9518268.html

Who will be the next UN Secretary-General?



How will Ban Ki-moon's successor be chosen? The background is that the successor to Ban Ki-moon, the current UN Secretary-General, will be decided over the course of 2016. The formal decision is taken by the UN General Assembly – but it always based on a recommendation by the smaller and more powerful, UN Security Council. The new Secretary-General will probably be chosen in September and will take office in January – coincidentally, the same month that a new US president will be sworn in. Inevitably, the politicking has already begun – which is where the Bulgarian primary comes in. By tradition, the UN operates an informal system of regional "rotation", when it comes to choosing its next Secretary-General (SG). This time around, it is deemed to be the turn of Eastern Europe. There has also never been a female SG – and most countries seem to agree that it is high time that this should change.

http://blogs.ft.com/the-world/2016/01/who-will-be-the-next-un-secretary-general/

The Guardian View On The Next UN Secretary General: Let's Appoint Only On Talent



http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/dec/31/guardian-view-next-un-secretary-general-appoint-only-on-talent

Obama's Bid For U.N. Secretary-General Has Begun



http://www.investors.com/politics/editorials/obama-campaigns-at-west-point-to-be-united-nations-secretary-general/http://spectator.org/articles/65145/obama-could-become-president-whole-worldhttp://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/nilegardiner/100052454/does-barack-obama-dream-of-becoming-un-secretary-general/

 $\underline{\text{http://nation.foxnews.com/2016/01/10/report-obama-wants-become-un-secretary-general-netanyahu-doing-everything-hecan-stop-him}$

A Strong Push To See A Woman As The Next U.N. Secretary-General



http://www.humanosphere.org/world-politics/2016/02/a-strong-push-to-see-a-woman-as-the-next-u-n-secretary-general/

It's Time For A Woman To Lead The United Nations

 $\underline{\text{http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/2016/03/28/its-time-for-a-woman-to-lead-the-united-nations-editorial.html}$

Is the U.N. Ready for a Female Secretary General?

http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/u-n-ready-female-secretary-general-n545731

'Panama Papers' Disclose A Colossal Financial Scandal

http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/editorials/article70105872.html

Panama Papers Release Makes Waves On 40th Anniversary Of Oscar-Winner 'All The President's Men'



http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2016/04/07/panama-papers-watergate-lessons-column/82744152/

U.S. President Obama Calls For International Tax Reform Amid Panama Papers Revelations



In an unscheduled appearance in the White House briefing room, Obama described the revelations from the leaks as "important stuff" and said the issue of global tax avoidance was a "huge problem". Obama's intervention came as the leak of 11.5m files from the Panama-based Mossack Fonseca continued to create uproar and upheaval around the world.

http://www.theguardian.com/news/2016/apr/05/justice-department-panama-papers-mossack-fonseca-us-investigation

Iceland's Prime Minister Steps Down Amid Panama Papers Scandal

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/06/world/europe/panama-papers-iceland.html? r=0

British Prime Minister David Cameron Acknowledges Profiting From Offshore Trust

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/putin-denounces-panama-papers-leaks-as-attempt-to-weaken-russia/2016/04/07/d69473e6-fcbf-11e5-9140-e61d062438bb story.html?tid=pm world pop b

Panama Papers: Putin Rejects Corruption Allegations

http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35989560

Putin: Panama Papers Leak Is An American Plot To Undermine Russia

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2016/04/07/Putin-Panama-Papers-leak-an-American-plot-to-undermine-Russia/1091460044418/?spt=sec&or=tn

China Was Largest Market for Panama Papers Law Firm

http://www.voanews.com/content/panama-papers-china-disclosures-keep-coming/3274285.html

'Panama Papers'-Style Secret Money Is U.S. Problem Too

http://www.stripes.com/opinion/panama-papers-style-secret-money-is-us-problem-too-1.403324

Panama Papers: 10 Things We've Learned

http://www.bbc.com/news/business-35979313

Tax Haven Expert: Panama Papers, Is Modern Way Of Doing Business, A Lot Of It Is Legal

