# Cyber Center of Excellence
Unclassified Threat Read Book
01-15 April 2024

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# Cyber

1. **[How China is Hacking America](#) (Newsweek, 11 APR, Sean O'Driscoll)**

   The sheer scale of China's latest attempt to infiltrate U.S. infrastructure has surprised the entire cybersecurity industry, an expert has said.

   Daniel Cuthbert, who sat on the UK Government Cyber Security Advisory Board, said the Volt Typhoon hacking system is bigger than anything China has unleashed before.

2. **[Malicious PowerShell script pushing malware looks AI-written](#) (Bleeping Computer, 10 APR, Ionut Ilascu)**

   A threat actor is using a PowerShell script that was likely created with the help of an artificial intelligence system such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, or Microsoft's CoPilot.

   The adversary used the script in an email campaign in March that targeted tens of organizations in Germany to deliver the Rhadamanthys information stealer.

3. **[Kyber Sprotyv: Ukraine's Spec Ops in Cyberspace?](#) (Lawfare, 09 APR, Stefan Soesanto & Wiktoria Gajos)**

   The Russian invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, has led to an eruption of malicious activity in and through cyberspace. As of Feb. 27, 2024, the CyberTracker maintained by threat researcher CyberKnow lists a combined 128 threat groups that are active in the conflict: 83 pro-Russian and 45 pro-Ukrainian ones. While many of these groups are non-state actors with no known government affiliations, a handful of them are likely state-controlled or state-coordinated groups. The former can be defined as groups whose organizational structure and activities are directly (co-)managed by a government. And the latter can be viewed as groups whose independent operations are coordinated by a government in support of achieving specific national objectives.

4. **[Price of zero-day exploits rises as companies harden products against hackers](#) (Tech Crunch, 06 APR, Lorenzo Franceschi-Bicchierai)**

   Tools that allow government hackers to break into iPhones and Android phones, popular software like the Chrome and Safari browsers, and chat apps like WhatsApp and iMessage, are now worth millions of dollars — and their price has multiplied in the last few years as these products get harder to hack.

5. **[From PDFs to Payload: Bogus Adobe Acrobat Reader Installers Distribute Byakugan Malware](#) (The Hacker News, 05 APR)**

   Bogus installers for Adobe Acrobat Reader are being used to distribute a new multi-functional malware dubbed Byakugan.

   The starting point of the attack is a PDF file written in Portuguese that, when opened, shows a blurred image and asks the victim to click on a link to download the Reader application to view the content.

**6.** **[Microsoft Singled Out In Review Of Chinese Hack Of US Government Emails](#)** (Silicon, 03 APR, Tom Jowitt)

Cyber Safety Review Board concludes Chinese hack of top US government officials' emails was preventable, and blames Microsoft

Microsoft has been singled out by an official review in the United States into a high profile compromise of US governmental emails by Chinese hackers.

The U.S. Cyber Safety Review Board (CSRB) has published its findings and recommendations following its independent review of the summer 2023 Microsoft Exchange intrusion. It singled Microsoft out for its cybersecurity lapses and a lack of transparency.

**7.** **[The Importance Of Physical Cybersecurity Testing](#)** (Forbes, 03 APR, Daragh Mahon)

In the digital age, business professionals and consumers are well aware of cybersecurity breach risks. According to data from Verizon's Data Breach and Investigations Report, there were 5,199 confirmed data breaches in 2023, and major incidents in the transportation industry like Maersk (2017) and, more recently, Estes Express (2023) exemplify the genuine implications a breach can have surrounding private data.

**8.** **[Cyberattacks Wreaking Physical Disruption on the Rise](#)** (Dark Reading, 02 APR, Nate Nelson)

At least 68 cyberattacks last year caused physical consequences to operational technology (OT) networks at more than 500 sites worldwide — in some cases causing $10 million to $100 million in damages.

**9.** **[China-Linked Threat Actor Taps 'Peculiar' Malware to Evade Detection](#)** (Dark Reading, 02 APR, Jai Vijayan)

Researchers have spotted Earth Freybug, a China-linked threat actor, using a new malware tool to bypass mechanisms organizations might have put in place to monitor Windows application programming interfaces (APIs) for malicious activity.

The malware, which researchers at Trend Micro discovered and named UNAPIMON, works by disabling hooks in Windows APIs for inspecting and analyzing API-related processes for security issues.

**10.** **[Attackers Abuse Google Ad Feature to Target Slack, Notion Users](#)** (Dark Reading, 02 APR, Elizabeth Montalbano)

Attackers are once again abusing Google Ads to target people with info-stealing malware, this time using an ad-tracking feature to lure corporate users with fake ads for popular collaborative groupware such as Slack and Notion.

