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Cyber Center of Excellence

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Cyber

1. [**US lawmakers urge probe of WiFi router maker TP-Link over fears of Chinese cyber attacks \(Reuters, 15 AUG, Alexandra Alper\)**](#)

Two U.S. lawmakers want the Biden administration to probe China's TP-Link Technology Co and its affiliates for potential national security risks from their widely used WiFi routers over fears they could be used in cyber attacks against the U.S.

2. [**5 Ways To Spot A Phishing Email: A Guide To Cyber Awareness \(PM Today, 15 AUG, PM Today Contributor\)**](#)

Phishing is nothing new, it's been around for years and is the most common form of cyberattack. You'd think by now the world would be wise to phishing emails and online scams to such an extent that they'd become extinct. Yet phishing has morphed into increasingly complex forms that are tough to detect and continue to dupe victims and steal their money, identity, and personal details.

3. [**A Single Iranian Hacker Group Targeted Both Presidential Campaigns, Google Says \(Wired, 14 AUG, Andy Greenberg\)**](#)

APT42, which is believed to work for Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, targeted about a dozen people associated with the Trump and Biden campaigns this spring, according to Google's Threat Analysis Group.

4. [**Chinese Hackers Hit Russia in Cyberattack \(Newsweek, 13 AUG, Michah McCartney\)**](#)

Dozens of systems used by government bodies and IT companies in Russia have reportedly become the targets of Chinese hackers.

5. [**Russia subjected to Chinese cyberattacks \(SC Media, 12 AUG, SC Staff\)**](#)

BleepingComputer reports that Russian government entities and IT firms had their systems compromised in a barrage of attacks late last month part of the EastWind campaign associated with Chinese state-backed hacking groups APT27 and APT31.

6. [**Microsoft researchers report Iran hackers targeting US officials before election \(Reuters, 09 AUG, Zeba Siddiqui, Christopher Bing and Michelle Nichols\)**](#)

7. [**What Does the US-Russia Prisoner Swap Mean for Ongoing Cybercrime? \(Information Week, 08 AUG, Carrie Pallardy\)**](#)

The recent prisoner exchange that freed Evan Gershkovich and Paul Whelan also resulted in the release of two convicted cybercriminals.

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8. [**Chained for attack: OpenVPN vulnerabilities discovered leading to RCE and LPE \(Microsoft, 08 AUG, Microsoft Threat Intelligence\)**](#)

Microsoft researchers recently identified multiple medium severity vulnerabilities in OpenVPN, an open-source project with binaries integrated into routers, firmware, PCs, mobile devices, and many other smart devices worldwide, numbering in the millions. Attackers could chain and remotely exploit some of the discovered vulnerabilities to achieve an attack chain consisting of remote code execution (RCE) and local privilege escalation (LPE). This attack chain could enable attackers to gain full control over targeted endpoints, potentially resulting in data breaches, system compromise, and unauthorized access to sensitive information. Exploiting these vulnerabilities, however, necessitates user authentication and a deep understanding of OpenVPN's inner workings, alongside intermediate knowledge of the operating systems. Today, we presented this research and demonstrated the discovered attack chain in our session at Black Hat USA 2024.

9. [**The AI Battle: Cybercriminals Vs. Fraud Prevention Experts \(Forbes, 08 AUG, Justin Newell\)**](#)

The current landscape in today's fraud prevention requires artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning for a more proactive approach to safeguarding the financial industry from bad actors. However, criminals are finding new and improved ways to use AI to commit fraud. The financial sector is a prime target for cybercriminals, so banks, financial institutions and payment transaction providers constantly look for ways to improve their defensive strategies for the sake of their customers and their bottom line.

10. [**Cyberattacks on Israel proliferating during war \(Globe, 08 AUG, Nevo Trabelsy\)**](#)

The number of attacks on Israeli companies and organizations rose 81% in the second quarter from the corresponding quarter of 2023, Check Point reports.

11. [**Exclusive: Russian spies hacked UK government data and emails earlier this year \(The Record, 08 AUG, Alexander Martin\)**](#)

Cyber spies working for Russia's foreign intelligence service accessed corporate emails and data on individuals from the British government earlier this year, according to an official description of the incident obtained by Recorded Future News.

12. [**Critical security flaw in Safari and Google Chrome reportedly uncovered after 18 years: Here's what happened \(Mint, 08 AUG\)**](#)

Apple and Google are reportedly addressing a long-standing security flaw in their browsers related to the IP address 0.0.0.0, which could allow cybercriminals to access sensitive data. The vulnerability, discovered by Israeli firm Oligo, has existed for up to 18 years.

13. [**Many dating apps a matchmaker for cybercriminals, study finds \(Compliance Week. 05 AUG, Adrienne Appel\)**](#)

Location-based dating (LBD) apps are not doing enough to protect user privacy, with exact location and other personal data being exploited by stalkers and bad actors, a recent analysis found.

