



U.S. ARMY



# **Cyber Center of Excellence**

## Unclassified Threat Read Book

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6. [Chinese Mercenaries Spotted Fighting for Russia in Ukraine](#) – 07 MAR

## Cyber

1. [\*\*Hackers using Weaponized PDF Files to Deliver Remcos RAT \(Cyber Security News, 14 MAR, Dhivya\)\*\*](#)

Cybercriminals have launched a sophisticated campaign targeting individuals and organizations across Latin America, utilizing weaponized PDF files to deploy dangerous Remote Access Trojans (RATs) such as Remcos.

This alarming development has raised concerns about cybersecurity preparedness in the region.

2. [\*\*US, Russia Accuse Each Other of Potential Election Cyberattacks \(Security Week, 12 MAR, Ionut Arghire\)\*\*](#)

The US believes that Russia, China, and Iran have the means and intentions to disrupt the US presidential election in November. Russia suspects a US cyberattack on its voting system later this week.

3. [\*\*Shanghai Zhenhua denies posing cybersecurity risk to US ports \(Reuters, 10 MAR, Mei Mei Chu & Ella Cao\)\*\*](#)

Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industries (ZPMC) (600320.SS), opens new tab said on Sunday its cranes do not pose a cybersecurity threat, after U.S. congressional committees questioned the Chinese state-owned company's work on cranes bound for the United States.

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4. [\*\*Microsoft Says Russian Gov Hackers Stole Source Code After Spying on Executive Emails \(Security Week, 08 MAR, Ryan Naraine\)\*\*](#)

Microsoft says the Russian government-backed hacking team that broke into its corporate network and spied on senior executives also stole source code and may still be poking around its internal computer systems.

In what is being described as an “ongoing attack,” the world’s largest software maker says it has evidence the hacking group “is using information initially exfiltrated from our corporate email systems to gain, or attempt to gain, unauthorized access.”

5. [\*\*US Lawmakers Demand Answers from Chinese Crane Manufacturer Over Port Security Concerns \(gCaptain, 08 MAR, Mike Schuler\)\*\*](#)

Key members of the House Homeland Security Committee are seeking answers from Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industries (ZPMC), a firm with close ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), amid growing concerns about the security of U.S. ports.

The request comes as part of a joint investigation into the usage of ZPMC-manufactured cranes in American ports, revealing potential vulnerabilities in the critical maritime infrastructure.

6. [\*\*US Charges Iranian Over Cyberattacks on Government, Defense Organizations \(Security Week, 01 MAR, Eduard Kovacs\)\*\*](#)

Russia’s state-backed hackers are using compromised routers to carry out their covert cyber attacks against governments and organizations worldwide.

This warning, issued by the FBI, NSA and US Cyber Command, said that the group linked with Russia military intelligence, known to security companies as APT28 or Fancy Bear, has used compromised EdgeRouters to steal, and host spear-phishing landing pages and custom tools.

## Electronic Warfare

1. [\*\*The Invisible War: Inside the electronic warfare arms race that could shape course of war in Ukraine\*\*](#) (Kyiv Independent, 12 MAR, Oleksandr Tartachnyi)

When Ukraine received Excalibur artillery shells in March 2022 from the U.S. shortly after the start of Russia's full-scale invasion, it was immediately the military's weapon of choice.

Thanks to their GPS navigation system, these expensive munitions had a high-precision flight trajectory and could be used in urban combat.

2. [\*\*Russia 'Evades' Ukraine's Electronic Warfare & Jamming Attacks Using Fiber Optic Cables In FPV UAVs\*\*](#) (The EurAsian Times, 09 MAR, Parth Satam)

Russian First-Person View (FPV) drones are using fiber optic cables to connect the aircraft and the operator for more resilient and responsive electrical connections that can also beat electronic warfare (EW). This was revealed by Ukrainian soldiers who captured one on the frontline.

3. [\*\*Russia Now Looks To Be Using Wire-Guided Kamikaze Drones In Ukraine\*\*](#) (The Warzone, 08 MAR, Joseph Trevithick & Tyler Rogoway)

Russian forces in Ukraine appear to now be using so-called first-person view kamikaze drones controlled via a physical fiber optic line rather than a wireless data link. This configuration offers a control method that is immune to radiofrequency electronic warfare, but that also imposes certain limitations on how the system can be employed.

