



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

Prepared by: Threat Management Office CCoE
Fort Gordon, GA 30905
POC: Jeffrey Hardimon & Kevin Bird
706-849-9259

Table of Contents

Cyber

1. [Cyber attacks, riots and lies: Leaked documents show step-by-step plan for how Putin could trigger World War Three](#) - 15 JAN
2. [Haker Behind \\$2 Million Cryptocurrency Mining Scheme Arrested in Ukraine](#) – 15 JAN
3. [Russian hackers Likely Not Involved in Attacks on Denmark’s Critical Infrastructure](#) – 12 JAN
4. [The Top Cybersecurity Issues Facing Businesses In 2024](#) - 12 JAN
5. [Malware Used in Ivanti Zero-Day Attacks Shows Hackers Preparing for Patch Rollout](#) - 12 JAN
6. [China-Linked Volt Typhoonb Hackers Possibly Targeting Australian, UK Governments](#) – 11 JAN
7. [Ukrainian “Blackjack” Hackers Take Out Russian ISP](#) - 10 JAN
8. [Who Is Behind Pro-Ukrainian Cyberattacks on Iran?](#) - 10 JAN
9. [Turkish Hackers Target Microsoft Sql Servers in Americas, Europe](#) – 09 JAN
10. [Turkish Cyberspies Targeting Netherlands](#) - 04 JAN
11. [Major IT, Crypto Firms Exposed to Suppy Chain Compromise via New Class of CI/CD Attack](#) – 08 JAN
12. [Exclusive: Russian hackers were inside Ukraine telecoms giant for months](#) - 05 JAN
13. [Ukraine Blames Russian Sandworm Hackers for Kyivstar Attack](#) – 04 JAN

Electronic Warfare

1. [China Builds Spy Stations in Mountains on Disputed Border](#) - 15 JAN
2. [Ukraine likely began using EW to counter Russian air attacks, while Russians rapidly increased the use of chemical weapons](#) — ISW - 14 JAN
3. [UK Defense Ministry: Electronic warfare shortage complicating Russia’s defense against Ukrainian drones in Kherson Oblast](#) - 12 JAN
4. [Ukraine’s 700,000 Suicide UAVs Send Russia Scurrying For Jammers As FVP Drones Emerge As New Artillery](#) - 08 JAN
5. [Military briefing: Russia has the upper hand in electronic warfare with Ukraine](#) - 07 JAN
6. [‘Massive’ Radio-Jamming Has Turned Krynky Into A Robotic Kill-Zone For Hapless Russians. ‘We Are Hampered.’](#) - 05 JAN
7. [Air Travel Is Not Ready For Electronic Warfare](#) - 02 JAN
8. [China reveals next-gen multi-target electronic warfare weapon design](#) - 01 JAN

Information Advantage

1. [Foreign Reflections on U.S. Exercises and Operations, 12 January 2023](#) - 12 JAN
2. [AI-Powered Misinformation is the World’s Biggest Short-Term Threat, DAVOS Report Says](#) – 11 JAN
3. [China's Influence Operations and Cognitive Warfare in Taiwan, 11 January 2024](#) - 11 JAN
4. [BRI - Belt and Road Initiative - Highlights, 10 January 2024](#) - 10 JAN)
5. [Cutting Army Special Operations Will Erode The Military’s Ability To Influence The Modern Battlefield](#) - 09 JAN
6. [Marine Corps using exercises to mature new Information Command](#) - 04 JAN

Signal

1. [DISA establishing 'J2' intelligence directorate amid workforce revamp](#) - 16 JAN
2. [China claims it cracked Apple's AirDrop encryption to identify senders and monitor 'inappropriate speech'](#) - 10 JAN
3. [Optical communications, i.e. lasers, are the network pipes for the Internet of Space](#) - 08 JAN
4. [A war via cell phone: How the IDF-designed encrypted smartphone is changing the face of battle](#) - 31 DEC

Items of Interest

1. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, January 11, 2024](#) - 11 JAN
2. [What's behind North Korea's increasing belligerence?](#) - 08 JAN
3. [Spike In Chinese Balloons Over Taiwan A "Serious Threat"](#) - 08 JAN
4. [M-777 Howitzer: Despite Russian Electronic Warfare Spoofing Its GPS-Guided Shells, UK To Restart M777 Production](#) - 07 JAN
5. [U.S. Drone Strike Kills Iranian-Aligned Militia Leader In Baghdad](#) - 04 JAN
6. [China Has New Full-Scale Target Of America's Ford Supercarrier](#) - 04 JAN
7. [CHINA-TAIWAN WEEKLY UPDATE, JANUARY 4, 2024](#) - 04 JAN
8. [Russian threat forces NATO to adapt its strategy](#) - 03 DEC

