



Cyber Center of Excellence
Unclassified Threat Read Book
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Cyber

1. [**Exclusive: US disabled Chinese hacking network targeting critical infrastructure**](#) (Reuters, 30 JAN, Christopher Bing & Karen Freifeld)
The U.S. government in recent months launched an operation to fight a pervasive Chinese hacking operation that successfully compromised thousands of internet-connected devices, according to two Western security officials and one person familiar with the matter.
2. [**Elusive Chinese Cyberspy Group Hijacks Software Updates to Deliver Malware**](#) (Security Week, 26 JAN, Ionut Arghire)
A Chinese cyberespionage group targeting organizations and individuals in China and Japan has remained under the radar for roughly five years, cybersecurity firm ESET reports.
3. [**Major US, UK Water Companies Hit by Ransomware**](#) (Security Week, 24 JAN, Eduard Kovacs)
Two major water companies, Veolia North America in the United States and Southern Water in the United Kingdom, have been targeted in ransomware attacks that resulted in data breaches.
4. [**Another provider of cloud services says Russian intelligence hacked it**](#) (Washington Post, 24 JAN, Joseph Menn)
The major cloud computing provider spun out of Hewlett-Packard said late Wednesday that it had been hacked by a suspected Russian intelligence team, the second such hack of a major U.S. internet company reported this month.
5. [**Russian Hackers Suspected of Sweden Cyberattack**](#) (Security Week, 23 JAN, AFP)
Online services at some Swedish government agencies and shops have been disrupted in a ransomware attack believed to have been carried out by a Russian hacker group, IT consultancy Tietoevry said.
6. [**Chinese Spies Exploited VMware vCenter Server Vulnerability Since 2021**](#) (Security Week, 22 JAN, Ionut Arghire)
Evidence suggests that a Chinese cyberespionage group had been exploiting a recent VMware vCenter Server vulnerability as a zero-day since 2021, Mandiant reports.
7. [**Apple Ships iOS 17.3, Warns of WebKit Zero-Day Exploitation**](#) (Security Week, 22 JAN, Ryan Naraine)
Apple is pushing out fresh versions of its flagship iOS and macOS platforms with patches for multiple WebKit vulnerabilities being exploited as zero-day in the wild.
8. [**VF Corp Says Data Breach Resulting From Ransomware Attack Impacts 35 Million**](#) (Security Week, 19 JAN, Ionut Arghire)
The personal information of 35.5 million customers was stolen in a ransomware attack in December 2023, apparel and footwear brands owner and operator VF Corporation revealed on Thursday.
9. [**Microsoft Says Russian Gov Hackers Stole Email Data From Senior Execs**](#) (Security Week, 19 JAN, Ryan Naraine)

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A Russian government-backed hacking team successfully hacked into Microsoft's corporate network and stole emails and attachments from senior executives and targets in the cybersecurity and legal departments, the company disclosed late Friday.

10. **[Russian APT Known for Phishing Attacks Is Also Developing Malware, Google Warns](#)** (Security Week, 18 JAN, Eduard Kovacs)

A Russian threat group named ColdRiver, which is known for its phishing attacks, has also been developing custom malware, Google warned on 18 JAN.

11. **[Microsoft: Iranian APT Impersonating Prominent Journalist in Clever Spear-Phishing Attacks](#)** (Security Week, 17 JAN, Ryan Naraine)

Malware hunters at Microsoft on Wednesday warned that an APT with known links to Iran's military intelligence has been impersonating a prominent journalist to trick a specific set of people into downloading malicious files.

12. **[Swiss Govt Websites Hit by Pro-Russia Hackers After Zelensky Visit](#)** (Security Week, 17 JAN, AFP)

Switzerland said Wednesday that a cyberattack claimed by a pro-Russian group temporarily disrupted access to a number of government websites, following Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's visit to Davos.

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Electronic Warfare

1. [**MQ-20 Avenger Tests Previously Unseen Air-Launched Effects Drone \(The Warzone, 30 JAN, Jamie Hunter\)**](#)

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI), has revealed that it has developed, built, and in-flight released a brand new and hitherto unknown small uncrewed aerial system (SUAS) as the Advanced Air-Launched Effects (A2LE). Shown in new images released by the manufacturer, the new A2LE is seen being deployed from the internal weapons bay of a company-owned MQ-20 Avenger drone.