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14. [Ransomware in 2024: More Attacks, More Leaks, and Increased Sophistication](#) (Security Week, 07 AUG, Kevin Townsend)

The ransomware scourge is still growing and still successful for attackers, Rapid7's Ransomware Radar Report 2024 shows.

More groups, fewer families, more attacks – no great change over 2023 except, if anything, the ransomware threat is even more severe in 2024. And the growth in leaks and leak sites suggests ransomware is even more successful.

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Electronic Warfare

1. [Journal of Electronic Dominance: EPAWSS The Eyes of the Eagle, Vol. 47, No.8 \(Association of OLD CROWS\)](#)

2. [Exclusive: Secret Russian Volnarez Anti-Drone Electronic Warfare System Discovered By Ukrainian Troops. \(Army Recognition, 15 AUG\)](#)

Ukrainian forces have uncovered the secret Russian-made Volnarez counter-drone electronic warfare system in Russia's Kursk region. The discovery, made public through a video shared on Facebook by Yuriy Butusov on August 14, 2024, reveals that the system was found in its original factory packaging, complete with a technical brochure.

3. [Russian media claims Ukrainian Forces' success in Kursk region driven by drone superiority and electronic warfare \(UAWire, 13 AUG\)](#)

Russian sources assert that Ukrainian forces are effectively conducting operations in the Kursk region due to their technological superiority in drones and electronic warfare equipment.

4. [Chinese Reco Uav spotted flying in Japan territorial airspace during Japanese training. \(Army Recognition, 13 AUG\)](#)

The Chinese military flew a new electronic warfare drone near the Japanese islands in the contested East China Sea on Friday, as Beijing continues to expand the activities of its air force in the region. The Joint Chiefs of Staff Office of the Japanese Ministry of Defense regularly reports on the movements of Chinese military aircraft within its Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), an area of international airspace where tracking and identification of foreign aircraft are necessary for national security purposes.

5. [Taiwan's military monitors new Chinese drone capable of disrupting radio communications \(Ani News, 12 AUG\)](#)

Taiwan's military monitors new Chinese drone capable of disrupting radio communications of the Chinese BZK-005 UAV, which was spotted northeast of the island nation, Taiwan News reported on Monday

6. [GPS spoofers 'hack time' on commercial airlines, researchers say \(Reuters, 10 AUG, James Pearson\)](#)

A recent surge in GPS "spoofing", a form of digital attack which can send commercial airliners off course, has entered an intriguing new dimension, according to cybersecurity researchers: The ability to hack time.

7. [Ukraine's Pocket-Sized Answer to Russian Drones \(Foreign Policy, 05 AUG, Fabrice Deprez\)](#)

Moscow has the upper hand in electronic warfare. Can grassroots-led efforts help Kyiv catch up?

For Ukrainian soldiers facing the near-constant threat of Russian drones, a crude-looking, pocketable drone detector has become one of the most sought-after gadgets on the battlefield. Dubbed Tsukorok, or "sugar," by its London-based creator, the grassroots device produced by a variety of manufacturers beeps loudly when a drone enters its detection range, allowing soldiers time to run to cover or turn on their jamming devices.

8. [Iran deploys Russian Murmansk-BN electronic warfare system to counter Israeli F-35I stealth fighters.](#) (Army Recognition, 05 AUG, Defense News Army 2024)

As reported by Ram Reports on August 3, 2024, Iran has recently installed several Russian long-range electronic warfare systems, including the Murmansk-BN, in strategic locations across the country. The Murmansk-BN system, one of Russia's most powerful jamming communication systems, can conduct radio reconnaissance, intercept, and suppress enemy signals throughout the short-wave range, with an operational reach of up to 5,000 to 8,000 kilometers. This installation comes amid rising tensions with Israel, following the assassination of Hamas Political Bureau Chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

9. [EA-18G Growlers With New Jamming Pods Onboard Carrier Heading To Middle East](#) (TWZ, 05 AUG, Joseph Trevithick)

This appears to be the first cruise for the AN/ALQ-249 Next Generation Jammer, the most advanced publicly known tactical electronic warfare capability.



Information Advantage

1. [**Measuring Susceptibility to Misinformation in Lower-Income Populations \(The Mercury Project, 15 AUG\)**](#)

In this post, Anwasha Bhattacharya (Harvard Kennedy School), Erik Jorgensen (Inclusion Economics at Yale University), Urvi Naik (Inclusion Economics India Centre), and Charity Troyer Moore (Inclusion Economics at Yale University) explain the challenges to doing research on susceptibility to misinformation, especially online, and particularly for women in a low-literacy marginalized population in rural India. This context required developing new, locally appropriate measures and a particular sensitivity to the political situation of the moment.