Israel-Hamas Conflict

1. [The Drive/The Warzone Israel-Gaza Update](#)
2. [Institute for The Study of War Iran Update](#)
3. [Israel-Hamas war: 100 days and no end in sight](#) - 14 DEC
4. [With each strike, fears grow that Israel, the US and Iran's allies are inching closer to all-out war](#) - 08 JAN
5. [From Houthis to Hezbollah, a look at the Iran-allied groups rallying to arms around Middle East](#) - 05 JAN

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Houthis Conflict

1. [Houthis Threaten Reprisal Attacks On U.S. Bases In The Region](#) – 13 JAN
2. [US launches strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen](#) – 13 JAN
3. [Navy Strikes Houthi Radar Site With Tomahawk Cruise Missile](#) - 12 JAN
4. [Allies Strike Back Against Houthis In Yemen \(Updated\)](#) – 11 JAN
5. [Retaliation Strikes On Houthis May Be Imminent \(Updated\)](#) - 11 JAN
6. [UN Security Council demands Houthis stop Red Sea attacks](#) – 10 JAN
7. [Yemen's Houthis launch their largest Red Sea drone and missile attack, though no damage is reported](#) - 08 JAN
8. [Largest Attack On Red Sea Shipping To Date: What We Know](#) - 10 JAN
9. [How Iranian tech empowers Houthi drone, missile attacks in the Red Sea](#) – 08 JAN
10. [Anti-Ship Ballistic Missile Hits U.S.-Owned Container Ship In Gulf Of Aden](#) – 08 JAN
11. [Retired Saudi Admiral On Why Arabs Won't Join Red Sea Task Force](#) - 08 JAN
12. [Houthi Rebels 'Declare War' On The West; Iran Playing With Fire That Could Burn The Entire Middle East](#) – 04 JAN

Russia-Ukraine Conflict

1. [The Drive/The Warzone Russia-Ukraine Situation Report](#)



U.S. ARMY



2. [Institute for The Study of War Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#)
3. [Ukraine's Long-Term Path to Success: Jumpstarting a Self-Sufficient Defense Industrial Base with US and EU Support](#) - 14 JAN
4. [Why the war in Ukraine is at an impasse](#) - 04 JAN
5. [Russia Is Firing North Korean Ballistic Missiles At Ukraine](#) - 04 JAN
6. [Ukraine struck a new \\$250 million Russian artillery radar system right after the military touted its arrival](#) - 03 JAN

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Cyber

1. [**Cyber attacks, riots and lies: Leaked documents show step-by-step plan for how Putin could trigger World War Three \(LBC, 15 JAN, Will Taylor\)**](#)

Leaked documents show how NATO could respond to World War Three - with a step-by-step plan showing how the West would resist aggression launched by Vladimir Putin.

2. [**Hacker Behind \\$2 Million Cryptocurrency Mining Scheme Arrested in Ukraine \(Security Week, 15 JAN, Ionut Arghire\)**](#)

According to Europol, the suspect, a 29-year-old individual residing in Mykolaiv, Ukraine, is likely the mastermind behind a scheme targeting user accounts at a cloud services provider.

3. [**Russian Hackers Likely Not Involved in Attacks on Denmark's Critical Infrastructure \(Security Week, 12 JAN, Ionut Arghire\)**](#)

Russian state-sponsored APT actor Sandworm might have not been involved in last year's massive attack campaign against Denmark's critical infrastructure, cybersecurity firm Forescout says.

4. [**The Top Cybersecurity Issues Facing Businesses In 2024 \(Business Plus, 12 JAN, George Morahan\)**](#)

Nearly half of businesses (46%) have experienced one or more cyber incidents over the past three years, with 20% admitting to some financial loss as a result.

5. [**Malware Used in Ivanti Zero-Day Attacks Shows Hackers Preparing for Patch Rollout \(Security Week, 12 JAN, Eduard Kovacs\)**](#)

Ivanti zero-day vulnerabilities dubbed ConnectAround could impact thousands of systems and Chinese cyberspies are preparing for patch release.