4. [\*\*The growing cooperation between Russia and Iran in electronic warfare raises alarms in Israel!\*\*](#) (Zona Militar, 06 MAR, Arie Egozi)

Russia is helping Iran to upgrade its EW capabilities including GPS denial capabilities. This development is being closely followed by Israel and action is being taken to monitor the new development and the ways to deal with it. In addition according to Israeli defense sources Russia shared with Iran the lessons it learned from operating EW and GPS denial systems in Syria, while the Israeli airforce attacked Iranian related targets.

5. [\*\*Mystery GPS Jamming on NATO Borders Fomenting 'Atmosphere of Threat'\*\*](#) (Newsweek, 06 MAR, David Brennan)

Sustained interference of GPS signals along NATO borders with Russia is intended to sow a "sense of helplessness" within Western societies, allied authorities have told Newsweek as they face off with Moscow in contested areas of northern Europe.

A rise in daily GPS interference—often concentrated around sensitive strategic locations—has raised alarm among Western governments, transport authorities and militaries over the past two years, as Moscow presses its devastating war on Ukraine and slides deeper into confrontation with NATO.

6. [\*\*Russia's FPV Drones Foiled by Its Own Signal Jammers\*\*](#) (Newsweek, 06 MAR, Ellie Cook)

Russian first-person-view (FPV) drones are being "suppressed by our own electronic warfare," according to a Russian military blogger.

Svyatoslav Golikov, one of Russia's prominent commentators on the war in Ukraine, said on Tuesday that a Russian source close to the captured eastern Ukrainian city of Avdiivka reported "a total lack of interaction between [Russian] FPV groups and

electronic warfare units."

7. [\*\*Our First Look At Possible Spy Balloon Wreck Found By Alaskan Fishermen \(The Warzone, 05 MAR, Joseph Trevithick\)\*\*](#)

We now have our first look at debris that fishermen recently recovered off the coast of Alaska and turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. U.S. authorities are reportedly looking into the possibility that this could be the remains of another spy balloon like the Chinese one that the U.S. Air Force shot down off the coast of South Carolina last year. You can read more about what is already known about this more recent incident [here](#).

8. [\*\*Ukraine Drones Learning to Dodge Russian EW Signal Jammers \(Newsweek, 04 MAR, Ellie Cook\)\*\*](#)

Russia is facing "huge problems" across Ukraine with Kyiv-operated first-person-view (FPV) drones, a prominent Russian military blogger has said, as Moscow makes gains in several points along the frontlines amid the ongoing war between the two countries.

FPV drones are a common and effective tool in Ukraine's uncrewed arsenal. They can be used to record dramatic battlefield footage where the drone careens towards Russian vehicles before exploding, or deployed as reconnaissance tools to guide artillery strikes.

9. [\*\*China unveils chilling new surveillance device set to revolutionise electronic warfare \(Express, 03 MAR, John Mac Ghionn\)\*\*](#)

Chinese researchers recently announced the creation of a cutting-edge military surveillance tool that has the potential to greatly improve China's electronic warfare capabilities.

This device operates across a wide frequency spectrum, capturing signals ranging from amateur radio transmissions to Elon Musk's Starlink satellites.

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## Information Advantage

1. [\*\*US lawmakers see TikTok as China's tool, even as it distances itself from Beijing \(AP News, 14 MAR, Didi Tang\)\*\*](#)

If some U.S. lawmakers have their way, the United States and China could end up with something in common: TikTok might not be available in either country.

The House on Wednesday approved a bill requiring the Beijing-based company ByteDance to sell its subsidiary TikTok or face a nationwide ban. It's unclear if the bill will ever become law, but it reflects lawmakers' fears that the social media platform could expose Americans to Beijing's malign influences and data security risks.

2. [\*\*Exclusive: Trump launched CIA covert influence operation against China \(Reuters, 14 MAR, Joel Schectman & Christopher Bing\)\*\*](#)

Two years into office, President Donald Trump authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to launch a clandestine campaign on Chinese social media aimed at turning public opinion in China against its government, according to former U.S. officials with direct knowledge of the highly classified operation.

Three former officials told Reuters that the CIA created a small team of operatives who used bogus internet identities to spread negative narratives about Xi Jinping's government while leaking disparaging intelligence to overseas news outlets. The effort, which began in 2019, has not been previously reported.

3. [\*\*Election disinformation takes a big leap with AI being used to deceive worldwide \(AP News, 14 MAR, Ali Swenson & Kelvin Chan\)\*\*](#)

Artificial intelligence is supercharging the threat of election disinformation worldwide, making it easy for anyone with a smartphone and a devious imagination to create fake – but convincing – content aimed at fooling voters.

