



U.S. ARMY



Cyber Center of Excellence

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Cyber

1. [**Russia's GRU Unit 29155: The Cyber Force Behind the Ukraine War Attacks**](#) (National Interest, 14 SEP, Stavros Atlamazoglou)

Western intelligence agencies have identified Russia's GRU Unit 29155 as responsible for cyberattacks related to the Ukraine War.

2. [**Cybercrime Evasion Tactics Used By Cybercriminals To Fly Under The Radar**](#) (Security Week, 12 SEP, Etay Maor)

Relentless in their methods, attackers will continue employing evasion tactics to circumvent traditional security measures.

3. [**Pro-Russia hackers launch cyberattack against Taiwan**](#) (Taiwan News, 12 SEP, Keoni Everington)

A pro-Russian hacker group on Monday (Sept. 9) began a series of cyber attacks on government websites purportedly in retaliation for President Lai Ching-te's (賴清德) comment about China seeking to reclaim territory ceded to Russia.

4. [**How Law Enforcement's Ransomware Strategies Are Evolving**](#) (Dark Reading, 11 SEP, Gareth Owenson)

The year to date has been particularly eventful across the ransomware landscape, with prolific ransomware groups, including LockBit, seeing their operations seized and dismantled. The strategies used to take down these groups were meticulously planned and executed, successfully undermining the most accomplished cybercriminal experts.

5. [**Iran upped cyberattacks on Israel after Oct. 7. Experts say a ceasefire won't change that**](#) (The Times of Israel, 11 SEP, David Dimolfetta)

This year, the Islamic Republic set a new benchmark for its cyber strategy, which extends far beyond the battlefield to include influence operations and intelligence gathering

6. [**Avis reports data breach affecting 300,000 customers**](#) (CSO, 10 SEP, Florian Maier)

Rental car company Avis detected unauthorized access to a business applications in August. 'Insider wrongdoing' may have played a role.

7. [**Chinese 'Crimson Palace' espionage campaign keeps hacking Southeast Asian governments**](#) (The Record, 10 SEP, Jonathan Greig)

A high-stakes cat and mouse game between defenders and a sophisticated trio of Chinese cyberespionage groups has continued this year, with the hackers launching a string of attacks on government organizations in Southeast Asia despite attempts to disrupt their activity.

8. [**Chinese Hackers Using Open Source Tools Like Nmap to Launch Cyber Attacks**](#) (Cyber Security News, 10 SEP, Balaji N.)

Cybersecurity researchers at Natto Thoughts recently discovered that Chinese hackers have been actively abusing open-source tools like Nmap to launch cyber attacks.

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9. [Microsoft Says Windows Update Zero-Day Being Exploited to Undo Security Fixes](#) (Security Week, 10 SEP, Ryan Naraine)

Microsoft on Tuesday raised an alarm for in-the-wild exploitation of a critical flaw in Windows Update, warning that attackers are rolling back security fixes on certain versions of its flagship operating system.

10. [New RAMBO Attack Allows Air-Gapped Data Theft via RAM Radio Signals](#) (Security Week, 09 SEP, Ionut Arghire)

An academic researcher has devised a new method of exfiltrating data from air-gapped systems using radio signals from memory buses.

11. [U.S., allies accuse Russia of wide-ranging cyberattacks targeting Ukraine, NATO](#) (UPI, 06 SEP, Darryl Coote)

The United States and nine of its allies are formally accusing the Russian military of perpetrating wide-ranging cyberattacks for espionage and sabotage purposes since at least 2020, including targeting Ukraine ahead of the Kremlin's 2022 invasion and NATO nations supporting Kyiv amid the ensuing war.

12. [Russian Military Cyber Actors Target U.S. and Global Critical Infrastructure](#) (Joint Cybersecurity Advisory, 05 SEP)

The National Security Agency (NSA) joins the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and international allies in [publishing the Cybersecurity Advisory \(CSA\) "Russian Military Cyber Actors Target U.S. and Global Critical Infrastructure"](#) to detail malicious activity used for the purposes of espionage, sabotage, and reputational harm since at least 2020.