6. [**China-Linked Volt Typhoon Hackers Possibly Targeting Australian, UK Governments \(Security Week, 11 JAN, Ionut Arghire\)**](#)

Chinese state-sponsored hackers are targeting old vulnerabilities in Cisco routers in new attacks apparently aimed at government entities in the US, UK, and Australia, cybersecurity firm SecurityScorecard reports.

7. [**Ukrainian "Blackjack" Hackers Take Out Russian ISP \(Infosecurity-Magazine, 10 JAN, Phil Muncaster\)**](#)

A hacking group linked to Ukraine's main spy agency the SBU has launched a destructive cyber-attack against a Moscow ISP in retaliation for Russia's takedown of Kyivstar last month, according to reports.

8. [**Who Is Behind Pro-Ukrainian Cyberattacks on Iran? \(Dark Reading, 10 JAN, Alex Haynes\)**](#)

Are Ukrainian cyberattacks against Iranian targets a blip or the beginning of a new trend?

Ukrainian cyber forces have attacked Russian infrastructure and assets almost since the first day of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. A now well-oiled machine, the "IT Army of Ukraine" (as it is known) works alongside the main cyber directorate of Ukraine, SSSCIP, on the offensive aspects of the cyber conflict. While its mainstay is denial-of-service (DoS) attacks that have knocked out the Russian customs system and grounded flights at Russian airports, among other things, it doesn't shy away from

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



breaching Russian assets and making off with huge amounts of data.

9. **[Turkish Hackers Target Microsoft SQL Servers in Americas, Europe \(Security Week, 09 JAN, Ionut Arghire\)](#)**

Financially motivated threat actors believed to be operating out of Turkey have been caught targeting Microsoft SQL Server databases in attacks leading to the deployment of ransomware, cybersecurity firm Securonix warns in a new report.

10. **[Turkish Cyberspies Targeting Netherlands \(Security Week, 09 JAN, Ionut Arghire\)](#)**

A state-supported cyberespionage group likely affiliated to Turkey has been observed targeting numerous public and private entities in the Netherlands for intelligence gathering, Dutch incident response provider Hunt & Hackett reports.

11. **[Major IT, Crypto Firms Exposed to Supply Chain Compromise via New Class of CI/CD Attack \(Security Week, 08 JAN, Ionut Arghire\)](#)**

Thousands of public GitHub repositories are vulnerable to malicious code injection via self-hosted GitHub Actions runners, which could lead to high-impact supply chain attacks, security researchers warn.

12. **[Exclusive: Russian hackers were inside Ukraine telecoms giant for months \(Reuters, 05 JAN, Tom Balmforth\)](#)**

Russian hackers were inside Ukrainian telecoms giant Kyivstar's system from at least May last year in a cyberattack that should serve as a "big warning" to the West, Ukraine's cyber spy chief told Reuters.

13. **[Ukraine Blames Russian Sandworm Hackers for Kyivstar Attack \(Infosecurity Magazine, 04 JAN, James Coker\)](#)**

Ukraine's security service has attributed the cyber-attack on mobile operator Kyivstar to Russian hacking group Sandworm.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



Electronic Warfare

1. [China Builds Spy Stations in Mountains on Disputed Border \(Newsweek, 15 JAN, Aadil Brar\)](#)

China has been building new radar and electronic warfare facilities in the mountains along its long, disputed border with India, recent satellite imagery revealed.

2. [Ukraine likely began using EW to counter Russian air attacks, while Russians rapidly increased the use of chemical weapons — ISW \(Euro Mайдan Press, 14 JAN, Bohdan Ben\)](#)

On 13 January, Ukrainian military officials stated for the first time that electronic warfare successfully countered part of Russian missile attacks. It was previously credited only for countering drones. Meanwhile, Russian troops have increased the use of chemical weapons several times in the first weeks of 2024, ISW assessed.

3. [UK Defense Ministry: Electronic warfare shortage complicating Russia's defense against Ukrainian drones in Kherson Oblast \(The Kyiv Independent, 12 JAN, Dinara Khalilova\)](#)

Russia has faced difficulties in countering Ukrainian first-person-view (FPV) drones during combat on the east bank of the Dnipro River in Kherson Oblast, likely due to a shortage of electronic warfare capability in the area, the U.K. Defense Ministry reported on Jan. 12.

4. [Ukraine's 700,000 Suicide UAVs Send Russia Scurrying For Jammers As FVP Drones Emerge As New Artillery \(The EurAsian Times, 08 JAN, Parth Satam\)](#)

The destruction of Ukraine's artillery inventory, the shortage of ammunition in the US and Europe after having donated Kyiv from their armories, and the inability to ramp up production owing to issues with their defense industrial bases have led to the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) nearly substituting the deficit with kamikaze drones.