2. [**How the U.S. Can Counter Disinformation From Russia and China \(Council on Foreign Relations, 14 August, Dana S. LaFon\)**](#)

Disinformation campaigns can be a powerful tool to shape beliefs on matters of great geopolitical importance. Bad actors can deploy them against rivals to sow costly discord, create political uncertainty, and deepen divides within a community. Monitoring and “pre-bunking” even the most obscure claims is important because, if left unaddressed, their damage can be hard to undo, and in some cases, those false narratives can presage a real-life attack.

3. [**Russia's critics targeted with global hacking campaign, rights group says \(Reuters, 14 AUG, Zeba Siddiqui\)**](#)

Hackers linked to Russian intelligence are targeting the Kremlin's critics around the globe with phishing emails, according to new research published on Wednesday by digital rights groups Citizen Lab and Access Now.

4. [**Russia is pushing disinformation about Kursk operation, Ukrainian officials say \(The Record, 13 AUG, Daryna Antoniuk\)**](#)

The Ukrainian security service (SBU) is warning of a new Kremlin disinformation campaign related to Ukraine's recent incursion into Russian territory.

5. [**How to Spot Misinformation \(Documented, 12 AUG, Lam Thuy Vo\)**](#)

Misinformation is everywhere. Here are some ways to stay level-headed

6. [**Iran Targeting 2024 US Election \(Microsoft, 08 AUG, Clint Watts\)**](#)

Today we're sharing intelligence about activity we've been tracking that increasingly points to Iran's intent to influence this year's US presidential election. In recent weeks, groups connected with the Iranian government have upped two kinds of activity. First, they've laid the groundwork for influence campaigns on trending election-related topics and begun to activate these campaigns in an apparent effort to stir up controversy or sway voters – especially in swing states. Second, they've launched operations that Microsoft assesses are designed to gain intelligence on political campaigns and help enable them to influence the elections in the future.

7. [**Pakistan's spy agencies accused of spreading anti-India disinformation amid Bangladesh unrest \(Aninews, 07 AUG\)**](#)

Amid the ongoing unrest in Bangladesh, reports have emerged of false narratives being created through social media to fuel anti-India sentiments among the people



8. [How Russian special information operations try to undermine mobilisation in Ukraine \(EU vs DiSiINFO, 07 AUG, CSCIS\)](#)

Since the beginning of Russian hybrid aggression against Ukraine in 2014, Russian state security services have targeted Ukrainian mobilisation. They have launched a number of disinformation operations planting messages in the Ukrainian information space aimed at undermining trust in the country's military-political leadership and artificially creating divisions in Ukrainian society. They have also promoted narratives about 'civil conflict' and 'war between oligarchs', suggesting that average Ukrainians avoid participating in mobilisation. KGB-style active measures, such as 'wives and mothers' rallies' or 'anti-war pickets,' have aimed to block the work of military enlistment offices. In 2016, the mobilisation of reservists stopped. On 24 February 2022, due to the full-scale invasion, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced a general mobilisation. (opens in a new tab) A new Russian campaign to disrupt it began almost immediately.

9. [Ukraine and the Frontlines of the War on Disinformation \(FPRI, 01 AUG, Kollen Post\)](#)

On July 8, a Russian Kh-101 rocket flew into a children's hospital in the center of Kyiv.

On July 9, no less a figure than Dmitry Peskov, the Kremlin's primary mouthpiece, took to TASS, a preferred Kremlin megaphone, to declare "as before, we maintain: We do not strike civilian objects."

Almost immediately, Kremlin-affiliated Telegram channels and pro-Russian propagandists on Twitter took to blaming the attack on Ukraine's air defense, specifically first a US-supplied Patriot missile, before settling on a NATO-supplied NASAMS missile—belying the jet engine visible in footage of the strike and setting up one of the most insulting narratives of victim-blaming imaginable.

10. [Russia vs Ukraine: the biggest war of the fake news era \(Reuters, 01 AUG, Ma Hunder\)](#)

In early April, some residents of Kharkiv received a series of chilling text messages from government officials telling them to flee the city before Russian forces surrounded it.

11. [The European Union's World-First Artificial Intelligence Rules Are Officially Taking Effect \(AP News, 01 AUG, Kelvin Chan\)](#)

The European Union's world-first artificial intelligence law formally took effect on Thursday, marking the latest milestone in the bloc's efforts to regulate the technology.

12. [Newly identified bot-like accounts are generating billions of impressions, sowing division and spreading disinformation on X \(Global Witness, 31 JUL APR, Lars Sellien\)](#)

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



Signal

1. [**NIST releases finalized post-quantum encryption standards \(Help Net Security, 14 AUG\)**](#)

NIST has finalized its principal set of encryption algorithms designed to withstand cyberattacks from a quantum computer. The announced algorithms are specified in the first completed standards from NIST's post-quantum cryptography (PQC) standardization project and are ready for immediate use.