2. [**Russia is starting to make its superiority in electronic warfare count \(Mint, 24 JAN, Josephine Lapalucci\)**](#)

Most of the attention to what Ukraine needs in its protracted struggle to free its territory from the invading Russian forces has focused on hardware: tanks, fighter jets, missiles, air-defence batteries, artillery and vast quantities of munitions. But a less discussed weakness lies in electronic warfare (EW); something that Ukraine's Western supporters have so far shown little interest in tackling.

3. [**'Secretive' Russian EW System Could Be Behind NATO GPS Jamming \(Newsweek, 23 JAN, Elle Cook\)**](#)

Russia may be using a "secretive" electronic warfare (EW) system in its eastern outpost at Kaliningrad as widespread reported GPS disruptions plague NATO members on the alliance's eastern flank.

4. [**Ukraine drives Russia back out of a most crucial territory \(Telegraph, 19 JAN, David Axe\)**](#)

The Russian military's electronic-warfare capability was the envy of the world. Emphasis on was. In 23 months of hard fighting, Ukrainian forces have not only blunted the Russians' electronic advantage – on key battlefields, they've tilted it in their own favor.

5. [**Recent GPS Failures in Poland and Baltic States Blamed on Russian Electronic Warfare Trials \(Kyiv Post, 18 JAN\)**](#)

On Jan. 16 and 17, unprecedented levels of GPS interference were observed in northern and central Poland. Similar levels of interference had been recorded on Poland's Baltic Sea coast, as well as northwestern and central Poland in late December.

6. [**Leonardo upgrades BriteCloud EAD with 'smart' features \(Janes, 18 JAN, Richard Scott\)**](#)

The UK-based electronic warfare (EW) business of Leonardo has upgraded the large aircraft variant of its BriteCloud expendable active decoy (EAD) to meet the latest NATO STANAG-4871 self-protection standard and offer compatibility with new 'smart' countermeasure dispenser systems.

7. [**Map Shows NATO Territory Losing GPS Amid Russia Electronic Warfare Drill \(Newsweek, 18 JAN, Brendan Cole\)**](#)

Global Positioning System (GPS) disturbances detected across NATO member Poland on Tuesday have sparked speculation of Russian involvement, following a similar incident in the region this month.

8. [**Emerging Radar and Electronic Warfare \(EW\) Challenges: Developing Test Strategies \(Anritsu, 16 JAN\)**](#)

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and other federal agencies have placed an



emphasis on electronic systems utilizing open architectures and advanced technologies to create adaptive techniques in meeting future contested battlefield requirements effectively.

Modern military electronic warfare (EW) systems – including radar and electronic countermeasure (ECM) capabilities - have higher levels of integration than legacy technologies. Enhanced performance is accompanied by greater design complexity, digitally modulated signals, and increased vulnerability to interference compared to earlier generations. These advanced designs are made even more challenging by the greater emphasis on meeting size, weight, power, and cost (SWaP-C) requirements set by the DoD.

9. **[Ukraine conflict: Russia has lost 90% of its equipment in Krynky due to shortage of EW, UK MoD says \(Janes, 15 JAN, Olivia Savage\)](#)**

Russia is said to have lost approximately 90% of its military equipment in Krynky, Kherson, likely because of a shortage of Russian electronic warfare (EW) systems in the area, according to a UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) intelligence update on 12 January.

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Information Advantage

1. [AI Companies Will Need to Start Reporting Their Safety Tests to the US Government](#) (Janes, 29 JAN, Jon Grevatt & Andrew MacDonald)

The POTUS administration will start implementing a new requirement for the developers of major artificial intelligence systems to disclose their safety test results to the government.

2. [Foreign Reflections on U.S. Exercises and Operations, 26 January 2024](#) (U.S. Army Asian Studies Detachment, 26 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 18-25 January and gathers media coverage from China, Russia, North Korea and Japan.

3. [China's Influence Operations and Cognitive Warfare in Taiwan, 25 January 2024](#) (U.S. Army Asian Studies Detachment, 26 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.

4. [BRI - Belt and Road Initiative - Highlights, 24 January 2024](#) (U.S. Army Asian Studies Detachment, 26 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. [The war on misinformation in modern wartime](#) (Scripps News, 23 JAN, Amber Strong)

Updates from the front lines look a lot different these days.