5. [Military briefing: Russia has the upper hand in electronic warfare with Ukraine \(FT Collections, 07 JAN, Roman Olearchyk\)](#)

Russia's record number of aerial attacks on Ukraine over the New Year period has highlighted Kyiv's struggle to bolster its electronic warfare technology aimed at jamming and diverting enemy drones and guided missiles.

6. ['Massive' Radio-Jamming Has Turned Krynky Into A Robotic Kill-Zone For Hapless Russians. 'We Are Hampered.' \(Forbes, 05 JAN, David Axe\)](#)

Ukrainian troops are jamming the Hell out of Russian drones on the left bank of the Dnipro River in southern Ukraine's Kherson Oblast.

7. [Air Travel Is Not Ready For Electronic Warfare \(New York Magazine, 02 Jan, Jeff Wise\)](#)

With militaries spoofing GPS signals, civilian planes could get targeted in the crossfire.

Airway UM688 cuts an invisible path through the air from Samsun, Turkey, on the Black Sea coast down through Basra, Iraq, on the Persian Gulf and is used heavily by airliners traveling from Europe to the Gulf States. One stretch in particular, a 280-mile-long

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



section in northeastern Iraq, has become a hot topic in pilot forums online. Planes passing through experience all kinds of strange system malfunctions.

8. [China reveals next-gen multi-target electronic warfare weapon design](#) (Interesting Engineering, 01 DEC, Ameya Paleja)

Researchers at the Southeast University in Nanjiang China have revealed the design of their new generation electronic warfare (EW) weapon in a peer-reviewed journal. Unlike other EW weapons known so far, the Chinese-developed weapon can allegedly launch multiple beams of electromagnetic waves from a single antenna and target multiple objects simultaneously.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Information Advantage

1. [Foreign Reflections on U.S. Exercises and Operations, 12 January 2023 \(U.S. Army Asian Studies Detachment, 12 JAN\)](#)

This report is an examination of foreign reactions in the Asia-Pacific region to U.S. bilateral and multilateral exercises, and other United States Department of Defense activities such as weapons transfers and sales, military exchanges, and military operations. This report iteration covers relevant reporting from 21 December 2023 to 11 January 2024 and gathers media coverage from China, Russia, North Korea, Japan, Bangladesh, Syria and United States.

2. [AI-Powered Misinformation is the World's Biggest Short-Term Threat, Davos Report Says \(Security Week, 11 JAN, Associated Press\)](#)

False and misleading information supercharged with cutting-edge artificial intelligence that threatens to erode democracy and polarize society is the top immediate risk to the global economy, the World Economic Forum said in a report Wednesday.

3. [China's Influence Operations and Cognitive Warfare in Taiwan, 11 January 2024 \(U.S. Army Asian Studies Detachment, 11 JAN\)](#)

This report, based primarily on Taiwanese sources, details China's efforts to influence and subvert Taiwan, the U.S., Japan, and other major countries in the region.

Contents

- Taiwan's 2024 Presidential and Legislative Elections
- Intimidation against Taiwan
- Influence Operations
- Taiwan's Counter Activities
- Others

4. [BRI - Belt and Road Initiative - Highlights, 10 January 2024 \(U.S. Army Asian Studies Detachment, 10 JAN\)](#)

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an expansive economic and infrastructure program initiated by the People's Republic of China aimed at increasing its influence throughout the world. Targeted primarily at poorer nations, or nations the PRC has a strategic interest in, it aims to increase the infrastructure usable by the PRC as well as making those nations economically dependent upon the PRC.

5. [CUTTING ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS WILL ERODE THE MILITARY'S ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THE MODERN BATTLEFIELD \(War On The Rocks, 09 JAN, Cole Livieratos\)](#)

The U.S. Army is currently undergoing significant force structure changes as it wrestles with two major challenges. First, its current recruiting problems have reduced the number of active-duty soldiers by about 30,000 from 2021 through 2024. Second, it is trying to modernize its force structure and capabilities to confront challenges posed by China's military. To do this, the service's leaders have chosen to focus on capabilities most "relevant for large-scale combat operations." As a result, Army leaders have chosen to reduce Army special operations forces, which they view as a force primarily meant for counterinsurgency and counterterrorism, by 3,000 slots.

