Cyber Center of Excellence
Unclassified Threat Read Book
16-30 April 2024

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Cyber

1. **[Hackers Claim to Have Infiltrated Belarus' Main Security Service](#) (AP News, 26 APR, Yuras Karmanau)**

   A Belarusian hacker activist group claims to have infiltrated the network of the country's main KGB security agency and accessed personnel files of over 8,600 employees of the organization, which still goes under its Soviet name.

2. **[$10 Million Bounty on Iranian Hackers for Cyberattacks on US Gov, Defense Contractors](#) (Security Week, 23 APR, Ryan Naraine)**

   Four Iranians are accused of hacking into critical systems at the Departments of Treasury and State and dozens of private US companies.

3. **[North Korea hacking teams hack South Korea defence contractors – police](#) (Reuters, 23 APR, Jack Kim)**

   Major North Korean hacking groups have mounted "all-out" cyber attacks against South Korean defence companies for more than a year, breaching the firms' internal networks and stealing technical data, South Korea's police said on Tuesday.

4. **[In A Historic First, Ukraine To Join NATO's Largest Cyber Security Exercise, Locked Shields 2024](#) (The EurAsian Times, 18 APR, Ashish Dangwal)**

   For the very first time, Ukraine will debut in NATO's flagship cybersecurity exercise, Locked Shields 2024, announced by the National Cyber Security Coordination Center (the first working body of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council).

5. **[Understanding next-level cyber threats](#) (Help Net Security, 17 APR, Trevor Hilligoss)**

   In this Help Net Security video, Trevor Hilligoss, VP of SpyCloud Labs, discusses the 2024 SpyCloud Identity Exposure Report, an annual report examining the latest trends in cybercrime and its impact.

6. **[Attackers exploiting new critical OpenMetadata vulnerabilities on Kubernetes clusters](#) (Microsoft, 17 APR, Microsoft, Threat Intelligence)**

   Attackers are constantly seeking new vulnerabilities to compromise Kubernetes environments. Microsoft recently uncovered an attack that exploits new critical vulnerabilities in OpenMetadata to gain access to Kubernetes workloads and leverage them for cryptomining activity.

7. **[Sandworm Group Shifts To Espionage Attacks, Hacktivist Personas](#) (Duo, 17 APR, Lindsey O'Donnell-Welch)**

   Recent activity by the well-known Sandworm group - which researchers with Mandiant have started calling APT44 - relies on a mix of espionage efforts and hacktivist personas, and shows how the group continues to pose a "persistent, high severity threat" to governments and critical infrastructure entities globally.

8. **[NSA Publishes Guidance for Strengthening AI System Security](#)**
(NSA, 15 APR, Press Release)

The National Security Agency (NSA) is releasing a Cybersecurity Information Sheet (CSI) today, "[Deploying AI Systems Securely: Best Practices for Deploying Secure and Resilient AI Systems.](#)" The CSI is intended to support National Security System owners and Defense Industrial Base companies that will be deploying and operating AI systems designed and developed by an external entity.

Electronic Warfare

1. **[Russia accused of GPS jamming after aircraft disrupted](#)** (DW, 30 APR)

   Finnair suspended flights to the Estonian city of Tartu after GPS signal interference prevented two planes from landing. Estonia and Lithuania have blamed Russia for jamming GPS signals in the region.

2. **[GPS Jamming: When Russian Fighter Jet Shot Down '007 Aircraft' Due To Navigational Error, Killing 269 People](#)** (The EurAsian Times, 24 APR, Ashish Dangwal)

   British airliners have been caught in the crossfire of suspected Russian jamming, leading to thousands of disruptions and raising concerns about aviation safety. Military experts say this could even lead to the shootdown of civilian airliners, as the world witnessed in 1983.

3. **['More EW Than We Have Ever Seen Before' in Ukraine, Space Force Official Says](#)** (Air and Space Forces, 24 APR, Chris Gordon)

   The Space Force must invest in high-level training based on the lessons learned from an unprecedented level of electronic warfare (EW) used by both Russia and Ukraine in the conflict there, one of the service's top EW leaders said on April 24.

4. **[Analysis: How Russia's Krasukha Electronic Warfare System Disrupts UAVs and Radars in Ukraine](#)** (Army Recognition, 17 APR)

   The Krasukha, a Russian-manufactured electronic warfare system, plays a critical role in the Russian military's operations in Ukraine by targeting enemy radar systems from the ground. This equipment is specifically designed to jam signals across a broad spectrum, focusing on disrupting airborne electronics, such as those in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), radar-guided missiles, and other airborne systems.

5. **[New Russian 'Turtle Tank' Emerges On The Battlefield, Features Electronic Warfare System](#)** (The Warzone, 16 APR, Joseph Trevithick)

   Russia's monstrous turtle tank was not a one-off, with the third one now identified and it carries an electronic warfare system.

6. **[Intelligence is Gold: The Value of Electronic Warfare and Signals Intelligence](#)** (DVIDS Hub, 15 APR, CPL Bridgette Rodriguez)

   Intelligence can be viewed as a golden thread woven through the fabric of strategic decision-making. As conflicts unfold outside of traditional fronts - land, sea, and air - the value of intelligence has only grown more pronounced. The emergence of electronic warfare within the electromagnetic spectrum highlights its critical role.

7. **[Starlink Satellites 'New Targets' For Russian Military; EW Boss Issues Stern Warning To Musk's SpaceX](#)** (The EurAsian Times, 15 APR, Ashish Dangwal)

   The head of the Electronic Warfare Troops of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, Yuri Lastochkin, declared that the Russian military could potentially target the new terminals of the Starlink system used by Ukraine in the ongoing conflict.