It marks a quantum leap from a few years ago, when creating phony photos, videos or audio clips required teams of people with time, technical skill and money. Now, using free and low-cost generative artificial intelligence services from companies like Google and OpenAI, anyone can create high-quality “deepfakes” with just a simple text prompt.

4. [\*\*House passes a bill that could lead to a TikTok ban if Chinese owner refuses to sell \(AP News, 13 MAR, Kevin Freking, Halleluya Hadero & Mary Clare Jalonick\)\*\*](#)

The House on Wednesday passed a bill that would lead to a nationwide ban of the popular video app TikTok if its China-based owner doesn't sell its stake, as lawmakers acted on concerns that the company's current ownership structure is a national security threat.

The bill, passed by a vote of 352-65, now goes to the Senate, where its prospects are unclear.

TikTok, which has more than 170 million American users, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chinese technology firm ByteDance Ltd.

5. [\*\*White House denies Russian allegations of attempted election meddling \(Reuters, 12 MAR, Jeff Mason\)\*\*](#)

Russian allegations that the United States is trying to meddle in its presidential election are "categorically false," the White House said on Tuesday, renewing its accusations of Moscow election interference in the U.S. and elsewhere.

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6. [\*\*Xi Jinping Sees AI, Unmanned Tech Boosting Military's Capabilities \(Voice of America, 12 MAR, Yang An\)\*\*](#)

During China's top legislative meetings this year, which wrapped up Monday, Chinese leader Xi Jinping ordered the military to develop what he called "new quality combat capabilities," a phrase analysts say highlights a focus on the use of artificial intelligence, high-tech and intelligent warfare. It also could signal, they say, plans to build forces of unmanned ships and submarines to support military operations.

7. [\*\*Russia's spy service accuses US of trying to meddle in presidential election \(Reuters, 11 MAR, Guy Faulconbridge\)\*\*](#)

President Vladimir Putin's foreign intelligence service on Monday accused the United States of trying to meddle in Russia's presidential election and said that Washington even had plans to launch a cyber attack on the online voting system.

8. [\*\*Germany slams Russia for 'information war' after spy leak \(DW, 03 MAR\)\*\*](#)

Germany's Defense Minister Boris Pistorius accuses Russia of an 'information war' after a leak of sensitive military talks on Ukraine. He said Moscow is seeking to "destabilize" the country.

Moscow was waging an "information war" against Germany by intercepting and releasing a sensitive discussion among high-ranking Bundeswehr military officers concerning Ukraine, German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said.

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## Signal

1. [Russian Shahed-136 With Camera, Cellular Modem Could Be A Big Problem For Ukraine](#) (The Warzone, 13 MAR, Thomas Newdick & Tyler Rogoway)

The latest Russian development involving the Iranian-designed Shahed long-range one-way attack drone reportedly comprises a pan/tilt video camera mounted on the UAV, allowing it to operate in a visual reconnaissance capacity. It is further claimed that the modified drone, seen in an image of a crashed example, uses Ukrainian wireless networks to transmit its imagery back to a control station. While this may look like a crude installation, it is potentially a solution to a very big problem Russia has faced since the beginning of the war and it could have major consequences for Ukraine, which we may already be seeing on the battlefield.

2. [Space Force wants \\$248M to kickstart new jam-proof SATCOM constellation](#) (Breaking Defense, 13 MAR, Theresa Hitchens)

As part of the Space Force's complex strategy to ensure warfighters on the battlefield can stay securely connected in the face of ever-improving adversary electronic warfare systems, Space Systems Command wants to begin rapid development of a new satellite communications (SATCOM) constellation in fiscal 2025 — with hopes of starting initial operations on orbit in 2028.

3. [What is fully homomorphic encryption and how will it change blockchain?](#) (Block Works, 12 MAR, Bessie Liu)

In today's digital world, the need to decrypt data for computational tasks exposes it to security risks.

This is a significant problem in privacy-sensitive sectors like Web3, where decentralized applications and finance at times rely on both confidentiality and integrity in data processing to maintain trust and security on chain.

Fully homomorphic encryption (FHE) offers a potential solution by enabling the processing of encrypted data without needing to decrypt it first, thus preserving confidentiality. This advancement not only enhances data security and privacy, but also extends the potential for secure data analysis and decentralized services.

4. [FCC Clears SpaceX to Use E-Band for Starlink Capacity Improvement](#) (PC Magazine, 11 MAR, Michael Kan)

SpaceX can start using additional radio frequencies to bolster data capacity for Starlink, according to a new FCC ruling.