13. [Russian GRU Unit Tied to Assassinations Linked to Global Cyber Sabotage and Espionage](#) (Security Week, 05 SEP, Ryan Naraine)

A secretive Russian military unit, previously linked to assassinations and destabilization in Europe, is blamed for destructive wiper malware attacks in Ukraine.

14. [Cybersecurity is National Security](#) (NSA, 05 SEP)

Cybersecurity is no longer a separate domain – it's integrated into everything we do to keep the United States safe from foreign adversaries. As Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and others conduct cyberattacks on national security systems and the Defense Industrial Base, the National Security Agency is on the job, detecting attacks, defending networks, and distributing declassified intelligence to help private industry partners. NSA's Director of Cybersecurity, Dave Luber, [joins No Such Podcast to shine the light on how NSA cybersecurity contributes to national security](#). Learn from Marine Corps LtGen Jerry Carter about the value of having close civilian-military collaboration to keep our armed forces safe and our policymakers informed. From secure AI to #StopRansomware to PRC hacking and beyond, NSA's experts work every day on cybersecurity challenges.



Electronic Warfare

1. [Journal of Electromagnetic Dominance \(JED\): DIRCM Goes Global \(Association of Olds Crown, SEP 2024\)](#)

2. [Jammertest 2024 On Track in Norway \(Inside GNSS, 10 SEP, Peter Gutierrez\)](#)

GNSS jamming trials are being carried out on the Island of Andøya, in Northwestern Norway, during Jammertest 2024. The event features both simple and sophisticated, staged spoofing and jamming attacks, allowing participants to identify potential strengths and weaknesses in their GNSS-based systems.

3. [Y-9LG: China's Electronic Warfare Warrior In the Sky \(National Interest, 09 SEP, Peter Suciu\)](#)

The Chinese Shaanxi Y-9LG, a long-range electronic warfare (EW) aircraft, was recently spotted during the Sino-Thai joint air exercises known as "Falcon Strike 2024."

4. [With 10,000 KM Range — China Boasts World's Most Powerful Radar That Can Detect 'Rare' Plasma Bubbles, Stealth Aircraft \(The EurAsian Times, 08 SEP, Ashish Dangwal\)](#)

Chinese scientists have claimed to have made a groundbreaking discovery using what is currently regarded as the world's most powerful radar system. This system allows them to simultaneously detect equatorial plasma bubbles (EPB) over the Egyptian pyramids and the Midway Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

5. [China's Y-9LG Electronic Warfare Aircraft Breaks Cover; Spotted During Sino-Thai Drills, Falcon Strike 2024 \(The EurAsian Times, 05 SEP, Ashish Dangwal\)](#)

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) debuted its Y-9LG electronic warfare (EW) aircraft during the recently concluded Sino-Thai military exercise, 'Falcon Strike 2024'.

6. [Ukraine Unveils Innovative Balloon-Based Surveillance System To Track & Target Russian Drone Operators \(The EurAsian Times, 04 SEP, Ashish Dangwal\)](#)

The United States is buying add-on seekers that will enable Joint Direct Attack Munition-Extended Range (JDAM-ER) precision-guided bombs provided to Ukraine to target Russian GPS jammers.

7. [Balloon-Based Sensor That Pinpoints Location Of Drone Operators Emerges In Ukraine \(TWZ, 03 SEP, Thomas Newdick\)](#)

The Aero Azimuth is designed to detect and assist in engaging the drone controller, rather than the drone itself.

Information Advantage

1. [**Malicious Actors Sow Discord With False Election Compromise Claims \(FBI & CISA, 12 SEP\)**](#)

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) are issuing this announcement to raise awareness of attempts to undermine public confidence in the security of U.S. election infrastructure through the spread of disinformation falsely claiming that cyberattacks compromised U.S. voter registration databases.

2. [**AI and the Future of National Security \(NSA, 12 SEP\)**](#)

Artificial intelligence (AI) is here, and it's not going away. What threats does it pose to United States national security? What opportunities does it present as we seek to maintain an advantage over our foreign adversaries? Two of NSA's leading AI experts join No Such Podcast to break down NSA's approach to AI security, responsible AI, and AI governance. NSA's Chief Responsible AI Officer, Vinh Nguyen, explains how NSA has been researching AI and what uses we've found for it already. Chief of the AI Security Center, Tahira Mammen, shares what NSA is doing to help secure AI deployment. Learn how these experts tackle the unknown dimension of AI and how they're making sure NSA is helping the United States stay a step ahead through our foreign signals intelligence and cybersecurity missions.