6. [Marine Corps using exercises to mature new Information Command \(Defense Scoop, 04 JAN, Mark Pomerleau\)](#)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



U.S. ARMY



Marine Corps Information Command is looking to mature regionally first, with eventual aspirations for global integration.

A year after being established, Marine Corps Information Command is focusing on maturing regionally — specifically in the Pacific — with the longer-term goal of global integration and synchronization of information capabilities with traditional military operations.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



Signal

1. [**DISA establishing 'J2' intelligence directorate amid workforce revamp \(C4ISR Net, 16 JAN, Colin Demarest\)**](#)

McLEAN, Va. — The U.S. Department of Defense's de facto information-technology authority is building out its first-ever intelligence directorate.

The establishment of the "J2" office is meant to provide the Defense Information Systems Agency with a greater understanding of "what the adversary is trying to do" against the computing, sensitive networks and lines of communication it stewards, according to its director, Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert Skinner.

2. [**China claims it cracked Apple's AirDrop encryption to identify senders and monitor 'inappropriate speech' \(Business Insider Africa, 10 JAN, TOM Porter\)**](#)

Chinese officials claim a Beijing company has cracked Apple's AirDrop encryption, a development that could enable police to trace dissidents who've used the app to spread anti-government messages.

- A Chinese tech company claims to have cracked Apple's AirDrop encryption.
- Chinese authorities say the information helped catch people sending "inappropriate information."
- Government critics have used the app to send information wirelessly.

3. [**Optical communications, i.e. lasers, are the network pipes for the Internet of Space \(Breaking Defense, 08 JAN\)**](#)

The Air Force Research Lab has added Intelsat to its list of vendors for the Defense Experimentation Using Commercial Space Internet (DEUCSI) program.

As part of the initiative, AFRL plans to conduct a set of demonstrations that will aim to provide military aircraft with ubiquitous connectivity using commercial spacecraft and networks.

4. [**A war via cell phone: How the IDF-designed encrypted smartphone is changing the face of battle \(CTech, 31 DEC, Ariela Karmel\)**](#)

Communications between IDF units are today almost entirely conducted via the military's encrypted smartphone. In the current war with Hamas which includes intense urban warfare, booby trapped buildings, and Hamas fighters disguised as Gazan civilians or Israeli hostages, such ease of communication is often the difference between life or death for IDF units.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Items of Interest

1. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, January 11, 2024](#) (ISW, 11 JAN, Daniel Shats & Nils Peterson)

The China–Taiwan Weekly Update focuses on the Chinese Communist Party’s paths to controlling Taiwan and relevant cross–Taiwan Strait developments.

Key Takeaways

- 1) PRC high-altitude balloon flights through Taiwan’s Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) have become a daily occurrence and are likely part of a CCP effort to test Taiwan’s responses and wear down its threat awareness.
- 2) Taiwan arrested an independent legislative candidate on suspicion of accepting money from the CCP to run for office.
- 3) The CCP threatened further economic punitive measures against Taiwan related to the cross-strait Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA).
- 4) The People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command conducted air and naval exercises in the South China Sea from January 3 to 5.
- 5) The December purges of top PLA military and defense industry officials reflect Xi Jinping’s fears of disloyalty in the military and show that the anti-corruption campaign has not yet succeeded in rooting out endemic corruption in the military.
- 6) A loss of Compacts of Free Association (COFA) funding for Palau, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands would enable the CCP to expand its leverage points over these countries.
- 7) The Times of Israel reported that Israeli Defense Forces encountered “vast quantities of weapons manufactured by China” in Gaza.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

2. [What’s behind North Korea’s increasing belligerence?](#) (DW, 08 JAN, Julian Ryall)

North Korea’s recent missile tests signal a strategic shift, raising global concerns. Could Pyongyang be hoping to use military threats to push its agenda as South Korea heads toward new elections?

North Korea has ushered in the new year with threats of violence and three days of live-fire artillery exercises near two South Korean islands.

3. [Spike In Chinese Balloons Over Taiwan A “Serious Threat”](#) (The Drive/The Warzone, 08 JAN, Thomas Newdick)

Taiwan has slammed Beijing after a surge in the number of balloons launched over and around the island in recent days.

High-altitude balloons, launched by China, are once again in the headlines, this time with a spate of sightings over and around Taiwan. Tensions between the island and Beijing are already strained, with elections due later this week. As a result of the recent spike in balloon flights, Taiwan has accused China of psychological warfare as well as threatening international aviation safety in the region.