"In World War II people had to sort of cable their stories back or sometimes dictate them over the phone, and people were getting those the next day in the newspaper," explained Peter Adams, senior vice president of research and design for the News Literacy Project.

During modern warfare, there are two battles: the fight from the front lines, and the fight on misinformation online.

6. [Indian Army Deploys Artificial Intelligence To Fight Pakistani Spies Trying To Honey-Trap Its Officers & Extract Information](#) (The EurAsian Times, 22 JAN, Ritu Sharma)

'Honey-trapping' has been one of the top methods in the guidebook of international espionage. Last year, a Pakistani spy posing as a girl honey-trapped a high-ranking defense scientist and made him divulge sensitive secrets, including information about the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

7. [Foreign Reflections on U.S. Exercises and Operations, 19 January 2023](#) (U.S. Army Asian Studies Detachment, 22 JAN)

This report is a re-publication of the 19 January 2024 "Foreign Reflections on U.S. Exercises and Operations" which contained an error in a December 2023 bilateral U.S.-South Korea live fire exercise. It is an examination of foreign reactions in the Asia-Pacific

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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 12-18 January, and gathers media coverage from China, Russia, North Korea, and Japan.

8. **[China Diplomatic and Political Highlights, 19 January 2024](#)** (U.S. Army Asian Studies Detachment, 22 JAN)

This semi-weekly report is a compilation of English-language news articles related to China's diplomatic and political affairs, derived primarily from China-based news sources.

9. **[China's Influence Operations and Cognitive Warfare in Taiwan, 18 January 2024](#)** (U.S. Army Asian Studies Detachment, 22 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.

10. **[BRI - Belt and Road Initiative - Highlights, 17 January 2024](#)** (U.S. Army Asian Studies Detachment, 17 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.

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Signal

1. [US gov't plans new cloud rules to thwart China AI development](#) (Data Center Dynamics, 29 JAN, Matthew Gooding)

The US government wants to introduce “know your customer” (KYC) style rules for the cloud computing industry which would compel cloud providers to track businesses running workloads in their data centers.
2. [US Army developing intel analysis, combat weather apps](#) (Janes, 28 JAN, Carlo Munoz)

The US Army is developing a new slate of advanced software designed to improve collection, dissemination, and exploitation of battlefield intelligence at the tactical level, according to a service solicitation.
3. [New Marine radios cement electromagnetic spectrum superiority](#) (The Flagship, 25 JAN, Johannes Schmidt)

In a decisive move meant to ensure dominance over the electromagnetic spectrum, Marine Corps Systems Command is on track to upgrade 50,000 legacy radios with state-of-the-art multi-channel, crypto-compliant models in Fiscal Year 2024.
4. [Top 6 Multi-Cloud Security Threats to Be Aware of in 2024](#) (Hacker Noon, 22 JAN, Mirza Naeem)

Several businesses have shifted to multi-cloud environments over the last few years. This is due to this infrastructure's reliability, flexibility, and cost-saving benefits.

Unfortunately, with this shift comes a new range of security threats. If you're operating within a multi-cloud environment, here are a few security vulnerabilities you need to be aware of in 2024.
5. [Marine Corps plans to upgrade 50,000 radios across the force](#) (Defense Scoop, 20 JAN, Mark Pomerleau)

The Marine Corps intends to upgrade 50,000 radios with new multi-channel, software-defined models that will be more resistant to adversary threats.

The capabilities are being modernized with NSA cryptographic standards, which the agency is mandating across the Department of Defense.
6. [Outsmarting Ransomware's New Playbook](#) (Security Week, 18 JAN, Rik Ferguson)

The cybersecurity landscape of 2024 presents an evolving challenge for professionals, particularly in the realm of ransomware. The emerging threats demand not only a strategic realignment in defense mechanisms but also an understanding of the legal implications of these cyberattacks.
7. [Marine Corps taking data-centric approach to network and battlefield information](#) (Defense Scoop, 16 JAN, Mark Pomerleau)

The Marines are undergoing a paradigm shift when it comes to how they view the network, working to consolidate enterprise and tactical systems.