3. [**ALGORITHMIC WARFARE: U.S. Still Admiring Problem of Foreign Influence Operations \(National Defense, 10 SEP, Josh Luckenbaugh\)**](#)

The rapid rise of social media in the 21st century has led to nations such as Russia and China increasingly using online platforms to perform global influence operations, and the United States needs to treat these actions more seriously, a panel of experts said recently.

4. [**Russia to spend over half a billion dollars to bolster internet censorship system \(Reuters, 10 SEP, Gleb Stolyarov & Lucy Papachristou\)**](#)

Russia's digital development ministry plans to allocate nearly 60 billion roubles (\$660 million) over the next five years to improve the system used to censor web traffic, a government proposal seen by Reuters shows.

5. [**Ukraine May be Winning the Information War in Kursk \(National Interest, 10 SEP, Hunter Stoll\)**](#)

Only time will tell whether Ukraine can continue its Kursk offensive into Russia. But this offensive has the potential to positively influence Western perceptions, sustain funding and material support for Ukraine, and degrade Russian domestic support for the war. Ukraine's strategic gamble in the information space might pay off.

6. [**South Korea summit to target 'blueprint' for using AI in the military \(Reuters, 10 SEP, Joyce Lee\)**](#)

South Korea convened an international summit on Monday seeking to establish a blueprint for the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military, though any agreement is not expected to have binding powers to enforce it.

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7. [**Kremlin disinformation targets US elections**](#) (EUvsDisinfo, 06 SEP, EUvsDisinfo)

The US presidential elections will take place on 5 November. And despite their protestations of indifference, warmongers in the Kremlin seem keenly interested in the results.

8. [**Feds act to counter Russian interference in U.S. elections**](#) (UPI, 04 SEP, Mike Heuer & Doug Cunningham)

A new visa-restriction policy will help protect the integrity of U.S. elections against Russian interference designed to undermine the nation's democratic institutions.

9. [**The Battle to Control the World's Most Powerful Technology**](#) (NY Times, 04 SEP, Katrin Bennhold & Ana Swanson)

The American company Nvidia has created one of the world's most sought-after inventions: a computer chip that powers artificial intelligence.

10. [**With charges and sanctions, US takes aim at Russian disinformation ahead of November election**](#) (AP News, 04 SEP, Eric Tucker, Matthew Lee & David Klepper)

The Biden administration seized Kremlin-run websites and charged two Russian state media employees in its most sweeping effort yet to push back against what it says are Russian attempts to spread disinformation ahead of the November presidential election.



Signal

1. [**Chinese challenger to Starlink reaches halfway point of first-phase LEO constellation \(RCR Wireless, 10 SEP, Kelly Hill\)**](#)

Chinese Low Earth Orbit company Geespace deployed 10 additional satellites last week which are now in normal operation, bringing its total to 30.

2. [**US Space Force Will Study How To Protect GPS From Jamming & Spoofing Attacks \(Simple Flying, 10 SEP, Luke Bodell\)**](#)

The United States Space Force (USSF) is analyzing different approaches to enhancing the Global Positioning System (GPS) constellation, including protecting it from adversary attacks. One of Space Force's possible solutions is to launch several smaller satellites into orbit - an initiative called 'Resilient GPS' - although lawmakers have voiced concerns over its potential effectiveness.

3. [**“Breathing Fire” After Yinhe Embarrassment, China’s Pledge To Counter U.S. GPS Reaches Key Milestone \(The EurAsian Times, 09 SEP, Sakshi Tiwari\)**](#)

About 31 years ago, a Chinese container ship, the Yinhe, sailing to Iran, was left stranded in the Indian Ocean for 24 days due to the intervention of the United States. The vessel's GPS was blocked, depriving the crew of navigational assistance.