On Friday, the US regulator approved a SpaceX proposal to use "E-band" spectrum for the company's second-generation Starlink network, in addition to the Ka and Ku-band spectrum.

The decision allows the company to tap the "71.0-76.0GHz (space-to-Earth) and 81.0-86.0GHz (Earth-to-space) frequency bands" for 7,500 second-generation Starlink satellites, which the FCC also cleared back in December 2022.

5. [A German military officer used an unsecured line for a conference call. Russia hacked and leaked it](#) (AP News, 05 Mar, Kirsten Grieshaber)

A German military officer used an unsecured phone line at a Singapore hotel to join a conference call that was hacked by Russians and leaked to the public, Germany's defense minister said Tuesday.

## Items of Interest

1. [\*\*150 PMCs, \\$400 Billion In Revenues By 2030: Why Private Military Firms Are Flourishing At Lightning Speed \(The EurAsian Times, 14 MAR, Prakash Nanda\)\*\*](#)

Fading interests among the young for a career in the military is increasingly becoming a global phenomenon. Many countries are now facing a situation of acute shortages of soldiers to keep their armed forces in shape.

Among other things, the just revealed instances of a score of Indians and Nepalese being misled by human traffickers to work for the Russian armed forces fighting in Ukraine prove the growing use of mercenaries and private military companies (PMC) in wars in various parts of the world to cope with the dwindling numbers of fresh recruits into the regular military services.

2. [\*\*US intelligence warns of mounting challenges to current world order \(Al Jazeera, 12 MAR\)\*\*](#)

United States intelligence agencies have warned that the country faces an “increasingly fragile world order”.

The alarm was sent through the 2024 Annual Threat Assessment report issued on Monday. The document on worldwide threats to US national security cautions that China, Iran and Russia are challenging the current international rules-based order.

3. [\*\*China, Russia, Iran Join Forces for War Games Amid US-Houthi Clashes \(Newsweek, 12 MAR, Tom O’Connor\)\*\*](#)

As the United States continues to conduct strikes against rebels targeting commercial vessels off the coast of the Arabian Peninsula, the naval forces of China, Russia and Iran have entered nearby waters to conduct joint exercises and showcase their maritime military prowess.

The drills, called "Maritime Security Belt-2024," began Tuesday in the Gulf of Oman and follow Tehran's calls to establish a "maritime security belt" among members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which is led by Beijing and Moscow, in a bid to counter the military influence of the U.S. and its allies at sea.

4. [\*\*What does NATO gain from Sweden and Sweden gain from NATO? \(DW, 11 MAR, Ed McCambridge\)\*\*](#)

Sweden's NATO accession ends decades of post-World War II neutrality as concerns about Russian aggression in Europe continue to grow. Fellow Nordic nation Finland joined in April 2023, and NATO members say the expansion deals a major blow to the Kremlin.

5. [\*\*Diplomats fear growing power of Iranian factions that want nuclear weapons \(The Guardian, 10 MAR, Patrick Wintour\)\*\*](#)

There are growing fears among diplomats in the US and Europe that Iran’s largely unmonitored nuclear programme and the destabilisation caused by the Gaza conflict are strengthening the hand of Iranian factions that back the development of nuclear weapons.

6. [\*\*DoD To Deploy ‘Gremlin’ Sensors To Collect Intel On Unidentified Flying Objects \(The Warzone, 08 MAR, Joseph Threvithick\)\*\*](#)

The Pentagon has provided new details about a deployable, readily reconfigurable suite of sensors called Gremlin being developed specifically to help gather data about so-

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called unidentified anomalous phenomena, or UAPs. UAP is the preferred term for what have been more commonly called unidentified flying objects, or UFOs, in the past. That the U.S. military was pursuing "purpose-built sensors" for this purpose was first disclosed last year.

7. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, March 7, 2024](#) (ISW, 08 MAR, 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**

- Taiwan’s Coast Guard Administration (CGA) claimed that three Chinese Coast Guard ships entered Taiwan’s contiguous zone off the east coast of the main island on February 27.
- The Kuomintang (KMT) initiated a legislative inquiry into the Kinmen capsizing incident to determine the liability of Taiwan’s Coast Guard Administration. This supports the efforts of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to vilify and undermine domestic Taiwanese support for the Democratic Progressive Party.
- PRC Premier Li Qiang’s work report to the National People’s Congress continued a trend of CCP officials using more belligerent language about “reunification” with Taiwan but did not signal a major policy change.
- Recent PRC diplomatic outreach in Europe may aim to advance the PRC’s September 2023 Proposal on the Reform and Development of Global Governance, which faults the West for the war in Ukraine.
- Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) ships fired water cannons and collided with Philippine ships while attempting to block a Philippine resupply mission to Second Thomas Shoal.