2. [**New Russian Navy 'Murena' Maritime Drone Shown With Possible Starlink \(Naval News, 13 AUG, H I Sutton\)**](#)

The war in the Black Sea has been shaped, maybe even defined, by maritime drones. So far it has been a Ukrainian dominated arena, with Russia lagging behind Ukraine in the adoption of uncrewed surface vessels (USVs). Now Russia appears to be slowly entering the game with increasingly credible designs.

3. [**STARLINK: China's Own Satellite Network Gets Ready To Challenge SpaceX Amid Chinese DEW Threat \(The EurAsia Times, 08 AUG, Sakshi Tiwari\)**](#)

In what Beijing hailed as a milestone event, the country sent the first batch of satellites for China's own 'Starlink' project into orbit.

4. [**To the edge: how AI is revolutionising the way we network \(Total Teleco, 07 AUG, Georgia Sweeting\)**](#)

No one needs to be reminded of the dominance of AI and its impact on every aspect of our lives. For telecoms, AI is also fueling another, distinct revolution that is fundamentally changing how networks operate. The ever-growing demand for generative AI (GenAI) is driving the rise of 'edge computing', with edge data centres being developed and positioned closer to the end-user. By 2030, this market alone is expected to grow by nearly 15% to meet AI's increasing real-time data processing and low-latency performance demands.

5. [**China launches first satellites of constellation to rival Starlink, state media says \(Reuters, 06 AUG, Eduardo Baptista\)**](#)

A Chinese state-owned enterprise on Tuesday successfully placed 18 satellites into orbit, state broadcaster CCTV reported, as China seeks to create its own version of U.S. firm SpaceX's Starlink network.

6. [**Answering the Call to Strengthen PNT \(Inside GNSS, 05 AUG, Renee Knight\)**](#)

The spoofing and jamming threat continues to grow, making GNSS resiliency for warfighters a hot topic at ION's JNC 2024.

Many of the exhibitors at ION's Joint Navigation Conference (JNC) had one thing in common: they spent a lot of time talking with attendees about solutions designed to strengthen PNT by backing up GNSS or thwarting spoofing and jamming attempts. Mitigating the threat of nefarious actors is a top industry concern, and that was evident in many of the solutions displayed at the conference.



7. [**Military Struggles to Make Inroads With 5G Commercial Wireless Tech**](#) (National Defense, 05 AUG, Laura Heckmann)

As modern warfare pushes further and further into the digital realm, the Pentagon needs the latest and greatest in wireless technology to support its increasingly complex network needs. But when that technology comes from a sector motivated by profit rather than national security requirements, the Defense Department needs to find a way to take advantage of both worlds.

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Items of Interest

1. [US soldier pleads guilty to selling secrets to China](#) (BBC, 14 AUG, Gavin Butler)

A US Army analyst has pleaded guilty to charges of conspiring to sell military secrets to China, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has said.

2. [Massive China-Focused Air Combat Exercise Underway Off California Coast](#) (TWZ, 09 AUG, Thomas Newdick)

Playing out over large stretches of the eastern Pacific, the Bamboo Eagle war games are rehearsing for a potential future conflict with China.

3. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, August 9, 2024](#) (ISW, 07 AUG, Matthew Sperzel, Daniel Shats, Alexis Turek)

Key Takeaways

- The PRC Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO) and Ministry of Public Security (MPS) listed the names of ten Taiwanese political figures in new website sections devoted to punishing “Taiwan independence diehards.” The postings are part of a pressure campaign targeted at Taiwan’s new administration of Lai Ching-te and the ruling DPP.
- PRC state-sponsored hacker group APT41 likely stole passwords and documents from a Taiwanese government-affiliated research center in July 2023.
- The PRC released a Taiwanese former soldier it held for nearly five months — a week after Taiwan returned the bodies of two PRC fishermen who died in the February 14 capsizing incident in Kinmen’s waters. This small breakthrough in tense cross-strait relations is unlikely to change the PRC’s long-term coercion campaign against Taiwan.
- The People’s Liberation Army Eastern Theater Command released a video on the PLA’s 97th anniversary that depicts an assault on Taiwan.
- The United States imposed sanctions on five individuals and seven entities in Iran and the PRC for facilitating the procurement of components for Iran’s ballistic missile and UAV programs.
- PRC Special Representative for Eurasian Affairs Li Hui traveled to Brazil, South Africa, and Indonesia to generate support for the PRC’s efforts to mediate the war and promote peace talks.