## Electronic Warfare

1. [Journal of Electromagnetic Dominance (JED) Vol. 47. No.4](#) – April 2024

2. [Ukraine Is the First "Hackers' War" For clues to the future of warfare, study the struggle between FPV drones and electronic warfare](#) (IEEE Spectrum, 10 APR, Juan Chulilla)

   Rapid and resourceful technological improvisation has long been a mainstay of warfare, but the war in Ukraine is taking it to a new level. This improvisation is most conspicuous in the ceaselessly evolving struggle between weaponized drones and electronic warfare, a cornerstone of this war.

3. [Ukraine Situation Report: Russian Anti-Drone Electronic Warfare Tank Captured](#) (The Warzone, 08 APR, Thomas Newdick)

   The ongoing fight against [first-person-view (FPV) drones](#), which have wrought major destruction to both sides on the battlefield, has led to the development of some extraordinary countermeasures. One of the most remarkable seen so far in a modified Russian T-72 tank, nicknamed Tsar, which has now fallen into Ukrainian hands.

4. [War zone GPS jamming sees more ships show up at airports](#) (Lloyd's List, 05 APR, Bridget Diakun)

   Surge in ships hit by signal interference in eastern Mediterranean Sea over past few days, while problem is also worsening in the Black Sea

   More than 100 cargo-carrying vessels appeared to show up in Beirut airport yesterday. AIS manipulation, common in the region since Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel, has taken off

5. [US plans human-like 'thinking' electronic warfare system for warfighters](#) (Interesting Engineering, 03 APR, Christopher McFadden)

   The United States Air Force (USAF) has commissioned the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) to develop a new "cognitive" electronic warfare (EW) system.

   Under a $6.4 million contract, SwRI will develop the necessary algorithms to help detect and respond more rapidly to unknown enemy radar threats in real time.

6. [Ukraine uses drones to neutralize Russian tanks fitted with jamming system](#) (Army Recognition, 03 APR)

   On April 3, 2024, the Ukrainian elite unit "Shadow" successfully neutralized a Russian tank equipped with electronic warfare systems capable of countering drones. The vehicle's jamming system had reportedly been neutralized beforehand with the help of artillery, allowing the drones to come into action.

7. [Jamming, Spoofing, and Spying, Oh My!](#) (Payload, 02 APR, Jacqueline)

   The Secure World Foundation released its [annual update](#) of global counterspace capabilities today, and we dug through it for some of the most significant updates from its 2023 version.

**8.** **[GPS jamming spreads in Lebanon, civil aviation caught in the electronic crossfire](#)** (Breaking Defense, 01 APR, Agnes Helou)

With ever-present fears that Israel could launch a ground invasion against Hezbollah in Lebanon, data suggests instances of GPS jamming in the nation have spread markedly in recent weeks, sparking at diplomatic protest by Beirut over the threat to civil aviation.

**9.** **[Airlines report GPS signal jamming: Russia gets the blames](#)** (Military & Aerospace Electronics, 01 APR, Jamie Whitney)

Airplanes flying over the Baltic region are reporting an increasing number of missing or fake GPS signals — and Russia is seen as the likeliest culprit, Tommaso Lecca writes for Politico. Continue reading original article.

## Information Advantage

1. **[The Internet May Be Too Small for the AI Boom, Researchers Say](#)** (WSJ, 15 APR, Julie Chang)

   Powerful artificial intelligence systems require huge amounts of data. But some researchers and executives say the need for high-quality text data could exceed the supply within two years. WSJ reporter Deepa Seetharaman tells Alex Ossola how AI companies are preparing for the potential data shortage. Plus, the race is on to build new chip-making facilities. WSJ reporter Belle Lin explains why one Brooklyn-based startup is betting on smaller, modular chip plants that are designed to be shipped anywhere

2. **[China Is Using AI to Mislead U.S. Voters Online](#)** (WSJ, 11 APR, Zoe Thomas)

   Online actors linked to the Chinese government are targeting voters in the U.S. and elsewhere with disinformation. Now, new research from Microsoft shows they're using artificial intelligence tools in their campaigns. WSJ reporter Dustin Volz joins host Alex Ossola to discuss the operations and their goals. Plus, online-entertainment company Roblox is adding video advertising to its platform. WSJ reporter Sarah Needleman talks about what those new ads may look like and what they mean for the company's future.