The Marine Corps is shifting its approach to the network, opting to focus more on getting data to the right place to enable faster decision-making.
8. [Russia, China Test 'Un-Hackable' Quantum Communications 4,000 KM Away, Ask India To Join Project](#) (The EurAsian Times, 12 JAN,



Parth Satam)

Russia and China have established a groundbreaking satellite-based quantum communications system as a stepping stone for the more extensive geopolitical pursuit of covering friendly, Global South countries.

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Items of Interest

1. [Russia's 'Satellite Killer' S-500 AD System, 200-Ton RS-28 Sarmat ICMB To Be Put On Combat Duty By 2024, Senior Official Says](#) (The EurAsian Times, 27 JAN, Ashish Dangwal)

A senior Russian official has disclosed that the delivery of Sarmat complexes, previously dubbed “invincible” by Russian President Vladimir Putin, is scheduled to be completed by 2024.

2. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, January 25, 2024](#) (ISW, 25 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.

3. [Proposed By US Navy In 2012, China Develops 'Hypersonic Shell' That Uses SatNav To Hit Targets With Deadly Accuracy – Reports](#) (The EurAsian Times, 23 JAN, Sakshi Tiwari)

Chinese naval scientists claim they have developed a smart shell for kinetic energy weapons in what could come as a shocker and a setback for the United States. But here’s a catch: it is similar to an abandoned “dream shell” concept of the US Navy.

4. [Canada 'Red Flags' Dozens Of PLA-Linked Institutes As Security Threat After Germany Warns Of Chinese "Spy Students"](#) (The EurAsian Times, 19 JAN, Sakshi Tiwari)

In what may come as another setback in the already strained relationship between Canada and China, the Canadian government has published a list of 85 Chinese research institutions that “may pose” a threat to sensitive research and national security.

5. [10 Pakistani Citizens Killed In Retaliatory Strikes By Pakistan Army On Iran's City Of Saravan: Official Claims](#) (The EurAsian Times, 19 JAN, KN Pandita)

The deputy security and law enforcement officer of the Governor of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, Alireza Marhamati, claimed on Thursday that the Pakistan army fired three UAVs in its cross-border attack on the Iranian city of Saravan, IRNA reported.

6. [Pakistan Strikes Back At Iran, Targeting Militants Near Border](#) (The Drive/The Warzone, 18 JAN, Thomas Newdick)

Pakistan has struck back at Iran with attacks on militant groups near the border between the two countries after Tehran targeted militant sites within Pakistan just two days prior. Pakistan said it used weapons including drones and loitering munitions to hit the Iran-based Baloch separatist militants, stoking fears of an escalating conflict between the two countries. It’s the first time another country has openly struck inside Iran since the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s.

7. [Russia Brings "Invisibility Suit" To Ukraine War: Will Protect Soldiers From Thermal Imaging Systems](#) (The EurAsian Times, 21 JAN, Ashish Dangwal)

Russia is developing an advanced camouflage suit designed to hide its soldiers and offer unmatched protection against thermal imaging equipment used by the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

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8. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, January 19, 2024](#) (ISW, 19 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.

9. [North Korea set for modest increase in defence spending](#) (Janes, 17 JAN, Jon Grevatt & Andrew MacDonald)

North Korea said on 16 JAN 2024, that it expects to spend 15.9% of total government expenditure in 2024 on defense. The state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) did not provide a monetary figure, but the proportion is the same as in recent years.

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US/Iran

1. [Iran threatens to ‘decisively respond’ to any U.S. strikes as Biden weighs response to Jordan attack](#) (Washington Times, 31 JAN, Jon Gambrell)

Iran threatened Wednesday to “decisively respond” to any U.S. attack on the Islamic Republic following President Joe Biden’s linking of Tehran to the killing of three U.S. soldiers at a military base in Jordan.

2. [Iranian-Backed Militia Group Wants A Timeout As U.S. Retaliation Looms](#) (The Warzone, 30 JAN, Howard Altman)

As the Biden administration ramps up plans to respond to a deadly attack on U.S. forces in Jordan on Sunday, an Iranian-backed militia group responsible for numerous strikes on U.S. troops in the Middle East says it is putting a pause on those actions.