4. [M-777 Howitzer: Despite Russian Electronic Warfare Spoofing Its GPS-Guided Shells, UK To Restart M777 Production](#) (The EurAsian Times, 07 JAN, Ritu Sharma)

The British-made long-barrelled battlefield M-777 howitzers gave a lifeline to Ukrainian

soldiers when the ammunition of its Soviet-era guns started running low.

In a war where both sides brought their big guns and pounded each other with thousands of artillery shells, the big guns started having lots of wear and tear, and its GPS-guided Excalibur shells lost their precision in the face of Russian electronic warfare.

5. [**U.S. Drone Strike Kills Iranian-Aligned Militia Leader In Baghdad \(The Drive/The War Zone, 04 JAN, Howard Altman\)**](#)

This marks the first U.S. airstrike in Baghdad since Iranian-backed militias began attacking U.S. forces in the wake of the Israel-Hamas war.

U.S. military officials have acknowledged responsibility for a drone strike Thursday in Baghdad that killed a top leader of an Iranian-backed militia group and several others.

6. [**China Has New Full-Scale Target Of America's Ford Supercarrier \(The Drive/The War Zone, 04 JAN, Joseph Trevithick\)**](#)

China's huge investment in denying U.S. carriers proximity to its shores continues with a familiar-looking new target in its western desert.

China has constructed a new aircraft carrier target on a sprawling range in the northwestern end of the country that is a dead-ringer for the U.S. Navy's newest supercarrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford. The target underscores the People's Liberation Army's continued focus on expanding and refining its ability to engage American carriers and other warships over long distances, which includes a growing arsenal of anti-ship ballistic and cruise missiles. This is all part of China's evolving anti-access and area denial strategy across much of the Western Pacific.

7. [**CHINA-TAIWAN WEEKLY UPDATE, JANUARY 4, 2024 \(ISW, 04 JAN, Nils Peterson, Matthew Sperzel, & Daniel Shats\)**](#)

The China–Taiwan Weekly Update focuses on the Chinese Communist Party's paths to controlling Taiwan and relevant cross–Taiwan Strait developments.

Key Takeaways

- Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) presidential candidate Lai Ching-te continues to lead in the polls.
- Taiwan's three presidential candidates participated in a televised debate on December 30.
- The PRC is continuing its intimidation tactics toward Taiwan before the election.
- The PRC's removal of top military and defense industry officials from political bodies reflects Xi Jinping's continuing efforts to purge corruption and strengthen the loyalty of the military.
- Xi Jinping appointed Admiral Dong Jun as the new Minister of National Defense on December 29.
- CCP General Secretary Xi Jinping reiterated his vision to forge a Sino-centric international order in statements around the new year.
- A loss of Compacts of Free Association (COFA) funding for Palau, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands would enable the CCP to expand its leverage points over these countries.
- PRC Consul General in Jeddah Wang Qiming authored an article on the "Palestinian-Israeli conflict" in the Saudi media outlet Okaz that supports a CCP line of effort to supplant US influence in Arab states.

8. [**Russian threat forces NATO to adapt its strategy \(DW, 03 DEC, Teri Schultz\)**](#)



U.S. ARMY



The Russian invasion of Ukraine has forced NATO to reconsider its strategy, moving from collective crisis management to defense. NATO will provide nations with direction on how to improve their military and logistics.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



Israel-Hamas Conflict

1. The Drive/The Warzone Israel-Gaza Update

[Israel-Gaza Situation Report: U.S. Military Leaders Push For Scaled-Back Campaign](#)
– 19 DEC

2. 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](#), January 15, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

3. [Israel-Hamas war: 100 days and no end in sight](#) (DW, 14 DEC, Lisa Ellis)

Three months on from the deadly October 7 Hamas terror attacks, around 1,200 Israeli civilians and soldiers have lost their lives in a conflict that shows no sign of letting up. Authorities in Gaza put the death toll at around 24,000, with more than 2 million people displaced and half of all buildings destroyed.

4. [With each strike, fears grow that Israel, the US and Iran's allies are inching closer to all-out war](#) (AP News, 08 JAN, Joseph Krauss)

In the last week alone, an Israeli airstrike has killed a Hezbollah commander in Lebanon, Hezbollah struck a sensitive Israeli base with rockets and Israel killed a senior Hamas militant with an airstrike in Beirut.

Each strike and counterstrike increases the risk of the catastrophic war in Gaza spilling across the region.