3. **[China Is Targeting U.S. Voters and Taiwan With AI-Powered Disinformation](#)** (WSJ, 05 APR, Dustin Volz)

   Online actors linked to the Chinese government are increasingly leveraging artificial intelligence to target voters in the U.S., Taiwan and elsewhere with disinformation, according to new cybersecurity research and U.S. officials.

4. **[China ramps up use of AI misinformation](#)** (Computer Weekly, 05 APR, Alex Scroxton)

   The Chinese government is ramping up its use of content generated by artificial intelligence (AI) as it seeks to further its geopolitical goals through misinformation, [including targeting the upcoming US presidential election](#), according to intelligence published by the Microsoft Threat Analysis Centre (MTAC).

5. **[China Bets Big on Military AI](#)** (CEPA, 03 APR, Sam Bresnick)

   Beijing's new missiles, aircraft carriers, and hypersonic glide vehicles threaten US military assets in China's littoral waters and beyond. It's natural that US analysts focus on this danger.

6. **[China's "No Eggs" Propaganda Fails To Dent Voters; Report Claims Beijing Tried Its Best To Undo Taiwan Elections](#)** (The EurAsian Times, 02 APR, Ashish Dangwal)

   The Chinese propaganda machinery went into overdrive before Taiwan's recent general election and spread wild rumors ranging from egg shortages, the country's submarine production, and political & sex scandals to create confusion and sow doubts among Taiwanese, according to Reuters News Agency.

7. **[Chinese social media accounts are stoking political chaos ahead of the 2024 presidential election: report](#)** (Business Insider, 01 APR, Madison Hall)

   Chinese social media accounts are increasingly spreading disinformation ahead of the 2024 US presidential election in November.

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## Signal

1. [The Russian Military is Using Elon Musk's Starlink](#) (WSJ, 15 APR, Thomas Grove & Micah Maidenberg)

   SpaceX's satellite-internet devices are ending up in the hands of American adversaries and accused war criminals. WSJ's Thomas Grove and Micah Maidenberg explain how the technology is being used illegally in multiple conflicts around the world.

2. [How Elon Musk's Starlink Gets Into the Hands of U.S. Foes](#) (WSJ, 12 APR, Xoe Thomas)

   SpaceX's Starlink provides internet access to thousands of locations around the globe, including battlefields in Ukraine and Sudan. But there's a black market that's delivering Starlink devices into the hands of American adversaries. WSJ correspondent Thomas Grove tells host Alex Ossola about how that black market works, and what it means for geopolitics. Plus, many teens are looking to foster a healthier relationship with social media. WSJ reporter Georgia Wells talks about a nonprofit called Half the Story that is teaching teens the tools while also pushing for policy change.

3. [Pentagon can't force Starlink to block service to Russians, US official says](#) (Defense One, 10 APR, Audrey Decker)

   As new details come to light about Russia's use of Starlink satellite terminals, a top Pentagon official said the Defense Department can't force SpaceX to cut service to the invaders—say, by creating a whitelist for Ukrainian troops' terminals.

4. [Pentagon working with Ukraine, SpaceX to prevent Russian exploitation of Starlink](#) (Breaking Defense, 10 APR, Michael Marrow)

   The Pentagon is working with private space giant SpaceX and the Ukrainian government to stop Russian forces from using the company's satellite communications terminals in Moscow's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, according to a top DoD official.

5. [The State of Satcom](#) (Payload, 04 APR, Rachael Zisk)

   The world is shrinking fast.

   We're more connected than ever, and we have the growth of satellite communications technologies to thank. In the past year alone, the satcom industry has made major advances in internet coverage, in-flight connectivity, technology development for direct-to-device, and emergency broadband services…the list goes on.

6. [Budget constraints delay Space Force's narrowband satellite efforts](#) (Defense News, 03 APR, Courtney Albon)

   The launch of the Space Force's next Mobile User Objective System satellite will be delayed to fiscal year 2031 from FY30, C4ISRNET has learned.

   The schedule change is linked to its decision to move funding toward higher priority programs and a longer-than-expected process to choose whether Boeing or Lockheed Martin will build the satellites.

7. ['Military force' could be directed to protect private sector orbital assets, DOD strategy says](#) (NEXTGOV, 03 APR, Edward Graham)

   The Department of Defense released a new strategy on Tuesday outlining its intent to tie critical private sector space technologies with national security interests, including using military force when necessary to protect satellites and other orbital capabilities.