3. [US sees ‘footprints’ of Iran-backed group in Tower 22 drone attack](#) (C4ISRnet, 30 JAN, Colin Demarest)

A drone strike that killed three U.S. troops and injured dozens more in Jordan could have been executed with a number of airframes but bore the signs of an extremist group with access to Iranian weaponry, according to the U.S. Department of Defense and outside analysts.

4. [Shock, grief and mourning for 3 Georgia-based US soldiers killed in Middle East drone strike](#) (AP News, 30 JAN, Russ Bynum)

Described by their parents as bubbly and constantly laughing, Spc. Kennedy Sanders and Spc. Breonna Moffett became close friends soon after enlisting in the Army Reserve five years ago. Sgt. William Jerome Rivers served a tour in Iraq before joining the same company of Army engineers.

5. [Iranian UAV “Hid Behind” US Drone To Bamboozle, Breach Tower 22 US Military Outpost In Jordan – Reports](#) (The EurAsian Times, 30 JAN, Parth Satam)

The drone used to attack the ‘Tower 22’ US military outpost in Jordan by Iran-backed militias that killed three American soldiers could not be detected since the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was mistaken for a friendly aircraft.

6. [What is Tower 22, the military base that was attacked in Jordan where 3 US troops were killed?](#) (AP News, 29 JAN, Jon Gambrell)

A little-discussed United States military desert outpost in the far reaches of northeastern Jordan has become the focus of international attention after a drone attack killed three American troops and injured at least 34 others there.

7. [Enemy drone that killed US troops in Jordan was mistaken for a US drone, preliminary report suggests](#) (AP News, 29 JAN, Lolita C. Baldor. Aamer Madhani & Zeke Miller)

U.S. forces may have mistaken an enemy drone for an American one and let it pass unchallenged into a desert base in Jordan where it killed three U.S. troops and wounded dozens more, officials said Monday.

8. [Another U.S. Outpost Attacked, Biden Admin Mulls Strike Options](#) (29 JAN, Howard Altman)

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As the Biden administration mulls over how and when to respond to Sunday's deadly attack on U.S. troops in Jordan by Iranian-backed militias, a U.S. patrol base in Syria was attacked, two U.S. officials told The War Zone.

9. **[Three U.S. soldiers are dead in a drone strike in Jordan](#)** (UPI, 28 JAN, Mark Moran & Darryl Coote)

Three U.S. service members have been killed and at least 34 others injured by a drone strike in the Kingdom of Jordan, Biden administration and military officials said.

10. **[What Comes Next After Three Americans Were Killed In A Drone Attack In Jordan?](#)** (The WarZone, 28 JAN, Tyler Rogoway)

It looks like the crisis in the Middle East, spurred by the terror attacks by Hamas on October 7th, is about to escalate further after three U.S. service people were killed in a drone strike by Iranian proxies on an outpost near the Syrian border in Jordan. Dozens more were injured and the list is growing. Now the region braces for a response from the United States. Where this is all headed nobody can know for sure, but the possibilities are increasingly ominous, to say the least.

11. **[Drone Attack In Jordan Kills Three American Troops \(Updated\)](#)** (The Warzone, 28 JAN, Howard Altman)

In a major escalation of tensions in the Middle East, three U.S. troops were killed and more than two dozen injured by a drone attack on a U.S. base in Jordan near the border with Syria on Jan. 28, according to U.S. Central Command. This attack marked the first time U.S. troops were killed in the Middle East since the beginning of the ongoing Israel-Hamas war on Oct. 7. It is also the first attack on American troops in Jordan since that conflict erupted.

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Israel-Hamas Conflict

1. 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 31, 2024

[Iran Update](#), January 30, 2024

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3. [Growing number of apps help automate pro-Israel activism online](#) (Washington Post, 25 JAN, Taylor Lorenz)

As the war in Gaza rages on, and both sides battle for support and public attention, supporters of Israel are making use of tools that allow them to mass report pro-Palestinian content as violating a platform's rules.

4. [21 Israeli troops are killed in the deadliest attack on the military since the Gaza offensive began](#) (AP News, 24 JAN, Josef Federman, Najib Jobain & Samy Magdy)

Palestinian militants carried out the deadliest single attack on Israeli forces in Gaza since the Hamas raid that triggered the war, killing 21 soldiers, the military said Tuesday — a significant setback that could add to mounting calls for a cease-fire.