4. [**Jam-resistant GPS elusive as M-code delays pile up: GAO \(Breaking Defense, 09 SEP, Theresa Hitchens\)**](#)

To make matters worse, the Defense Department is now facing down a possible shortage of microchips and processor cards to allow ground vehicles, ships and aircraft to access GPS at all, according to a new report by the Government Accountability Office.

5. [**Space Force defends plan to buy smaller, cheaper satellites to reinforce GPS \(Space News, 04 SEP, Sandra Erwin\)**](#)

The U.S. Space Force is exploring strategies to bolster the resilience of the Global Positioning System (GPS) amid growing concerns about the constellation's vulnerabilities. One option favored by Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall is to use smaller, lower-cost satellites to augment the existing GPS infrastructure.

6. [**China’s Starlink-Rival Triggers Anxiety In Washington; Top U.S. Commander Wants To Keep A Tab On Qianfan G60 \(The EurAsian Times, 01 SEP, Sakshi Tiwari\)**](#)

As China ramps up satellite launches in an effort to develop its own version of the Starlink satellite network, the United States is faced with a new challenge: piles of space debris that would likely be generated in the process of releasing these satellites and the opacity surrounding such space trash.

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Items of Interest

1. [Deep Strikes Into Russia: M-Code Satellite Guidance That Navigates ATACMS, Storm Shadow Missiles Makes U.S. Complicit](#) (The EurAsian Times, 15 SEP, Vijaiinder K Thakur)

At their meeting in Washington, D.C., on September 13, 2024, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and U.S. President Joe Biden reportedly discussed whether to allow Kyiv to use long-range missiles against Russia.

2. [Iran Launches New Satellite Into Space Using Technology Feared by West](#) (News Week, 14 SEP, Natalie Venegas)

Iran launched a satellite into space on Saturday with a rocket built by the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, state-run media reported, but the launch has drawn attention from the West due to fears that the technology used could accelerate its ballistic missile development.

3. [Iran says it successfully launched a satellite in its program criticized by West over missile fears](#) (AP News, 14 SEP, Nasser Karimi & Jon Gambrell)

Iran launched a satellite into space Saturday with a rocket built by the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, state-run media reported, the latest for a program the West fears helps Tehran advance its ballistic missile program.

4. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, September 13, 2024](#) (ISW, 13 SEP, Matthew Sperzel, Daniel Shats, Alison O'Neil, Alexis Turek, & Liam Karr)

Key Takeaways

- The People's Republic of China (PRC) convicted Taiwanese political activist Yang Chih-yuan of secessionism on August 24 and sentenced him to nine years in prison.
- The PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs protested the anticipated passage through the Taiwan Strait of two German naval ships.
- PLA Southern Theater Commander General Wu Ya'nan had a call with US Indo-Pacific Command Commander Admiral Samuel Paparo as part of a trend of restoring US-PRC high-level military communication.
- The PLA and Russian military will participate in two military exercises and a joint Pacific patrol in close succession in September.
- The PRC is trying to forcibly expel the Philippine presence from Sabina shoal to degrade the Philippines' military and coast guard operations in the South China Sea.
- The PRC elevated ties with Africa during the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

5. [North Korea gives a glimpse of a secretive uranium-enrichment facility as Kim pushes for more nukes](#) (AP News, 13 SEP, Hyung-Jin Kim, Kim Tong-Hyung)

North Korea offered a rare glimpse into a secretive facility to produce weapons-grade uranium as state media reported Friday that leader Kim Jong Un visited the area and called for stronger efforts to "exponentially" increase its number of nuclear weapons.

6. [North Korea launches several ballistic missiles into sea in latest provocation \(UPI, 12 SEP, Thomas Maresca\)](#)

North Korea launched multiple ballistic missiles into the East Sea on Thursday, South Korea's military said, days after leader Kim Jong Un called for a nuclear weapons buildup.

7. [First Time — U.S. & Chinese Military To Come Together For 'Formosa' Military Drills In Brazil – Reports \(The EurAsian Times, 10 SEP, Sakshi Tiwari\)](#)

Despite escalating rivalry between the US and China, the two nation's soldiers are set to participate in joint military drills in Brazil.