4. [India and Pakistan Brace for Rising ISIS Threat](#) (Newsweek, 07 AUG, Tom O’Conor)

Officials from India and Pakistan have told Newsweek that they are preparing for an uptick in threats posed by one of the most dangerous arms of the Islamic State militant group (ISIS) whose resurgent campaign has already brought heightened bloodshed to South Asia and beyond.

5. [Where in the World Are U.S. and China's Militaries?](#) (Newsweek, 07 AUG, John Feng & Ryan Chan)

The United States is a global superpower sustained by hundreds of military sites around the world. By the end of this decade, China could have a burgeoning network of its own.

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6. **[Bangladesh Becomes 9th Country Under Military Rule; Why B'Desh Army Is Unlikely To Go The Pakistan Way? \(The Eurasian Times, 06 AUG, Prakash Nanda\)](#)**

With the Army in Bangladesh now in control after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's "forced" abdication of power, the South Asian country is now the ninth in the world under military rule.

7. **[How a student-run uprising led to the ouster of Bangladesh's longest-serving prime minister \(AP News, 06 AUG, Krutika Pathi\)](#)**

In a video that lit up social media feeds in Bangladesh, jubilant protesters climbed atop a statue of Sheikh Mujib Rahman, the country's first leader after independence, and beat it with iron rods and axes as people below hooted and cheered.

8. **[Abrams Tanks, Bradley IFVs 'Get Ready' As US Army Practices Swift Deployment Of Men & Material To South Korea \(The Eurasian Times, 06 AUG, Sakshi Tiwari\)](#)**

In yet another demonstration of commitment to South Korea's security in the face of rising tensions, the US Army is conducting a rapid deployment of men and material to South Korea.

9. **[1st Ever Space War Game: UK Holds 'Space Warrior' Drills Amid Growing Threats From China & Russia \(The EurAsian Times, 03 AUG, Sakshi Tiwari\)](#)**

The United Kingdom held its inaugural space war games, called 'Space Warrior,' at the Defence Experimentation and Wargaming Hub located at Southwick Park in Hampshire.

10. **[IRONY! US Military Needs China's Help To Beat Chinese PLA In A War; Report Says Ammo Will Exhaust In 28 Days \(The EurAsian Times, 02 AUG, Shubhangi Palve\)](#)**

In a startling revelation, a bipartisan commission has warned that the United States could exhaust its ammunition supplies in as little as "three to four weeks" if engaged in a prolonged conflict with China.

Middle East 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.

[Iran Update](#), August 15, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 14, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 13, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 12, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 11, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 10, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 09, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 08, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 07, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 06, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 05, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 04, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 03, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 02, 2024

[Iran Update](#), August 01, 2024

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2. [Hamis will not join Gaza ceasefire talks, senior official says](#) (BBC, 15 AUG, Rushdi Abualouf & David Gritten)

A senior Hamas official told the BBC that it will not participate in the indirect talks on a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal due to resume in Doha on Thursday.

3. [Risk of regional war hangs over Gaza ceasefire talks](#) (BBC, 15 AUG, Lucy Williamson)

If the leaks to local papers are true, even Israel's defence chiefs are urging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to make a deal and agree a ceasefire in Gaza.

4. [Iran rejects Western calls to refrain from attack on Israel](#) (BBC, 14 AUG, David Gritten)

Iran has dismissed calls from the UK and other Western countries to refrain from retaliation against Israel for the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran last month.

5. [Behind the scenes as Hamas chose its new leader](#) (BBC, 08 AUG, Rushdi Abualouf)

Over the past week, watched by the world's media, the top leaders of Hamas descended on Qatar to choose a new political leader for their group.

6. [Iran-Israel Conflict: How Iran-North Korea 'Military Alliance' Is Igniting Tensions, Threatening An All Out War](#) (The EurAsian Times, 07 AUG, Shubhangi Palve)

North Korea and Iran, both designated as 'State Sponsors of Terrorism' by the United States, have recently made headlines due to their nuclear aspirations and strengthening

bilateral relations.