5. [U.S. envoy discusses possible new Israel-Hamas hostage deal in Qatar](#) (Washington Post, 24 JAN, Karen DeYoung and Shira Rubin)

The top U.S. mediator for the Middle East is traveling the region to encourage discussions on the release of hostages held by Hamas in Gaza, but U.S. officials emphasized Wednesday that there was little progress to report.

6. [24 Israeli soldiers killed in largest military loss suffered in war with Hamas](#) (UPI, 23 JAN Darryl Coote)

Twenty-four Israeli soldiers were killed and several others were injured in central Gaza on Monday, the Israel Defense Forces said, the largest military loss suffered by the Middle Eastern country since its war against Hamas began in October.

7. **[What is the Palestinian group Hamas? \(Reuters, 23 JAN, Compiled by Reuters journalists\)](#)**

The Palestinian group Hamas carried out a surprise attack on southern Israel from Gaza on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and seizing about 250 hostages in the deadliest day in Israel's history, according to Israeli tallies.

8. **[An Israeli airstrike on the Syrian capital killed at least 5 Iranian advisers, officials say \(AP News, 20 JAN, Albert Aji And Bassem Mroue\)](#)**

An Israeli strike on the Syrian capital on Saturday destroyed a building used by the Iranian paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, killing at least five Iranians, Syrian and Iranian state media reported.

9. **[Hamas fights with a patchwork of weapons built by Iran, China, Russia and North Korea \(AP News, 16 JAN, Michael Biesecker\)](#)**

Iranian sniper rifles. AK-47 assault rifles from China and Russia. North Korean- and Bulgarian-built rocket-propelled grenades. Anti-tank rockets secretly cobbled together in Gaza.

10. **[In pictures: 100 days of war in Israel and Gaza \(Reuters, 15 JAN\)](#)**

One hundred days after Hamas gunmen broke out of Gaza to carry out the deadliest attack in Israel's history, tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed, Gaza lies in ruins and the Middle East is sliding towards a wider regional conflict that would pitch the world deeper into crisis.

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Houthis Conflict

1. [Phalanx CIWS Down Houthi Missile Dangerously Close To Destroyer: Report](#) (The Warzone, 31 JAN, Howard Altman)

For the first time since they began swatting down Houthi missiles and drones fired into the Red Sea region, a U.S. warship had to use its Mark 15 Phalanx Close-In Weapon System (CIWS) against an incoming threat, CNN reported. Taken at face value, this is a very unsettling revelation as Phalanx's engagement envelope is very close to the ship and is seen as a 'last ditch' point defense system. How the missile managed to penetrate the Aegis destroyer's defenses is unclear at this time.

2. [U.S. Carries Out First Preemptive Strike On Houthi SAM](#) (The Warzone, 31 JAN, Howard Altman)

U.S. forces for the first time destroyed a Houthi surface-to-air missile preparing to launch Wednesday, a U.S. defense official told The War Zone. The incident took place at about 3:30 p.m. local time, U.S. Central Command said.

3. [Houthis Claim Attack on US Floating Landing Base](#) (NDT, 31 JAN, Efthymis Oraiopoulos)

Houthi terrorists announced an attack on a U.S. navy ship on Monday, yet damage was not confirmed by the U.S. side.

Houthi military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree claimed the group fired a missile at the USS Lewis B. Puller in the Gulf of Aden, off the south coast of Yemen.

4. [Crews extinguish fire on tanker hit by Houthi missile off Yemen after US targets rebels in airstrike](#) (AP News, 27 JAN, Jon Gambrell)

The crew aboard a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker hit by a missile launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels extinguished an hours long fire onboard the stricken vessel Saturday sparked by the strike, authorities said.

5. [Yemen Houthi rebels fire a missile at a US warship, escalating worst Mideast sea conflict in decades](#) (AP News, 27 JAN, Jon Gambrell)

Yemen's Houthi rebels launched a missile Friday at a United States warship patrolling the Gulf of Aden, forcing it to shoot down the projectile, and struck a British vessel as their aggressive attacks on maritime traffic continue.