8. **[Practical quantum computing is coming in 3 to 5 years, but will be cloud based, NSA official predicts](#)** (Next Gov, 02 APR, David DiMolfetta)

Practical quantum computing tools are about 3 to 5 years out from workforce use and will likely be accessed through cloud based environments, a top National Security Agency official predicted at a Tuesday Palo Alto Networks public sector cybersecurity event.

9. **[Army eyes low-SWaP, MOSA-compliant position, navigation, and guidance (PNT) for infantry and vehicles](#)** (Military & Aerospace Electronics, 01 APR, John Keller)

U.S. Army navigation and guidance experts are surveying industry to find companies able to develop open-systems infantry and vehicle-mount position, navigation, and guidance (PNT) that operates independently of the satellite Global Positioning System (GPS).

Officials of the Army Contracting Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., issued a request for white papers (W56KGU-23-R-RTID) earlier this month for the PNT Enablers and Modular Open System Architectures (MOSA) for Complementary & Assured Navigation Modules project.

## Items of Interest

1. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, April 12, 2024](#) **(ISW, 12 APR, Nils Peterson, Matthew Sperzel & Daniel Shats)**

   The China–Taiwan Weekly Update is a joint product of the Institute for the Study of War and the American Enterprise Institute. The update supports the ISW–AEI Coalition Defense of Taiwan project, which assesses Chinese campaigns against Taiwan, examines alternative strategies for the United States and its allies to deter the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) aggression, and—if necessary—defeat the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The update focuses on the Chinese Communist Party's paths to controlling Taiwan and cross–Taiwan Strait developments.

2. [Russia and China Warn NATO To Stay out of Asia](#) **(Newsweek, APR 11, Micah McCartney)**

   Moscow and Beijing's top diplomats on Tuesday accused NATO of seeking ways to enter the Asia Pacific and warned the trans-Atlantic alliance against "stretching its hands to our common home."

3. [Kim Jong Un Threatens North Korea's Enemies With 'Death Blow'](#) **(Newsweek, 11 APR, John Feng)**

   Abullish Kim Jong Un toured North Korea's top military institute on Wednesday and reaffirmed his goal of creating the "world's strongest army," state media said, amid sky high tensions with the United States and its allies.

4. [NATO Turns 75 Facing an Old Foe and New Squabbles](#) **(WSJ, 03 APR, Daniel Michaels)**

   NATO, fresh from a bruising [fight over Sweden's accession](#), turns 75 on Thursday amid a new spat over who should next lead the military alliance.

5. [Chinese Attack On Hawaii Not To Trigger Article 5 Of NATO; Here's Why 50th US State Remains 'Vulnerable'](#) **(The EurAsian Times, 30 MAR, Sakshi Tiwari)**

   In January 2018, the US state of Hawaii mistakenly sent an alert via the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alert System over radio, television, and cellular networks, telling people to seek cover from an approaching ballistic missile. The warning ended with "it is not a drill."

   The Hawaiian people started putting their kids in storm drains and making heartfelt farewell calls to loved ones just minutes after receiving the emergency notice. The alert turned out to be a miscommunication during a drill at the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency for the first message.

## Israel & Iran

1. **[Why Iran's missile capabilities present an ongoing threat](#)** (DW, 15 APR, Shabnam von Hein)

   Almost all of the 300 drones and missiles fired by Iran at Israel during this weekend's strike were intercepted. But experts say the threat posed by Iranian drones has increased considerably in recent years.

2. **[Israel Weighs Iran Response, Amid U.S. Fears of Regional War](#)** (WSJ, 15 APR, Luke Vargas)

   After the U.S. helped Israel repel the first direct attack by Iran, WSJ correspondent Dov Lieber says President Joe Biden is now tasked with trying to prevent the wider war in the Middle East he's sought to avoid. Plus, Samsung moves past Apple to become the top global smartphone provider. And Donald Trump's day in court arrives in his hush money criminal trial. Luke Vargas hosts.

3. **[How Do Israel And Iran's Militaries Compare?](#)** (Newsweek, 15 APR, David Brennan)

   The weekend conflagration between Israel and Iran has once again left the Middle East region on the brink of a major war, with Israeli allies and enemies alike poised for fresh retaliation after Tehran's drone and missile bombardment.

4. **[The Latest | World leaders urge Israel not to retaliate for the Iranian drone and missile attack](#)** (AP News, 15 APR)

   World leaders are urging Israel not to retaliate after Iran launched an attack involving hundreds of drones, ballistic missiles and cruise missiles.

