

Geopolitical, International, and Security collected stories, week of 3 February 2014

[U.S. Military, Budgeting, Think Tanks, Commentary/Analysis] [The Think Tanks Have Spoken](#) – Information Dissemination. (An overview of the exercise and the slides from the four think tank teams can be seen at the CSBA's site [here](#).)

[al Qaeda, ISIS, Syrian Civil War] [Al-Qaeda disavows ISIS militants in Syria](#) – BBC News.

[Thailand, Internal Politics, Protests] [Thai opposition to challenge poll in court as protest numbers dwindle](#) – Reuters/Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

[Turkey, Internal Politics, Internet, Civil Liberties, Press Freedom] [Turkish MPs endorse Internet control law](#) – Al Jazeera.

[Strategy, Deterrence, U.S., China, East Asia] [Demystifying Conventional Deterrence: Great-Power Conflict and East Asian Peace](#) – Jonathan F. Solomon in *Strategic Studies Quarterly*.

[Slovenia, Natural Disasters] [Slovenia paralysed by thick ice, more snow forecast](#) – Reuters. (Also in the region, [Serbia](#) was hit with heavy snowfall, stranding drivers and passengers on roads, according to the Associated Press.)

[U.S., China, Disputed Territories] [US presses Beijing over South China Sea dispute](#) – BBC News. (The Wall Street Journal's Japan Realtime blog also reported that another U.S. official noted [an increase](#) in recent risky activity by Chinese maritime agencies ahead of the U.S. Secretary of State's visit to the region.)

[Malaysia, Sectarian Issues, Internal Politics] [Old Malaysian Issues Are New, Again](#) – The Diplomat.

[U.S. Navy, Aircraft Carriers, Personnel] [Uh oh – Not enough berths for chiefs on new Ford carrier](#) – NextGov.

[Bangladesh, Labor, Internal Politics] [Group: Bangladesh workers threatened over union](#) – Associated Press.

[Niger, France, Nuclear Fuel, Trade] [Special Report: Areva and Niger's uranium fight](#) – Reuters.

[Israel, Palestine, Disputed Territories, E.U.] [Boycott threats worry Israel](#) – Agence France-Presse. (The Washington Post also reported that some Israeli politicians [interpreted](#) a remark by U.S. Secretary of State Kerry as a threat of boycotts, and that Israeli politicians were mixed in their perception of the impact of an E.U. boycott.)

[Bolivia, Natural Disasters] [29 killed in torrential rains so far this year](#) – BBC News.

[El Salvador, Costa Rica, Elections, Internal Politics] [Salvadoran Leftist Leads Vote, but Faces Runoff](#) – Associated Press.

[New Zealand, Training Aircraft] [New trainers for New Zealand](#) – FlightGlobal, The DEW Line blog.

[Pakistan, U.S., Taliban, Counterterrorism, Negotiations, UAVs] [U.S. said to curtail drone strikes in Pakistan as officials there seek peace talks with Taliban](#) – Washington Post.

[Google, E.U., Business] [Google avoids fine with EU antitrust deal](#) – Reuters.

[Iraq, Terrorism, Internal Conflict] [Iraq violence: Baghdad bomb blasts kill 33](#) – BBC News. (The Associated Press also reported that [gunmen attacked](#) a government office in Baghdad, killing two.)

[Somalia, Internal Conflict, al Shabaab] [New Barrages of Mortar Fire Rattle Mogadishu](#) – Associated Press.

[World Economy, Manufacturing] [European shares fall after heavy losses in Asia and the US](#) – BBC News.

[North Korea, South Korea, Diplomacy] [North and South Korea agree to hold family reunions this month](#) – CNN.

[Colombia, Intelligence Services, FARC, Negotiations] [Colombia army intelligence boss sacked over spying row](#) – BBC News.

[China, Infectious Diseases] [One dead from new avian flu strain in China; older strain has infected more than 300 people](#) – Washington Post.

[Israel, IDF, Information Security] [14 IAF pilots tried for carrying classified data on phones](#) – Times of Israel.

[Libya, Chemical Weapons, U.S.] [Libya's Cache of Toxic Arms All Destroyed](#) – New York Times.

[Philippines, Smuggling, Illicit Finance] [Smuggling, fraud cost Philippines \\$25.8 billion in 2011, study says](#) – Reuters.

[U.S. Navy, Personnel] [Nuclear letdown: Navy suspends 30 instructors at reactor school for alleged cheating](#) – NBC News.

[Yemen, U.S., AQAP, Internal Politics] [US Treasury labels prominent Yemeni politician a terrorist](#) – Christian Science Monitor.

[Alcohol, Culture, International] [South Koreans drink twice as much liquor as Russians and more than four times as much as Americans](#) – Quartz.

[U.K., Cybersecurity, Intelligence Services, Hacktivist Groups] [Snowden leak: GCHQ DDoSed Anonymous & LulzSec's chatrooms](#) – The Register.

[Denmark, Energy, Internal Politics, Protests] [Goldman Deal on Danish Energy Splits Copenhagen Coalition](#) – Bloomberg News.

[Palestine, Israel, Disputed Territories, NATO] [Palestinian Leader Seeks NATO Force in Future State](#) – New York Times.

[India, Budget, Fighter Aircraft, Internal Politics] [India delays Rafale deal after exhausting budget](#) – Reuters.

[Kenya, Counterterrorism] [Kenya terror charges after Mombasa police raid mosque](#) – BBC News.

[Mexico, Internal Politics, Drug Trafficking Organizations, Militia Groups] [Mexican president pledges help for troubled Michoacan state](#) – BBC News.

[Syrian Civil War, Negotiations] [Foreign agendas keep Syrian peace talks going](#) – Associated Press.

[Colombia, U.S., Energy, Environment] [Colombia to charge employees of US coal company Drummond](#) – BBC News.

[South Africa, Internal Politics] [South African opposition party's plan to field black candidate crumbles](#) – The Guardian.

[Japan, China, Internal Politics] [Governor of Japan broadcaster NHK denies Nanjing massacre](#) – BBC News.

[Syria, Chemical Weapons, U.N.] [Syria misses chemical weapons handover deadline](#) – Reuters.

[Sri Lanka, War Crimes] [New Inquiry on Sri Lanka Points to Possible War Crimes](#) – New York Times.

[Iraq, Human Rights, Prisoners] [Iraqi security forces 'abuse female prisoners'](#) – BBC News.

[Italy, Migrants] [Italy rescues more than 1,100 migrants in rafts south of Sicily](#) – Reuters.

[Computer Games, Simulated Combat, Online Economies] [When Titans Clashed And Spreadsheets Crumbled: The Greatest Space Battle In Virtual History](#) – Grand Blog Tarkin.

[Russia, Fraud, Defense Industry] [Criminal Group Suspected of \\$30M Fraud at Russian Shipyard](#) – RIA Novosti.

[China, PLAN, Malaysia] [Report: No Evidence China Patrolled Near Malaysia](#) – USNI News.

[Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Military Figures] [Pakistan's Top General In Saudi Arabia To Discuss Defense Cooperation](#) – The Diplomat, The Pulse blog.