6. [US 'Unleashes' EA-18G Growler EW Aircraft On Houthis Who Are Armed To Teeth With Lethal Weapons – Reports](#) (The EurAsian Times, 26 JAN, Parth Satam)

The US Navy is reportedly using the E/A-18G Growler electronic warfare (EW) variant of the F/A-18 Super Hornet for its air strikes on the Houthis in Yemen since the group is armed with surface-to-air missiles, drones, and other conventional weapons.

7. [2 US-flagged ships with cargo for US Defense Department come under attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels](#) (AP News, 24 JAN, Jon Gambrell)

Two American-flagged ships carrying cargo for the U.S. Defense and State departments came under attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels on Wednesday, officials said, with the U.S.

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Navy intercepting some of the incoming fire.

8. [US hits Iraq militia sites and anti-ship missiles in Yemen as fight with Iranian proxies intensifies](#) (AP News, 24 JAN, Tara Copp & Lolita C. Baldor)

The U.S. military struck three facilities in Iraq and two anti-ship missiles in Yemen operated by Iranian-backed militias that have attacked U.S. personnel and ships in the region as the United States tries to keep the Israel-Hamas war from spilling over into a wider conflict.

9. [New Airstrikes Target Houthi Forces In Yemen \(Updated\)](#) (The Drive/The Warzone, 22 JAN, Howard Altman)

The U.S. and U.K carried out a new round of airstrikes against Houthi targets in Yemen, the Pentagon announced Monday afternoon.

10. [Massive Attack On Al Assad Air Base In Iraq, Airstrikes Hit Houthi Missiles \(Updated\)](#) (The Drive/The Warzone, 20 JAN, Tyler Rogoway)

It's been a very active day in terms of hostilities in the Middle East. Al Assad Air Base in Iraq, where U.S. military personnel and contractors are based, came under a massive barrage from Iranian-aligned militant groups in the country. The attack was so big that reports state it overwhelmed Al Assad's air defenses, with multiple projectiles landing within its perimeter, causing injuries.

11. [New Strike On Houthi Missiles In Yemen Launched By U.S.](#) (The Drive/The Warzone, 17 JAN, Howard Altman & Tyler Rogway)

The U.S. conducted its fourth round of strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen today, a preemptive attack against missiles, a senior U.S. administration official told The War Zone.

12. [Yemen-Bound Missile Parts, Sensor Systems Seized In SEAL Raid](#) (The Drive/The Warzone, 16 JAN, Howard Altman, Joseph Trevithick)

The U.S. military has offered a look at anti-ship cruise missile and medium-range ballistic missile components, as well as sensor turrets, that were recently seized during a U.S. Navy SEAL raid of a dhow. This materiel was bound for Iranian-backed Houthi militants in Yemen, which have their arsenals of exactly these kinds of capabilities targeted in U.S. and British strikes in the past week.

13. [First Preemptive Strikes Against Houthi Missiles Preparing To Fire Launched By U.S.](#) (The Drive/The Warzone, 16 JAN, Howard Altman)

The U.S. launched a preemptive strike against Houthi targets in Yemen early Tuesday morning Yemen time, destroying four anti-ship ballistic missiles being prepared for launch, a U.S. defense official told The War Zone. This is the first time the U.S. has launched what a second U.S. official called an "imminent self-defense strike" against Houthi missiles being prepared to launch. The first official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss operational details, declined to say how those strikes were carried out, citing operational security concerns.

14. [Damage Analysis From Yesterday's Strikes On Airport In Yemen's Capital](#) (The Drive/The Warzone, 23 JAN, Joseph Trevithick)



U.S. ARMY



Satellite imagery The War Zone has obtained from Planet Labs shows the results of U.S. and U.K. strikes overnight on the main airport in the Yemeni capital Sanaa. The airport was among the locations targeted as part of ongoing U.S.-led efforts to degrade the capabilities of Iranian-backed Houthi militants, particularly the group's ability to launch missile and drone attacks on ships in and around the Red Sea. You can read more about what is already know about last night's strikes in our initial reporting [here](#).