7. [**Hamas names Yahya Sinwar, mastermind of the Oct. 7 attacks, as its new leader in show of defiance \(AP News, 07 AUG, Bassem Mroue\)**](#)
 Hamas on Tuesday named Yahya Sinwar, its top official in Gaza who masterminded the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel, as its new leader in a dramatic sign of the power of the Palestinian militant group's hardline wing after his predecessor was killed in a presumed Israeli strike in Iran.
8. [**Attacks In Lebanon-Israel Border Region Intensify Ahead Of Anticipated Large-Scale Strikes \(DW, 06 AUG, Tania Kramer & Hazem Balousha\)**](#)
 Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah warned that a looming massive attack on Israel "will be strong, influential and effective."
9. [**Israel and Hezbollah trade strikes as tensions simmer \(BBC, 06 AUG, Matt Murphy\)**](#)
 Israel says it has carried out an air strike against what it said was a "military structure" used by the armed group Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.
10. [**Arab nations in Hamas-Israel conflict: What you need to know \(DW, 05 AUG, Cathrin Schaer\)**](#)
 Behind the scenes, some countries have close relationships with Israel. Other nations are home to Iran-backed groups that consider themselves part of the "axis of resistance" opposed to the US and Israel.
11. [**What is Iran's 'Axis of Resistance'? \(Reuters, 05 AUG\)**](#)
 If Iran retaliates for the assassination of its close ally Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran last week, its regional allies - known as the "Axis of Resistance" to Israel and U.S. influence in the Middle East - are likely to join in.
12. [**UN staff fired over possible links to 7 October attack \(BBC, 05 AUG, Pia Harold\)**](#)
 Nine staff members at the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, may have been involved in the 7 October Hamas-led attack on Israel, the United Nations says.
13. [**Who is Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar? \(DW, 05 AUG, Nita Blake-Persen\)**](#)
 Yahya Sinwar, a Palestinian politician, has been the leader of the militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip since February 2017. Sinwar is the man Israel believes orchestrated the October 7 terror attacks.
14. [**Middle East on the brink of war after Hamas leader's killing \(DW, 04 AUG, Aaron Tilton\)**](#)
 Iran has vowed to retaliate for the killing of Hamas' political leader Ismail Haniyeh. The Lebanese, Iranian-backed militant group Hezbollah says it has fired dozens of rockets into northern Israel in response to recent Israeli airstrikes. Many Western governments are urging their citizens to leave Lebanon.
15. [**Iran security failure in focus after killing of Hamas leader \(DW, 02 AUG, Shabnam von Heim\)**](#)
 The death of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran under the watch of Iran's

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Revolutionary Guard has raised questions about Iran's security apparatus.

16. [**Indian-Israeli Mossad Agent — Amit Nakesh — Behind The Assassination Of Hamas Boss Ismail Haniyeh – Turkish Media Goes Wild**](#) (The EurAsian Times, 02 AUG, Sakshi Tiwari)

In a bizarre incident, several Turkish media reports stated that the Hamas' top political leader, Ismail Haniyeh, was assassinated by a shadowy Mossad agent named 'Amit Nakesh'— awkwardly making the name of a supposed Israeli spy sound like an Indian name. However, the devil is in the details.

17. [**Planted Bomb Was Used To Kill Hamas Leader In Tehran: Report**](#) (TWZ, 01 AUG, Howard Altman)

While the details of the assassination remain murky, Iran appears to be preparing for what could be a massive vengeance strike on Israel.

18. [**Iran vows revenge for killing of Haniyeh**](#) (DW, 01 AUG, Myles Tweedie)

The assassination of the Hamas leader represents a massive security breach for Iran. Tehran promises to respond aggressively — but how could it strike back at Israel? And how far does it actually want to go?



Russia-Ukraine Conflict

1. Institute for The Study of War

- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), August 15, 2024
- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), August 14, 2024
- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), August 13, 2024
- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), August 12, 2024
- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), August 11, 2024
- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), August 10, 2024
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- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), August 03, 2024
- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), August 02, 2024
- [Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), August 01, 2024

2. [Russia beefs up border defences after lightning Ukrainian incursion \(Reuters, 15 AUG, Guy Faulconbridge & Maxim Rodionov\)](#)

Russia said on Thursday that it would beef up border defences, improve command and control and send in additional forces nearly 10 days after Ukraine made the biggest attack on Russian sovereign territory since World War Two.

3. [Ukraine in maps: Tracking the war with Russia \(BBC, 15 AUG, The Visual Journalism Team\)](#)

Fighting has raged in Ukraine since Russia launched a full-scale invasion in February 2022. Russian forces have made small gains in recent months but now Ukrainian forces have staged a counter-offensive into Russia.

4. [Ukraine racks up gains with Russia incursion, faces challenge holding territory \(Reuters, 15 AUG, Tom Balmforth & Pavel Polityuk\)](#)

Ukraine has chalked up a string of victories more than a week since blindsiding Russia with a lightning cross-border assault, but the risks are piling up as its troops make plans to hold territory and Russia recovers its footing.

5. [Claims Swirl Around Strike On Key Russian Logistics Hub In Kursk \(Updated\) \(TWZ, 15 AUG, Howard Altman\)](#)

Ukrainian forces continue to slowly push north toward Lgov, which has rail lines and sits along a key highway.

6. [Will Ukraine's Kursk incursion shift West's arms limits? \(DW, 15 AUG, Ralph Martin\)](#)

Kyiv wants to set up a buffer zone in Russia's Kursk region to protect itself from Russian attacks. The move comes as Ukraine is restricted from using Western weaponry to its full capability. Here's how lifting restrictions could affect the war.