5. **[How the U.S. Forged a Fragile Middle Eastern Alliance to Repel Iran's Israel Attack](#)** (WSJ, 15 APR, David . Cloud, Dov Lieber, Stephen Kalin & Summer Said)

   As hundreds of Iranian drones and missiles winged across the Middle East Saturday night, a defensive line of radars, jet fighters, warships and air-defense batteries from Israel, the U.S. and a half dozen other countries was already activated against the long-feared attack from Iran.

6. **[Iran Fired 'Hypersonic Missiles' To Attack Israel; Punctured Its Overhyped Air Defense Systems – State Media](#)** (The EurAsian Times, 15 APR, Sakshi Tiwari)

   After the massive aerial strike launched by Iran on Israel directly from its soil, there are claims that Tehran also employed hypersonic missiles that allegedly hit all its designated targets, bypassing Israel's cutting-edge air defense systems.

7. **[Iran's Attack on Israel: What Happened and Why](#)** (WSJ, 15 APR, Peter Saidel)

   Iran launched its first-ever attack from Iranian territory on Israel on Saturday night with a salvo of hundreds of drones and missiles that turned a long-running shadow war into a direct conflict.

8. **[Cyberattacks by Iran, Hezbollah have tripled during the war, says Israel cyber czar](#) (The Times of Israel, 15 APR, Sharon Wrobel)**

   Cyber defense chief Gaby Portnoy warned on Tuesday that the intensity of cyberattacks against Israel has tripled since the outbreak of the Hamas war on October 7, as Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah, are increasingly joining hacking efforts.

9. **[Intel From Saudi Arabia, UAE Helped Defend Israel Against Iranian Attack: Report](#) (The Warzone, 15 APR, Thomas Newdick)**

   Pre-attack intel and real-time radar data was reportedly key in the stiff defense Israel and its allies put up against the onslaught.

10. **[Iran Deploying Russian Tactics To Overwhelm Israel: ISW](#) (Newsweek, 14 APR, Ellie Cook)**

    Iran's massive missile and drone barrage targeting Israel over the weekend is similar to Russian tactics used in frequent strikes on Ukraine, according to a new assessment, after Iran launched its first-ever direct strike from its own territory into Israel.

11. **[Iran attack 'unprecedented,' Israel response to be muted: analyst](#) (DW, 14 APR, Ben Fajzullin)**

    Iran's first ever direct attack on Israel — after decades of hostility — employed more than 300 missiles and drones. Given most were intercepted with little damage, it's likely Israel won't feel the pressure to respond to the extent it has against Hamas in Gaza, said Mark Cancian, senior adviser with the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

12. **[An Iranian cyber group claims: 'We breached the radars in Israel'](#) (The Jerusalem Post, 14 APR, Yinon Ben Shoshan)**

    An Iranian cyber group named Handala claims to have breached Israel's radar systems and sent hundreds of thousands of threatening text messages to Israeli citizens.

13. **[Why are Iran and Israel sworn enemies?](#) (DW, 14 APR, Shabnam von Hein)**

    Iran and Israel have turned from allies to enemies, especially after Iran's Islamic Revolution. An attack on Iran's consulate in Syria and Iran's retaliation by drones and missiles have raised the stakes further.

14. **[Iran's Attempt To Hit Israel With A Russian-Style Strike Package Failed...For Now](#) (ISW, 14 APR, Brian Carter & Frederick W. Kagan)**

    The Iranian April 13 missile-drone attack on Israel was very likely intended to cause significant damage below the threshold that would trigger a massive Israeli response. The attack was designed to succeed, not to fail. The strike package was modeled on those the Russians have used repeatedly against Ukraine to great effect. The attack caused more limited damage than intended likely because the Iranians underestimated the tremendous advantages Israel has in defending against such strikes compared with Ukraine. The Iranians will learn lessons from this strike and work to improve their abilities to penetrate Israeli defenses over time as the Russians have done in repeated strike series against Ukraine.

15. **[Why did some Arab countries appear to help Israel?](#) (DW, 14 APR, Cathrin Schaer)**

    Some analysts saw the fact that Arab nations helped Israel and the US repel a major Iranian attack as cause for celebration. But countries like Jordan have more complicated motivations for coming to Israel's aid.

16. **[Iran Launches Drone and Missile Attack at Israel](#)** (WSJ, 14 APR, Sune Engel Rasmussen, Carrie Keller-Lynn, Catherine Lucey, Michael R. Gordon & Dov Lieber)

Iran [launched a wave of more than 300 drones](#) and cruise and ballistic missiles toward Israel, setting up a direct military confrontation between the two nations and raising the risks of wider regional war.