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Opinion/2016/04/07/Six-things-a-tax-haven-expert-learned-from-the-Panama-Papers/6131460044014/

Panama Papers: Why Some Of This Is Perfectly Legal, Difference Between Tax Avoidance And Tax Evasion

http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/04/panama-papers-perfectly-legal-160404113825480.html

Don't Blame Panama: Tax Evasion Is a Global Problem

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/11/opinion/dont-blame-panama-tax-evasion-is-a-global-problem.html?ref=opinion& r=0

Panama Papers Explained With a Piggy Bank (Video)



http://www.vox.com/2016/4/11/11369400/panama-papers-guide-biggest-findings

Why The Wealthy Have to Hide Their Earned Money From Ravenous Government Taxation

If the rich have to resort to secrecy to hide their wealth, then who are they hiding it from and why? They are hiding it from ravenous, rapacious governments that want that wealth. Cut it any way you want to but a man's money is his money and nobody has the right to take it from him; governments, most of all. Money, income and yes, wealth have to be earned and this principle also applies to governments and other highwaymen who demand your hard-earned money by putting a gun to your head and say "Your money or your life". Taxation is a primitive, medieval, soul sucking practice exercised by those who want to impose their will by force on defenseless victims. Governments should realize that the days of abject serfdom are over and we will defend what's ours with sticks and stones if we have to. So keep your damn hands out of our cookie jars or the next time you dip your hands in, there will be scorpion waiting for you.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/why-few-americans-in-panama-papers-lawyer-doesnt-want-them/2016/04/08/2398ea76-fd3f-11e5-813a-90ab563f0dde story.html

Hypocrisy: World Plagued By Elites Who Ask Citizens To Tighten Their Belts While They Live Lavish Lifestyles

http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2016/04/panama-papers-hypocrisy-ruling-elites-160407091000057.html

Geography Of Financial Secrecy: What Panama Papers Don't Reveal May Be More Important Than What They Do

http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/04/panama-papers-tax-havens-world/477042/

What Makes Panama a Tax Haven?



http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/04/panama-tax-haven/476766/

Don't Ignore The Threat Of Nuclear Terrorism: Beware Of The Ploy To Use A Small 'False Flag' Nuclear Device Detonated For The Purpose Of Providing Excuse To Start A Nuclear War



http://nationalinterest.org/feature/dont-ignore-the-threat-nuclear-terrorism-15598 http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR391.html

Risk of Nuclear Catastrophe Greater Today Than During Cold War: Former U.S. SecDef Perry http://www.huffingtonpost.com/william-jperry/nuclear-catastrophe-risk b 9019558.html http://www.militarytimes.com/story/military/pentagon/2015/12/29/former-pentagon-chief-perry-nuclear-dangers-growing/78015460/

William Perry's Nuclear Nightmare (video)



http://thebulletin.org/multimedia/william-perrys-nuclear-nightmare http://thebulletin.org/william-j-perry-nuclear-war-and-nuclear-terrorism8961

The Difficulty of Talking About Nuclear Attacks: The Atlantic

http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2016/01/the-difficulty-of-talking-about-doomsday/431676/

Women at Sea: Is Sea-Blindness Gendered?



Statistics from the International Transport Workers' Federation indicate that as little as two percent of the maritime workforce is made up of women. According to data published by the International Labor Organization in 2003 the vast majority of these women, 94 percent, work on passenger ships such as

ferries and cruise liners, often in the service roles that are also available on land. It is only the remaining six percent who are employed as crew of cargo vessels.

http://maritime-executive.com/blog/women-at-sea-is-sea-blindness-gendered

Global Military Spending Grows For First Time Since 2011

http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/policy-budget/budget/2016/04/04/global-military-spending-grows-sipri-global-arms-trade-report/82530864/

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://edition.cnn.com/ASIA/index.html

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://www.nasa.gov/mission pages/hurricanes/main/index.html

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

EARTHQUAKES

USGS http://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/