DETERRENCE: The massive OPM hack actually hit 21 million people

DPRK: NK diplomat steals spotlight in regional forum

GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY: Youth unemployment rate in Korea reaches highest in 15 years

AUSTRAL PEACE AND SECURITY: ANZUS, China and the prisoner’s dilemma

The OPM allowed 21.5 million records for the SF86 and related security clearance data to be hacked, possibly to China or a non-state actor. The original data may have been edited and malware left behind. The data might enable extortion-based espionage or enable non-state actors to obtain insider access. Personnel Reliability Program certifications for persons involved in nuclear weapons operations may also be compromised.

Information about OPM Cybersecurity Incidents (14 July 2015, updated regularly)

What’s worse than losing your data? Losing your trust in it, Jani Antikainen, Pasi Eronen, Overt Action, (12 July 2015)
• **The OPM hack weighing the damage to US Intelligence**, Robert Knake, Council on Foreign Relations (26 June 2015)

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**DPRK: NK diplomat steals spotlight in regional forum**, Yi Whan-woo, Korea Times (5 August 2015)

North Korea is likely experiencing systemic level contradictions. Externally, the U.S. has more or less normal relations with Cuba and Iran meaning there is more “bandwidth” to focus on North Korea directly as well as through intermediaries such as China, South Korea and Japan. North Korea wants to relieve those pressures by counter engaging its own ally and southern neighbor. North Korea also needs to share information internally, but only selectively. One such tool for them is an internal network for sharing best farming practices in drought conditions.

- **Japan, North Korea foreign ministers meet in Kuala Lumpur**, Japan Times (6 August 2015)
- **Former South Korean first lady visits North Korea**, Deutschewelle (5 August 2015)
- **North Korea is operating a science search engine, report says**, Elizabeth Shim, UPI (6 August 2015)

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Youth unemployment in the ROK continues to rise despite government efforts to create more jobs, with a study finding that one-third of young workers are unable to find anything outside of temp jobs. The ROK also has one of the highest portions of low-wage earners in the OECD, raising concerns that the ROK’s economy may follow a similar path to Japan’s.

- **Korea has more low-wage earners**, Kim Se-jeong, Korea Times (3 August 2015)
- **Massive job creation project to ease youth unemployment**, Chosun Ilbo (28 July 2015)
AUSTRAL PEACE AND SECURITY: ANZUS, China and the prisoner’s dilemma, Allan Behm, The Strategist (23 July 2015)

Alliance contradictions:

1. “The idea that Indonesia and/or Japan might in some way replace Australia as the US’s preferred strategic partner is ludicrous...The US and Australia [are not] in a position to ‘permit’ China to take a larger leadership role. Our joint ability to condescend extends only so far!”

2. “The US has secured deep access to the inner workings of the Japanese government, on issues including US-Japanese relations, trade issues and climate change policy. This information is shared with its ‘Five Eyes’ partners.”

- Target Tokyo, Wikileaks (31 July 2015)
- The case for Japan–Australia Defence Cooperation Guidelines, Yusuke Ishihara, The Strategist (6 May 2015)
Austral Peace and Security: Richard Tanter

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