17. **[Israel fends off Iranian drone and missile attack](#)** (DW, 14 APR, Irfan Aftab)

Iran has launched drones and missiles at Israel in an overnight attack. According to the Israeli military, Israel and its allies intercepted the majority of Iranian projectiles fired against Israel.

18. **[Analysis: Israel Repelled Iran's Huge Attack. But Only With Help From U.S. and Arab Partners](#).** (WSJ, 14 APR, Yaroslav Trofimov)

Saturday's Iranian strike on Israel was huge by any standard. Tehran launched more than 170 explosive-laden drones, around 120 ballistic missiles and about 30 cruise missiles, according to Israel. The damage could have been catastrophic. As it turned out, almost all were intercepted.

19. **[Israel says Iran launched more than 300 drones and missiles, 99% of which were intercepted](#)** (AP News, 14 APR, Josef Federman & Jon Gambrell)

Booms and air raid sirens sounded across Israel early Sunday after Iran launched hundreds of drones, ballistic missiles and cruise missiles in an unprecedented revenge mission that pushed the Middle East closer to a regionwide war. A military spokesman said the launches numbered more than 300 but 99% of them were intercepted.

20. **[Iran's Retaliatory Strikes Have Begun (Updated)](#)** (The Warzone, 14 APR)

Iran has launched a widely expected, but still unprecedented drone and missile barrage from its territory against targets in Israel.

21. **[Israeli Air Force Holds Massive Drills To Hit 'Remote' Targets; Expert Says Iran's Nuke Facilities On Radar](#)** (The EurAsian Times, 13 APR, Parth Satam)

The Israeli strike on Tehran's embassy in Damascus killed 12 people, including Mohammed Reza Zahedi, a senior leader in Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and six other guard members.

22. **[Is Hezbollah's Barrage On Israel Prelude To Much Larger Iranian Attack?](#) (Updated)** (The Warzone, 12 APR, Joseph Trevithick)

Iran has launched vengeance strikes against Israel, thrusting the region into an scenario that could easily spill out into a wider conflict.

23. **[Iranian embassy attack has Israel, Middle East on edge](#)** (DW, 12 APR, Thomas Latschan)

Iran has accused Israel of conducting a deadly airstrike against its embassy in Syria. Tehran has now threatened to retaliate, amid growing fears the conflict in Gaza could spread. Here's what you need to know.

24. **[U.S. Warns of Imminent Attack on Israeli Assets by Iran or Proxies](#)** (WSJ, 10 APR, Warren P. Strobel, Gordon Lubold & Nancy A. Youssef)

U.S. intelligence reports show that an attack on Israeli assets by Iran or its proxies could be imminent, U.S. officials said Wednesday, as the top American military commander for the Middle East headed to Israel to coordinate a response.

25. **[Israel 'Deflates' Iranian Shahed-136 Drone Threats By Cutting-Off Its Ability To Hit Targets With Accuracy](#)** (The EurAsian Times, 06 APR, Ashish Dangwal)

As Israel remains on high alert for potential retaliation following a suspected airstrike on an Iranian diplomatic building in Syria on April 1, the Israeli military has initiated a comprehensive blockade of GPS signals across a significant expanse of the country.

26. **[Israel Scrambles GPS Signals as Country Girds for Potential Retaliation From Iran](#)** (WSJ, 04 APR, Sune Engel Rasmussen & Anat Peled)

Perplexed Israelis woke up Thursday in Tel Aviv to find that map applications on their phones were placing them in Lebanon's capital, Beirut, some 130 miles to the north. Cabdrivers couldn't navigate. Food-delivery apps were temporarily out of service.

27. **[Israel Saw 43% Surge In Cyber Attacks From Iran, Hezbollah In 2023](#)** (Iran International, 03 APR)

Israel saw a 43% surge in cyber assaults originating from Iran and Hezbollah in the last year, a recent report from Israel's National Cyber Directorate has revealed.

28. **[Israel-Iran Conflict Threatens to Spill Into Open Warfare](#)** (WSJ, 02 APR, Jared Malsin & Benoit Faucon)

The airstrike that killed top Iranian military officials in Syria on Monday threatened to put Israel into open conflict with Iran, illustrating how the countries' long-simmering shadow war has entered a dangerous new phase.

29. **[Tehran vows response after strike blamed on Israel destroyed Iran's Consulate in Syria and killed 12](#)** (AP News, 02 APR, Nasser Karimi & Kareem Chehayeb)

Iran on Tuesday vowed to respond to an airstrike widely attributed to Israel that destroyed Iran's Consulate in the Syrian capital of Damascus the previous day and killed 12 people, including two Iranian generals and a member of the Lebanese militant Hezbollah group.