8. [Your New Hire May Be a North Korean Spy \(WSJ, 10 SEP, Dustin Volts\)](#)

North Korean cybercriminals have developed a new way to access networks in corporate America: getting IT jobs. According to U.S. officials, hundreds of U.S. companies have unknowingly hired North Korean operatives in information-technology roles. Dustin Volz explores how these spies get hired, and one CEO describes how his company fell for the scheme.

9. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, September 6, 2024 \(ISW, 06 SEP, Matthew Sperzel, Daniel Shats, Alison O'Neil, & Alexis Turek\)](#)

Key Takeaways

- The People's Republic of China (PRC) announced that it will lift restrictions on PRC tourism to Kinmen and Taiwanese pomelo imports, likely to economically reward Kuomintang-leaning regions and legitimize the Kuomintang as a negotiating partner on behalf of Taiwan.
- The PRC maintained a high number of air incursions of Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone in August.
- Network analysis firm Graphika identified PRC state-operated accounts on Twitter and TikTok that posed as Americans to undermine US political institutions and stability ahead of the 2024 US presidential elections.
- PRC state broadcaster CCTV ran a segment on August 27 that publicized a People's Liberation Army air defense exercise to counter enemy drone swarms.
- The China Coast Guard rammed a Philippine Coast Guard vessel near Sabina Shoal as part of its broader intimidation efforts to decrease the Philippine presence in the South China Sea.

10. [U.S. To Track Moving Air And Ground Targets Via Space By 2030, But Aircraft Will Still Play A Part \(TWZ, 04 SEP, Thomas Newdick\)](#)

The U.S. Space Force has laid out plans for layered moving-target surveillance capabilities, not only in orbit.

11. [Computer games the Kremlin plays \(EUvsDisinfo, 04 SEP, EUvsDisinfo\)](#)

Enter the world of IDI. A synthetic brainwasher created by the Kremlin, one of its latest tools in the quest(opens in a new tab) to manipulate and control the thoughts of the next generation, where hard-core imperialist nationalism is disguised as 'patriotism'.

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.

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2. [Israeli Commando Raid In Syria Sends A Message To Iran That Its Underground Bases Are Not Untouchable](#) (TWZ, 12 SEP, Howard Altman, Tyler Rogoway 7 Joseph Trevithick)

The raid targeted a deep underground Iranian weapons facility and included grabbing large amounts of intelligence before blowing it up using planted charges.

3. [Protesters in Israel demand Netanyahu agree to hostage deal](#) (DW, 12 SEP, Tania Krämer)

With little progress made to return the hostages taken by Hamas during the October 7 terrorist attacks, Israeli protesters are growing desperate. But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shows little sign of changing course. DW's reports.

4. [Israel-Hamas war latest: Israel orders more evacuations in Gaza after militants fire rockets](#) (AP News, 09 SEP)

The Israeli military has ordered another evacuation of some residential areas in northwest Gaza where it says Palestinian militants fired rockets on the nearby Israeli town of Ashkelon.

5. [Yemen's Houthi rebels claim they shot down another US MQ-9 drone](#) (AP News, 08 SEP, Jon Gambrell)

Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed early Sunday they shot down another American-made MQ-9 drone flying over the country, marking potentially the latest downing of the multimillion-dollar surveillance aircraft. The U.S. launched airstrikes over Houthi-controlled territory afterward, the rebels said.



6. [Israeli forces pull out of Jenin after major operation](#) (BBC, 06 SEP, Lucy Williamson & Raffi Berg)

Israeli forces have withdrawn from Jenin city and its refugee camp in the occupied West Bank after a major nine-day operation there.

7. [Netanyahu doubles down on control of Gaza's border with Egypt](#) (BBC, 04 SEP, Lucy Williamson)

Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has again insisted that Israeli forces will not leave the Philadelphi Corridor - a strategically important strip of land in southern Gaza along the border with Egypt.

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Russia-Ukraine Conflict

1. Institute for The Study of War

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2. [Apti Alaudinov: Propagandist or Moscow's new rising star?](#) (DW, 12 SEP, Roman Goncharenko)

He started out commanding a special forces unit. Now, he can be seen and heard across all social media platforms. Is Apti Alaudinov the Kremlin's new mouthpiece?