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8. [How Putin’s crackdown on dissent became the hallmark of the Russian leader’s 24 years in power](#) (AP NEWS, 06 MAR, Dasha Litvinova)

Americans may express their worries over the possibility of Russia using nuclear weapons in space to destabilize their assets, but it is China that seems to pose the real challenge to the U.S. by emerging as the world’s most dominant global space power economically, diplomatically, and militarily by 2045, if not earlier.

9. [China “Invasion Threat” Gives Sleepless Nights To Russia; Moscow Held Wargames For Six Years – Leaked Docs](#) (The EurAsian Times, 02 MAR, Ritu Sharma)

China has been one of the few countries that has maintained strong ties with Russia despite global sanctions. Moscow, however, is not taken by Beijing’s friendly demeanor. Leaked Russian military documents have laid bare the long-standing fears that the country harbors about China.

10. [The path forward on Iran and its proxy forces](#) (Bookings, 01 MAR, Suzanne Maloney)

**Editor’s note:** The following testimony was submitted to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on February 28, 2024, for the [“Tehran’s Shadow Army: Addressing Iran’s Proxy Network in the Middle East”](#) hearing.

## 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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### 11. [An Israeli drone strikes a car in southern Lebanon and kills a member of Hamas' military wing](#) (AP News, 13 MAR, Kareem Chehayeb)

An Israeli drone strike targeted a car in southern Lebanon near the coastal city of Tyre, killing a member of the Palestinian militant Hamas group and a civilian.

Since the Israel-Hamas war erupted in Gaza on Oct. 7, Israeli strikes have killed or wounded several ranking members of the Lebanese militant Hezbollah group, as well as its ally Hamas in different parts of Lebanon.

### 12. [Hostage crisis poses dilemma for Israel and offers a path to victory for Hamas](#) (AP News, 06 MAR, Joseph Krauss)

Over the last five months, Israel has killed thousands of Hamas fighters, destroyed dozens of their tunnels and wreaked unprecedented destruction on the Gaza Strip.

But it still faces a dilemma that was clear from the start of the war and will ultimately determine its outcome: It can either try to annihilate Hamas, which would mean almost certain death for the estimated 100 hostages still held in Gaza, or it can cut a deal that would allow the militants to claim a historic victory.



13. [Israel escalates its criticism of a UN agency in Gaza. It says 450 of its workers are militants](#) (AP News, 04 MAR, Tia Goldenberg and Ravi Nessman)

Israel ramped up its criticism of the embattled U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees Monday, saying 450 of its employees were members of militant groups in the Gaza Strip, though it provided no evidence to back up its accusation.

Major international funders have withheld hundreds of millions of dollars from the agency, known as UNRWA, since Israel accused 12 of its employees of participating in the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel that killed 1,200 people and left about 250 others held hostage in Gaza, according to Israeli authorities.

14. [How US airdrops of humanitarian aid into Gaza can help and why the operation is complicated](#) (AP News, 02 MAR, Zeke Miller)

The United States on Saturday began airdrops of emergency humanitarian assistance into Gaza. President Joe Biden, who announced the operation on Friday, said the U.S. was looking into additional ways to help Palestinians in the Hamas-ruled territory as the Israel-Hamas war goes on.

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## Houthis Conflict

1. [\*\*Report claims Yemen's Houthis have a hypersonic missile, possibly raising stakes in Red Sea crisis \(AP News, 14 MAR, Jon Gambrell\)\*\*](#)

Yemen's Houthi rebels claim to have a new, hypersonic missile in their arsenal, Russia's state media reported Thursday, potentially raising the stakes in their ongoing attacks on shipping in the Red Sea and surrounding waterways against the backdrop of Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The report by the state-run RIA Novosti news agency cited an unnamed official but provided no evidence for the claim. It comes as Moscow maintains an aggressively counter-Western foreign policy amid its grinding war on Ukraine.