30. **[Top Iranian commander killed in reported Israeli airstrike in Syria](#)** (UPI, 01 APR, Simon Druker)

A senior Iranian military commander was killed Monday during an airstrike next to the country's embassy in Syria, according to Iranian media.

Mohammed Reza Zahedi was the top commander in the Quds Force of the notorious Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps in both Lebanon and Syria.

# Israel-Hamas Conflict

1. **Institute for The Study of War Iran Update:**

   The Iran Update provides insights into Iranian and Iranian-sponsored activities abroad that undermine regional stability and threaten US forces and interests. It also covers events and trends that affect the stability and decision-making of the Iranian regime.

2. **[Hamas May Not Have Enough Living Hostages for Cease-Fire Deal](#) (WSJ, 11 APR, Summer Said, Nancy A. Youssef & Jared Malsin)**

   Fears are rising over the fate of the remaining hostages held in Gaza after Hamas said it was unsure whether it could bring forth 40 Israeli civilian captives as part of a U.S.-backed cease-fire proposal, according to officials familiar with the negotiations.

3. **[Hamas leader says group is still seeking hostage deal after three of his sons killed](#) (Reuters, 11 APR, Saleh Salem & James MacKenzie)**

   Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said on Thursday his Palestinian militant group was still seeking a deal for a ceasefire and hostage release after an Israeli strike killed three of his sons in an attack in Gaza.

4. **[Will killing of Hamas leader's sons affect cease-fire talks?](#) (DW, 11 APR)**

   The Israeli airstrike that killed three sons of Hamas' Qatar-based leader Ismail Haniyeh will "only entrench hard-liners" within Hamas, former US ambassador Gerald Feierstein told DW.

5. **[Three sons of Hamas leader Haniyeh killed in Israeli airstrike](#) (Reuters, 10 APR, Nidal Al-Mughrabi)**

   Three sons of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh were killed in an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, the Palestinian Islamist group and Haniyeh's family said.

**6.** **[Gaza: What will Israel's troop reduction mean on the ground?](#)** (DW, 07 APR, Melissa Chan)

The Israeli military has announced it has withdrawn all but one brigade of its troops from southern Gaza. DW speaks with Marina Miron, a military analyst and associate professor at King's College London, about the likely consequences of this move.

**7.** **[How powerful is Hamas after 6 months of war with Israel?](#)** (DW, 06 APR, Kersten Knipp)

After half a year of war, and in spite of Israel's military strength, Hamas continues to fight. While it's impossible to pinpoint the exact strength of the Islamist militants, some indicators of their power do exist.

## Houthis Conflict

1. [**Saudi-Houthi Agreement: Four Scenarios and Their Potential Impact**](#) **(Middle East Institute, 10 APR, Ari Heistein)**

   Less than 10 years after seizing power in Yemen, the Iran-backed Houthi militia continues to evolve — and so do the threats emanating from it. After several years of negotiations, it now seems likely that the Houthis and Saudis will reach a peace agreement, and it is worth considering how such a deal could change the group's trajectory. This report examines a number of possible futures that could develop in Yemen over the next 1-2 years based on shifting capabilities, interests, and alliances.

2. [**US Sends Seized Iranian Weapons to Ukraine After $60 Billion Aid Package Stalls in Congress**](#) **(NTD, 10 APR, Kos Temenes)**

   Thousands of infantry weapons, along with thousands of rounds of ammunition, have been shipped to Ukraine, the U.S. military confirmed. The U.S. military previously seized the munitions as Iran was shipping it to supply Houthi terrorists more than a year ago.

3. [**Houthi Rebels Could Be Running Low on Weapons: US Commander**](#) **(The Defense Post05 APR, Joe Saballa)**

   Iran-backed Houthi rebels appeared to be running low on drones and anti-ship ballistic missiles months after it began attacks on cargo ships transiting the Red Sea.

   The assessment was made by US Air Forces Central Commander Lt. Gen. Alexus Grynkewich, who said that the pace of Houthi attacks has slowed a bit.

4. [**US military says it destroyed Houthi drones over the Red Sea and in Yemen**](#) **(AP News, 31 MAR, Samy Magdy)**

   The U.S. military said Sunday its forces destroyed one unmanned aerial vehicle in a Houthi rebel-held area of war-ravaged Yemen and another over a crucial shipping route in the Red Sea. It was the latest development in months of tension between the Iran-backed rebels and the U.S.