7. [Ukraine sets up military office inside Russia \(BBC, 15 AUG, Ian](#)



Aikman & Jonathan Beale)

Ukraine has set up a military administrative office in Russia's western Kursk region, where its surprise incursion into Russian territory continues, according to its top military commander.

8. [Russia Building Trenches In Kursk To Defend Against Ukrainian Advances](#) (TWZ, 14 AUG, Howard Altman)

As Ukrainian forces in Kursk push northward, Russia is adding trenches in addition to troops to defend its territory.

9. [Putin Is Vulnerable: Western Policy Masks Russian Weakness](#) (ISW, 14 AUG, Nataliya Bugayova)

Russia has vulnerabilities that the West has simply not been exploiting. On the contrary, US incrementalism has helped the Kremlin offset and mask its weaknesses. The Kremlin's weaknesses include its inability to rapidly pivot, dependence on others for Russia's capability to sustain the war, and years of risk accumulation that Russian President Vladimir Putin is yet to reckon with. The Kremlin is vulnerable to an adversary who can generate momentum against Russia and deny the Kremlin opportunities to regroup and adapt. A serious US strategy on Ukraine would prioritize achieving such momentum. It would include removing Western-granted safe havens for Russia's war machine. It would also include not only imposing multiple dilemmas on the Kremlin but the most painful ones, such as helping Ukraine make Russia fail on the battlefield faster and dismantling Russian narratives in the West. While it is premature to draw conclusions about Ukraine's offensive in Kursk Oblast, the operation clearly has the potential to generate momentum. If it does, the United States should help Ukraine build on rather than dampen this momentum to regain control over the tempo of the war.

10. [Kursk Invasion Plan Developed By Lessons Learned From Failed Counteroffensive: Retired Ukrainian Officer](#) (TWZ, 14 AUG, Howard Altman)

A retired high-ranking officer's thoughts on how Ukraine changed its tactics for the Kursk invasion and the goals of the operation.

11. [Ukraine's Kursk offensive enters second week](#) (DW, 14 AUG, Craig Crowther)

Ukraine says it intends to set up a border buffer region inside Russia's Kursk region, to prevent future artillery strikes from there. The ongoing fighting is forcing civilians on both sides of the border to flee.

12. [Ukraine updates: Kyiv says no interest in occupying Kursk](#) (DW, 13 AUG)

Ukraine has underlined that its Kursk breakthrough is intended to frustrate Russia's attacks elsewhere. Meanwhile, Moscow says its forces have checked Kyiv's efforts to expand the incursion. Read DW for more.

13. [Ukraine Eyeing Expansion Of Kursk Invasion Despite Russian Reinforcements](#) (TWZ, 13 AUG, Howard Altman)

Despite Russian efforts to contain Ukraine's eight-day-old invasion of Kursk, Kyiv's forces are still seeking ways to capture more territory.

14. [How far will Ukraine advance in Russia's Kursk region?](#) (DW, 13

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AUG, Roman Goncharenko)

For the first time since the start of Russia's invasion, Ukraine has sent troops to capture a major part of Russian territory. Western experts say the Kursk incursion is a sign of a new strategy.

15. [Ukraine and the Problem of Restoring Maneuver in Contemporary War](#) (ISW, 12 AUG, Frederick W. Kagan & Kimberly Kagan)

The war in Ukraine is transforming the character of warfare in ways that will affect all future conflicts. This paper primarily aims to offer a new framework for Ukrainian forces and their Western backers to break the current positional warfare and restore maneuver to the battlefield. It also establishes a basis for discussions within the United States, NATO, and allied Pacific militaries about the implications of the current conflict for contemporary and future warfare.

16. [Ukraine updates: Putin vows to 'drive enemy' out of Kursk](#) (DW, 12 AUG)

Officials in Kursk have said over 120,000 people have been evacuated as Russian forces continue to scramble a response to a Ukrainian military incursion that has penetrated 12 kilometers into Russia. DW has the latest.

17. [Ukraine Expands Area Of Fighting But Finding Advances Increasingly Blocked](#) (TWZ, 12 AUG, Howard Altman)

Ukraine has finally provided details of its push into Russian territory as Moscow vows to retake what it's lost.

18. [Ukraine updates: Kursk governor calls for quicker evacuation](#) (DW, 11 AUG)

The acting governor of Russia's Kursk oblast called for civilians to be moved from unsafe areas more quickly amid a Ukrainian incursion. Meanwhile, a man and his child were killed in a strike near Kyiv. DW has more.