2. [\*\*Red Sea Turkey Shoot: Allied Warships Down Dozens Of Drones Within Hours \(The Warzone, 09 MAR, Tyler Rogoway\)\*\*](#)

Even after weeks of opportunistic strikes against time-sensitive Houthi targets — usually in the form of missiles and drones being prepared for launch — the group fired 28 drones at targets around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait that separates the Red Sea from the Gulf of Aden. U.S. Central Command subsequently released a statement saying that none of the drones hit their mark and were shot down by allied ships and aircraft. Regardless of the success of this onslaught, it is a very clear sign that the Houthis have no intention of curtailing their attacks on shipping and that the growing coalition of warships and combat aircraft are stepping up to meet that challenge head-on.

3. [\*\*Another Burning Cargo Ship Abandoned After Houthi Missile Attack \(Updated\) \(The Warzone, 06 MAR, Joseph Trevithick\)\*\*](#)

The Barbados-flagged cargo ship True Confidence is adrift and reportedly on fire after being abandoned following a missile attack by Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi militants in the Gulf of Aden. Reports say that members of the ship's crew suffered serious injuries in the incident or are now missing.

4. [\*\*Suspected Yemen Houthi rebel attack hits a ship in the Gulf of Aden, sees crew abandon vessel \(AP News, 06 MAR, Jon Gambrell\)\*\*](#)

A suspected attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels damaged a commercial ship in the Gulf of Aden and forced the crew to abandon the vessel on Wednesday, authorities said, the latest in a campaign of assaults by the group over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

15. [\*\*3 Red Sea data cables cut as Houthis launch more attacks in the vital waterway \(AP News, 04 MAR, Jon Gambrell\)\*\*](#)

Three cables under the Red Sea that provide global internet and telecommunications have been cut as the waterway remains a target of Yemen's Houthi rebels, officials said Monday. Meanwhile, a Houthi missile attack set a ship ablaze in the Gulf of Aden, but caused no injuries.

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## Russia-Ukraine Conflict

### 1. The Warzone Ukraine Situation Report:

[Ukraine Situation Report: Claims Swirl Around Cross-Border Raids Into Russia](#) – 12 MAR

[Ukraine Situation Report: Grounded Ship Being Used As Russian Base Blown Up](#) – 11 MAR

[Ukraine Situation Report: Missile Landed Near Zelensky And Greek Prime Minister In Odesa](#) – 07 MAR

[Ukraine Situation Report: Another M1 Abrams Tank Lost \(Updated\)](#) – 04 MAR

### 2. Institute for The Study of War

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

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### 3. [Putin warns again that Russia is ready to use nuclear weapons if its sovereignty is threatened](#) (AP News, 13 MAR)

President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Russia is ready to use nuclear weapons if its sovereignty or independence is threatened, issuing another blunt warning to the West just days before an election in which he's all but certain to secure another six-year term.

The Russian leader has repeatedly talked about his readiness to use nuclear weapons since launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. The most recent such threat came in his state-of-the-nation address last month, when he warned the West that deepening its involvement in the fighting in Ukraine would risk a nuclear war.

### 4. [Russia says it killed 234 fighters while thwarting an incursion from Ukraine](#) (AP News, 12 MAR, Jim Heintz & Hanna Arhirova)

Ukrainian long-range drones smashed into two oil facilities deep inside Russia on Tuesday, officials said, while an armed incursion claimed by Ukraine-based Russian opponents of the Kremlin unnerved a border region just days before Russia's presidential election.

The attack by waves of drones across eight regions of Russia displayed Kyiv's expanding technological capacity as the war extends into its third year. The cross-border ground assault also weakened President Vladimir Putin's argument that life in Russia has been unaffected by the war, though he remains all but certain to win another six-year term

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after eliminating all opposition.

5. [\*\*Russia Came 'Within 500 Feet' of Triggering NATO's Article 5: Kinzinger \(Newsweek, 07 MAR, Brendan Cole\)\*\*](#)

Moscow nearly triggered a collective response from NATO by firing a missile that reportedly struck close to a convoy transporting the Greek prime minister and Ukraine's president, former U.S. representative Adam Kinzinger has said.

The Illinois Republican was responding to reports of the proximity of a Russian missile strike to Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Volodymr Zelensky on Wednesday when they met in the southern Ukrainian port city of Odesa.

6. [\*\*Chinese Mercenaries Spotted Fighting for Russia in Ukraine \(Newsweek, 07 MAR, Isabel van Brugen\)\*\*](#)

Chinese mercenaries are fighting for Russia in Ukraine, according to a video shared by a Russian military blogger on social media.

The footage, shared by Russian military correspondent Pavel Kukushkin on his Telegram channel, shows two men sitting opposite each other at a table, communicating in Russian and Chinese via a voice electronic translator.

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