   The drones, which were destroyed Saturday morning, posed a threat to U.S. and coalition forces and merchant vessels in the region, said the U.S. Central Command.

# Russia-Ukraine Conflict

1. **The Warzone Ukraine Situation Report:**

   [Ukraine Situation Report: Russian Anti-Drone Electronic Warfare Tank Captured](#) – 08 APR

   [Ukraine Situation Report: Claims Swirl Around Drone Attack On Russian Fighter-Bomber Base](#) – 05 APR

   [Ukraine Situation Report: Russian Armor Massacre At Avdiivka](#) – 01 APR

2. **Institute for The Study of War**

   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 15, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 14, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 13, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 12, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 11, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 10, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 09, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 08, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 07, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 06, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 05, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 04, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 03, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 02, 2024
   [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), April 01, 2024

3. **[Ukraine War Maps Reveal Possible Russian Advances Into Fortress Cities](#) (Newsweek, 14 APR, Ellie Cook)**

   New maps show the "backbone" of Ukraine's defense in the eastern Donetsk region, as Kyiv's army chief warns that the situation on the eastern front had "significantly worsened."

4. **[Special Report: Russian Strikes More Effective As Ukraine Exhausts Defenses](#) (ISW, 12 APR, Riley Bailey & Frederick W. Kagan)**

   The exhaustion of US-provided air defenses resulting from delays in the resumption of US military aid to Ukraine combined with improvements in Russian strike tactics have led to the increasing effectiveness of Russian missile and drone strikes against Ukraine without a dramatic increase in the size or frequency of such strikes.

5. **[Ukraine Struck Russian Target Just 7 Miles From Nuclear Storage Site](#) (Newsweek, 10 APR, Yevgeny Kuklychev)**

   Ukraine's [attack on the Russian Aviation Training Center](#) for pilots Borisoglebsk, Voronezh region, saw drones hit a target just miles from a secret Russian nuclear storage facility.

6. **Unit made up of Russians who have joined Ukrainian military holds training session in Kyiv region** (AP News, 10 APR, Anton Shtuka)

Members of the Siberian Battalion of Ukraine's armed forces held a training session in the Kyiv region on Wednesday. The unit is made up of Russians who have joined Ukrainian military to fight against their homeland.

7. **Is Telegram a threat to Ukraine's national security?** (DW, 05 APR, Anna Chaika)

Ukraine is considering banning Telegram. Pro-Russian channels on the messenger ap are allegedly spreading misinformation about Ukrainian military and politics.

8. **Ukraine, in Need of Troops, Lowers Age of Conscription** (WSJ, 03 APR, Ian Lovett)

Ukraine lowered the age of military conscription to 25 as part of an effort to bolster its depleted armed forces after two years of fighting Russia's invasion and facing renewed assaults.

9. **Ukraine drone strikes hit Russian refinery, drone plant** (UPI, 02 APR, Paul Godfrey)

A dozen people were injured Tuesday in dawn Ukrainian drone strikes on oil-refining and other military-industrial targets deep inside southern Russia.

The attacks on the Tatarstan region a thousand miles east of Ukraine set ablaze the Taneco oil refinery in Nizhnekamsk, one of the country's largest, and struck a dormitory in the nearby town of Yelabuga, where at least 12 people, all students, were injured, according to local authorities.

10. **Russia's Shahed-136 Factory Attacked By Light Plane Converted Into A Drone** (The Warzone, 02 APR, Thomas Newdick)

Less than a month after we got our first glimpse inside the Russian factory where license production of the Iranian Shahed-series one-way attack drone is taking place, a Ukrainian attack appears to have been launched against the facility. Today's may well have been the longest-range aerial strike launched by Ukraine so far and it appears to have involved a previously unseen drone that was converted from a light manned aircraft.

11. **Inside the Russian Shadow Trade for Weapons Parts, Fueled by Crypto** (WSJ, 01 APR, Angus Berwick & Ben Foldy)

A self-described Russian smuggler in China received a request from the manufacturer of the legendary AK-47 rifle. Russia's largest maker of small arms, Kalashnikov Concern, needed electrical parts for drones that have been among the most effective weapons against Ukrainian armor.

12. **NATO Will Not Defend France If Russian Military Attacks French Soldiers In Ukraine: Germany** (The EurAsian Times, 01 APR, Parth Satam)

The differences and spat between Germany and France over the latter's announcement to consider troop deployments into Ukraine has just got wider.

The German Federal Parliament (the Bundestag) has concluded that Paris's direct military presence on the battlefield would be unilateral, not a decision of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and would, therefore, not invoke Article 5 of its Charter.