Russia-Ukraine Conflict

1. The Warzone Ukraine Situation Report:

[Ukraine Situation Report: Ground Launched Small Diameter Bomb's Arrival Finally Imminent](#) – 30 JAN

[Ukraine Situation Report: Greek S-300 SAMs May Be Headed To Ukraine](#) – 29 JAN

[Ukraine Situation Report: Russia May Have To Move Air Defenses To Cover Cities](#) – 22 JAN

[Ukraine Situation Report: Long-Range Drone Strikes Expand To St. Petersburg](#) – 18 JAN

[Ukraine Situation Report: Drones Strike Russian City Of Voronezh](#) – 16 JAN

2. Institute for The Study of War

[Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment](#), January 31, 2024

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3. [Putin Directly Blames US Patriot Missiles For Shootdown Of IL-76 Aircraft Transporting Ukrainian POWs](#) (The EurAsian Times, 31 JAN, Sakshi Tiwari)

An examination of Il-76 military aircraft reveals that the plane was shot down by a Western-made anti-aircraft missile system, a representative of the emergency services told RIA Novosti.

4. [Ukraine Situation Report: Greek S-300 SAMs May Be Headed To Ukraine](#) (The Warzone, 29 JAN, Thomas Newdick)

Reports in the Greek media suggest that the country is preparing to transfer to Ukraine much-needed S-300 long-range surface-to-air missile systems. Unusually for a NATO member, Greece has fairly significant stocks of Soviet-era and Russian-made air defense systems, some of which it has now apparently agreed to hand over to Kyiv.

5. [Russia 'Outnumbers' Ukraine 7:1 In UAV Deployment; To Produce 30,000 UAVs Yearly By 2030. Can Kyiv Match It?](#) (The EurAsian Times, 25 JAN, Prakash Nanda)

Over the last week, there have been news reports of how potent Ukraine's drone- power is in its war against Russia. But how long Ukraine can maintain its edge in the drone war is now becoming a hot topic for review among military experts.

6. [**Ukraine alleges Russian disinformation in downing of military plane \(Washington Post, 25 JAN, Siobhán O'Grady\)**](#)

Russia and Ukraine traded blame and pushed dueling narratives Thursday over the downing of a Russian military plane, which Moscow said was carrying 65 Ukrainian prisoners of war who were about to be exchanged and returned home to their families. Everyone aboard was killed, Russia said.

7. [**Russia accuses Ukraine of killing 65 of its own PoWs by shooting down plane \(Reuters, 24 JAN, Pavel Polityuk, Yuliia Dysa & Andrew Osborn\)**](#)

Russia accused Ukraine on Wednesday of deliberately shooting down a Russian military transport plane carrying 65 captured Ukrainian soldiers to a prisoner exchange in what it called a barbaric act of terrorism that had killed a total of 74 people.

The Russian defence ministry said six Russian crew members and three Russian soldiers had been on the Ilyushin Il-76 military transport plane shot down near the Russian city of Belgorod near the Ukrainian border.

8. [**Video Games Helped Ukrainian Bradley Gunner Win Duel With Russian T-90M Tank \(The Drive/The Warzone, 20 JAN, Howard Altman\)**](#)

The Ukrainian Bradley Fighting Vehicle gunner whose attack on a Russian T-90M Breakthrough tank was captured in a viral video says playing video games helped prepare him for that engagement.

9. [**Ukraine conflict: Russia equips T-80BVM tank with new C-UAS \(Janes, 19 JAN, Olivia Savage\)**](#)

A new counter-unmanned aerial system (C-UAS) known as Saniya, developed by Russian company 3MX, has been equipped on one of Russia's T-80BVM tanks.

10. [**Armor Experts Breakdown Video Of Ukrainian M2 Bradley Mauling Russian T-90M Tank \(The Drive/The Warzone, 18 JAN, Howard Altman\)**](#)

A new viral video shows the crew of a Russian T-90M Breakthrough tank getting a first-hand lesson in the devastating firepower of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle's Bushmaster M242 25mm automatic cannon. The War Zone reached out to highly experienced armor experts to explain exactly what we are seeing in the intense combat footage and how the Bradley was able to take on Russia's most capable frontline tank.

11. [**Putin says Ukraine's statehood at risk if pattern of war continues \(Reuters, 16 JAN, Mark Trevelyan\)**](#)

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Ukraine's statehood could suffer an "irreparable blow" if the pattern of the war continued, and Russia would never be forced to abandon the gains it had made.

Putin made his televised comments a day after Switzerland agreed to host a global summit at the request of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

Putin dismissed "so-called peace formulas" being discussed in the West and Ukraine and what he called the "prohibitive demands" they entailed.

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