3. [Russian hawk pushes case for Putin to toughen policy on nuclear weapons](#) (Reuters, 12 SEP, Mark Trevelyan)

Russia should clearly state its willingness to use nuclear weapons against countries that "support NATO aggression in Ukraine", according to an influential foreign policy hawk who is pressing President Vladimir Putin to adopt a more assertive nuclear posture towards the West.

4. [Moscow Hit By Unprecedented Ukrainian Drone Barrage](#) (TWZ, 10 SEP, Thomas Newdick)

Ukraine launched a mass drone attack against the Russian capital with impacts occurring across the region.

5. [Barrage of Drones Targets Moscow, Russian Border Region](#) (WSJ, 10 SEP, Ann M. Simmons)

Russia shoots down 144 drones in what is one of the biggest attacks on its territory since the beginning of the Ukraine war

6. [Ukraine braces for hardest winter due to intensified Russian attacks on energy infrastructure](#) (AP News, 10 SEP, Derek Gatopoulos & Dmytro Zhyninas)

Ukraine's prime minister warned Tuesday that the country could be facing its toughest winter since the full-scale Russian invasion began, as airstrikes against the country's beleaguered energy infrastructure intensify.



7. [**U.S., Britain accuse Iran of sending Russia ballistic missiles**](#) (UPI, 10 SEP, Darryl Coote)

Long having supplied drones to Russia, Iran has now transferred ballistic missiles to the Kremlin for its war in Ukraine, the United States and Britain said Tuesday as they imposed sanctions targeting both countries that have sought to deepen their relationship under Western pressure.

8. [**Ukraine hits Moscow with biggest drone strike to date**](#) (DW, 10 SEP, Dmitry Ponyavin)

Russian authorities say at least one woman was killed and three others were hospitalized in overnight Ukrainian drone attacks in and around Moscow. Several residential buildings were hit and flights had to be diverted from the capital's airports.

9. [**The Kursk Offensive and the Future of the Russia-Ukraine War**](#) (National interest, 10 SEP, Dmitry Gorenburg)

In launching its offensive into Kursk, Ukraine took a serious risk by shaking up the war narrative and improving its position in a potential future negotiation. On the ground, the offensive has developed in a highly favorable way for Ukraine. However, it is still too early to tell whether that will result in strategic benefits for Ukraine's overall war effort.

10. [**Will the Ukraine War End in 2025?**](#) (National interest, 09 SEP, Zalmay Khalilzad)

There are four reasons why the coming year could be the year the Ukraine war ends—and plenty of reasons why it might continue for the foreseeable future. Principal among these is the huge gap between Putin and Zelensky on potential terms. The factors favoring an end to the war appear to be gaining.

11. [**Will Ukraine soon use its own missiles against Russia?**](#) (DW, 09 SEP, Oleksandr Kunyzyj)

To reduce reliance on Western partners, Ukraine is developing its own line of long-range missiles. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the first ballistic missile has been successfully tested. What do we know about it?

12. [**In Russia's Kursk, Ukraine Takes On a New Role: Occupier**](#) (WSJ, 08 SEP, Matthew Luxmoore)

SUMY, Ukraine—After Ukrainian soldiers took over Maria Andreeva's village in Russia's Kursk region, her family received disturbing news. The retired farmworker had been executed by Ukrainian soldiers, a relative who fled the area told them—the kind of atrocity Russians have been warned to expect from the neighbor they invaded.

13. [**Kursk Invasion A Bargaining Chip Zelensky Says**](#) (TWZ, 03 SEP, Howard Altman)

Ukraine has no immediate plans to leave Russia's Kursk Oblast where it holds hundreds of square miles of territory.

14. [**Ukrainian foreign minister resigns ahead of expected reshuffling of government leaders**](#) (AP News, 04 SEP, Illia Novikov & Emma Burrows)

Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, one of Ukraine's most recognizable faces on the international stage, resigned Wednesday ahead of an expected reshuffling of government leaders. Russian strikes, meanwhile, killed seven people in a western city, a day after one of the deadliest missile attacks since the war began.