In the decades-old standoff pitting the U.S. and Israel against Iran and allied militant groups, there are fears that any party could trigger a wider war if only to avoid appearing weak. A U.S. airstrike killed an Iran-backed militia leader in Baghdad last week, and the U.S. Navy recently traded fire with Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in the Red Sea.

5. [From Houthis to Hezbollah, a look at the Iran-allied groups rallying to arms around Middle East](#) (AP News, 05 JAN, Ellen Knickmeyer)



Missiles, rockets and drones struck targets around the Middle East this week as the United States, Israel and others clashed with Iran-allied militant groups — with attacks hitting in vital Red Sea shipping lanes, along Israeli-Lebanon borders emptied by fleeing residents and around the region’s crowded capitals and U.S. military installations.

Together, Israel and its U.S. allies were facing two realities they knew all too well going into the war in Gaza: The Gaza-based Hamas militant group is far from alone as it battles for its survival. And by launching an all-out campaign to eliminate Hamas as a fighting force, Israeli and American leaders also are confronting simultaneous attacks from a strengthening defensive alliance of other armed militant groups linked with Hamas and Iran.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



Houthis Conflict

1. [**Houthis Threaten Reprisal Attacks On U.S. Bases In The Region \(The Drive/The Warzone, 13 JAN, Howard Altman\)**](#)

The Houthis say recent strikes against their facilities in Yemen caused little damage and vowed revenge against the U.S. and its allies.

2. [**US launches strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen \(DW, 13 JAN, Simon Bone\)**](#)

The United States has responded to attacks by Houthi rebels on the Red Sea with a second day of military action. US President Joe Biden warned of further action should the raids on ships continue. At the United Nations, the US once again accused Tehran of backing the Yemeni group.

3. [**Navy Strikes Houthi Radar Site With Tomahawk Cruise Missile \(The Drive/The Warzone, 12 JAN, Howard Altman\)**](#)

A follow-up strike on a Houthi radar site in Yemen was launched tonight by an Arleigh Burke class destroyer.

4. [**Allies Strike Back Against Houthis In Yemen \(Updated\) \(The Drive/The Warzone, 11 JAN, Howard Altman, Joseph Trevithick, Tyler Rogoway\)**](#)

Multiple types of Houthi facilities in Yemen have been struck in retaliation for constant attacks on vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

5. [**Retaliation Strikes On Houthis May Be Imminent \(Updated\) \(The Drive/The Warzone, 11 JAN, Howard Altman\)**](#)

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak reportedly briefed his cabinet on potential U.S. and U.K. strikes against the Houthis in Yemen tonight.

6. [**UN Security Council demands Houthis stop Red Sea attacks \(Reuters, 10 JAN, Jonathan landay & Arshad Mohammed\)**](#)

The U.N. Security Council on Wednesday demanded Yemen's Houthis immediately end attacks on ships in the Red Sea and cautioned against escalating tensions while implicitly endorsing a U.S.-led task force that has been defending vessels.

The demand came in a Security Council resolution that also called on the Houthis to release the Galaxy Leader, a Japanese-operated vehicle carrier linked to an Israeli businessman that the group commandeered on Nov. 19, and its 25-person crew.

7. [**Yemen's Houthis launch their largest Red Sea drone and missile attack, though no damage is reported \(AP News, 10 JAN, Jon Gambrell\)**](#)

Yemen's Houthi rebels fired their largest-ever barrage of drones and missiles targeting shipping in the Red Sea, forcing the United States and British navies to shoot down the projectiles in a major naval engagement, authorities said Wednesday. No damage was immediately reported.

8. [**Largest Attack On Red Sea Shipping To Date: What We Know \(The**](#)

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Drive/The Warzone, 10 JAN, Thomas Newdick)

Multiple drones and missiles were downed by U.S. and U.K. warships and aircraft as the Houthis continue to raise the stakes in the region.

9. **[How Iranian tech empowers Houthi drone, missile attacks in the Red Sea \(C4ISRNet, 08 JAN, Colin Demarest\)](#)**

Houthi rebels harassing crowded shipping lanes in the Greater Middle East, eliciting responses from the U.S. military and other forces, are relying on foreign arsenals for their missiles and drones in the air and on the water.

Experts interviewed by C4ISRNET said the militant group based in Yemen, from where Red Sea and Gulf of Aden bombardments have sprung, is using Iranian technology and its derivatives. The regime has long propped up a constellation of combatants in advancement of its own goals, with its assets recently recovered in both Ukraine, after Russian use, and Iraq.