19. [Details about Ukraine's Kursk region incursion 'unclear'](#) (DW, 11 AUG, Nimisha Jaiswal & Nick Connolly)

Speaking from Kyiv, DW correspondent Nick Connolly said Ukraine has remained fairly tight-lipped about the ongoing incursion in the Kursk border region.

20. [Ukraine updates: Russia says 76,000 evacuated from Kursk](#) (DW, 10 AUG)

Russia said tens of thousands of residents of the Kursk border region have been brought to safety as a Ukrainian incursion lasts into its fifth day. Meanwhile, Belarus said Ukraine violated its airspace. DW has more.

21. [Russia sends reinforcements to counter Ukrainian attack](#) (DW, 09 AUG, Myles Tweedie)

Russia is shoring up its defenses in an attempt to repel one of the biggest Ukrainian attacks across its border since the war began. Hundreds of Ukrainian troops began crossing the border four days ago. Kyiv has not officially acknowledged the incursion.

22. [Ukraine updates: Putin orders reinforcements to Kursk](#) (DW, 09 AUG)

Russia has sent more troops to Kursk as it battles a Ukrainian incursion for the fourth day. Meanwhile, Ukraine said Russia struck a supermarket in Donetsk, killing several

people. DW has more.

23. [**Russia Racing Troops To Kursk In Hopes Of Booting Ukraine's Invasion Forces**](#) (TWZ, 09 AUG, Howard Altman)

Four days into Ukraine's invasion of Russian territory, Moscow is trying to get a handle on an increasingly perilous situation.

24. [**Russia battles Ukrainian troops after Kursk incursion**](#) (DW, 08 AUG, Elena Gyldenkerne)

Moscow has said at least 1,000 Ukrainian troops entered Russian territory on Tuesday. Russian forces have reportedly blocked them from advancing further. Officials in Kursk say around 3,000 civilians have been evacuated. Ukraine has not confirmed it launched the cross-border attack.

25. [**Ukrainian Forces Make Major Gains Inside Russia On Day Three Of Kursk Invasion \(Updated\)**](#) (TWZ, 08 AUG, Howard Altman)

Ukraine is continuing to pour troops and equipment into Russia as it sees success in its bold but risky operation in Kursk.

26. [**Ukraine updates: Russia scrambles against Kursk incursion**](#) (DW, 08 AUG)

The US has asked for details about Ukraine's objectives in the Russian region of Kursk. Russia has engaged reserves as it seeks to thwart the Ukrainian operation. DW has the latest.

27. [**Ukraine pierces Russian border triggering major battles**](#) (Reuters, 07 AUG, Guy Faulconbridge & Lidia Kelly)

Russia said on Wednesday that it was fighting intense battles against Ukrainian forces which had penetrated Russia's Kursk region in one of the largest incursions into Russia since the Ukraine war began in February 2022.

28. [**Russia: State of emergency in Kursk amid incursion**](#) (DW, 07 AUG)

A state of emergency has been declared in the Russian border region of Kursk as troops continue to battle against an alleged Ukrainian incursion. President Putin has accused Ukraine of a "large-scale provocation."

29. [**Ukrainian Forces Fight Inside Russia For Second Day \(Updated\)**](#) (TWZ, 07 AUG, Howard Altman)

As the peculiar incursion operation continues, Ukrainian troops still hold territory inside Russia's Kursk region.

30. [**Russians Evacuated as Ukraine's Incursion Turns Kursk Into War Zone**](#) (Newsweek, 07 AUG, Isabel van Brugen)

Residents are being evacuated from Russia's Kursk region after Ukrainian forces conducted a series of cross border raids on Tuesday, with videos on social media showing scenes akin to a war zone.

31. [**Ukraine: Russia advances in the Donbas**](#) (DW, 07 AUG, Amien Essif)

In May, Russia opened a new front along its border with Ukraine near Kharkiv. Although Kyiv has been able to stall that offensive by moving some of its brigades to Kharkiv, Moscow appears to have taken advantage of the distraction to advance further in the Donbas.



32. [**Ukraine Situation Report: Cross-Border Raid Shakes Russia’s Kursk Region**](#) (TWZ, 06 AUG, Thomas Newdick & Howard Altman)

Russia rushed reserve troops and aircraft to the Kursk region to repel a cross-boarder mechanized attack.

33. [**Ukraine Situation Report: Russian Submarine Destroyed, Kyiv Claims**](#) (TWZ, 03 AUG, Howard Altman)

A very peculiar and recently erected floating facility in Sevastopol appears to have been damaged within the last 48 hours.

34. [**Ukraine’s “Baba Yaga” Drones Now Appear Capable Of Launching Guided Munitions**](#) (TWZ, 02 AUG, Tyler Gogoway)

Making Ukraine's large multi-rotor industrial drones capable of launching guided munitions at targets behind enemy lines would certainly be a major capability upgrade.

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