10. **[Anti-Ship Ballistic Missile Hits U.S.-Owned Container Ship In Gulf Of Aden \(The Drive/The Warzone, 08 JAN, Howard Altman\)](#)**

There wasn't major damage or injuries in this attack a day after a Houthi missile heading to the USS Laboon was downed by a US fighter.

11. **[Retired Saudi Admiral On Why Arabs Won't Join Red Sea Task Force \(The Drive/The Warzone, 08 JAN, Howard Altman\)](#)**

Only one Arab country has joined Operation Prosperity Guardian even though Iranian-backed Houthis threaten shipping in their region.

12. **[Houthi Rebels 'Declare War' On The West; Iran Playing With Fire That Could Burn The Entire Middle East \(The EurAsian Times, 04 JAN, KN Pandita\)](#)**

The Houthi are Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen who have launched drone and missile attacks on Israeli and American targets. The Houthis are a Zaidi Shia movement that began as a military rebellion against the Yemeni military in Northern Yemen. The conflict in Yemen is widely seen as a front of the Iran–Saudi Arabia proxy war.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



Russia-Ukraine Conflict

1. The Drive/The Warzone Ukraine Situation Report:

[Ukraine Situation Report: Kyiv's Mobilization Plan Stalled By Parliament](#) – 11 JAN

[Ukraine Situation Report: Drones Target Fuel Facilities In Western Russia](#) – 09 JAN

[Ukraine Situation Report: Downed Kinzhal Warhead Recovered In Kyiv](#) – 05 JAN

[Ukraine Situation Report: U.S. Aid Funds Have Run Out](#) – 03 JAN

[Ukraine Situation Report: Massive Russian Missile Barrage Starts New Year](#) – 02 JAN

2. Institute for The Study of War

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 15, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 14, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 13, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 12, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 11, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 10, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 09, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 08, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 07, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 06, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 05, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 04, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 03, 2024

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 02, 2024

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

3. [Ukraine's Long-Term Path to Success: Jumpstarting a Self-Sufficient Defense Industrial Base with US and EU Support](#) (ISW, 14 JAN, Kateryna Stepanenko, George Barros, and Fredrick W. Kagan with Grace Mappes, Nicole Wolkov, Angelica Evans, and Christina Harward)

Ukraine is dramatically expanding its defense industrial capacity to develop the ability over time to satisfy its military requirements with significantly reduced foreign military assistance. Ukraine is pursuing three primary lines of effort to achieve this goal: increasing its domestic defense industrial base (DIB), building bilateral and multilateral partnerships with European states, and pursuing industrial joint ventures with the United States and other international enterprises to co-produce defense materials in Ukraine and elsewhere. Ukraine will require considerable Western military assistance for several years, and its ability to reduce its dependence on such assistance depends in part on whether it can liberate strategically vital areas currently occupied by Russian forces, among other factors. But Ukraine and its Western partners are executing a realistic plan to create a sustainable basis for Ukraine to be able to defend itself over the long term with dramatically reduced foreign military assistance.

4. [Why the war in Ukraine is at an impasse](#) (DW, 04 JAN, Frank Hofmann)

Nearly two years after Russia invaded Ukraine, the war is at a stalemate. Russia still controls about a fifth of Ukrainian territory, and last year's Ukrainian counteroffensive



barely moved the front line. What happened?

5. [Russia Is Firing North Korean Ballistic Missiles At Ukraine \(The Drive/The Warzone, 04 JAN, Joseph Trevithick\)](#)

More than 100 missiles and dozens of one-way attack drones rained down on at least six Ukrainian cities overnight.

Russia launched an apparently unprecedented wave of missile and drone strikes against Ukraine overnight. If the claims of Ukrainian authorities are correct, and 122 missiles were indeed launched, together with 36 one-way attack drones, this would be the biggest air raid of its kind since the start of the Kremlin's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

6. [Ukraine struck a new \\$250 million Russian artillery radar system right after the military touted its arrival \(Business Insider, 03 JAN, Jake Epstein\)](#)

Ukrainian forces struck an expensive, new Russian counter-battery radar system with rockets on the same day military officials announced its deployment to the battlefield.

The Russian defense ministry and various state media outlets announced on Tuesday that Russian troops in Ukraine had received the 1K148 Yastreb-AV, a \$250 million counter-battery radar system designed to detect the trajectory of incoming artillery and determine the point of origin for munitions.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)