Information Advantage

1. **[U.S. Government Releases New AI Security Guidelines for Critical Infrastructure](#) (The Hacker News, 30 APR)**

   The U.S. government has unveiled new security guidelines aimed at bolstering critical infrastructure against artificial intelligence (AI)-related threats.

2. **[Russia Deploying New AI-Powered Anti-Drone Devices](#) (Newsweek, 30 APR, Isabel van Brugen)**

   Russia has developed new artificial-intelligence (AI) powered anti-drone devices for use on the battlefield in Ukraine.

3. **[My deepfake shows how valuable our data is in the age of AI](#) (MIT Technology Review, 30 APR, Melissa Heikkilä)**

   Deepfakes are getting good. Like, really good. Earlier this month I went to a studio in East London to get myself digitally cloned by the AI video startup Synthesia. They made a hyperrealistic deepfake that looked and sounded just like me, with realistic intonation. It is a long way away from the glitchiness of earlier generations of AI avatars. The end result was mind-blowing. It could easily fool someone who doesn't know me well.

4. **[Factors Slowing Down Gen AI Adoption](#) (Forbes, 29 APR, Peter Bendor-Samuel)**

   As generative AI (gen AI) rolled out, it started a conversation at the board and C-suite levels about where companies can use and benefit from the technology.

5. **[Meta's newest AI model beats some peers. But its amped-up AI agents are confusing Facebook users](#) (AP News, 18 APR, Matt O'Brien)**

   Facebook parent Meta Platforms unveiled a new set of artificial intelligence systems Thursday that are powering what CEO Mark Zuckerberg calls "the most intelligent AI assistant that you can freely use."

6. **[Generative AI: security risks and lack of regulations](#) (Tech Radar, 17 APR, Adam Everspaugh)**

   OpenAI's release of ChatGPT seems like yesterday, but so much has happened since its debut that it's hard to remember a time before this advanced AI chatbot entered the public consciousness. During its first year, ChatGPT raised as many questions about generative AI as it answered. Two of the biggest issues are security risks and the notion that the use and development of generative AI use can be controlled or regulated.

Signal

1. [5G Versus Wi-Fi 7: Choosing The Right Wireless Technology](#) **(Forbes, 30 APR, Julie Song)**

    Wi-Fi 7, the latest iteration of the Wi-Fi standard, is set to gain momentum in 2024. Once again, it begs the question—how does it stack up to its wireless counterpart 5G?

2. [How is quantum technology used in the military?](#) **(Army Technology, 22 APR, Alex Blair)**

    Quantum technology is at the forefront of most advanced nations' long-term defence planning.

3. [Breakthrough in Quantum Cloud Computing Ensures its Security and Privacy](#) **(Tech Republic, 19 APR, Fiona Jackson)**

    Oxford University researchers used an approach dubbed "blind quantum computing" to connect two quantum computing entities in a way that is completely secure.

4. [New Microsoft guidance for the DoD Zero Trust Strategy](#) **(Microsoft, 16 APR, Rachael Zisk)**

    The Department of Defense (DoD) Zero Trust Strategy and accompanying execution roadmap sets a path for achieving enterprise-wide target-level Zero Trust by 2027. The roadmap lays out vendor-agnostic Zero Trust activities that DoD Components and Defense Industrial Base (DIB) partners should complete to achieve Zero Trust capabilities and outcomes.

Items of Interest

1. [**German army captain admits spying for Russia**](#) **(DW, 29 APR)**

    The officer, with ties to the far-right AfD party, said he provided information to a Russian intelligence service out of fear of a nuclear escalation in Moscow's war in Ukraine.

2. [**Why Xi created a new Information Support Force, and why now**](#) **(Breaking Defense, 29 APR, Dean Cheng)**

    The decision by the Chinese military to transform its Strategic Support Force and launch a new military organization in its wake caught many observers by surprise. In this new analysis, longtime Chinese military expert Dean Cheng lays out what might be behind the change.

3. [**China-Taiwan Weekly Update, April 26, 2024**](#) **(ISW, 26 APR, Matthew Sperzel, Daniel Shats, Nils Peterson & Mathilde Lemerle)**

    The China–Taiwan Weekly Update is a joint product from the Institute for the Study of War and the American Enterprise Institute. The update supports the ISW–AEI Coalition Defense of Taiwan project, which assesses Chinese campaigns against Taiwan, examines alternative strategies for the United States and its allies to deter the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) aggression, and—if necessary—defeat the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The update focuses on the Chinese Communist Party's paths to controlling Taiwan and cross–Taiwan Strait developments.

4. [**4 Reasons Why China's Xi Jinping Has Taken 'Direct Control' Of Military & Disbanded 'Much Hyped' SSF**](#) **(The Eurasian Times, 23 APR, Prakash Nanda)**

    Chinese President Xi Jinping's dissolution on April 19 of China's much-hyped Strategic Support Force (SSF) to create three parallel divisions, all reporting directly to the Central Military Commission (CMC), of which he is the Chairman, seems to be further strengthening his power and position as the country's supreme leader.

5. [**North Korea fires ballistic missiles, South Korea, Japan say**](#) **(Reuters, 22 APR, Hyunsu Yim)**

    North Korea fired "several" short-range ballistic missiles on Monday toward the sea off its east coast, South Korea's military said, drawing a swift condemnation from Seoul, which called it a grave threat to stability on the Korean peninsula.

6. [**China 'Overhauls' Its Military As US Secures Indo-Pacific; Incorporates Info, Cyber & Space Divisions In PLA**](#) **(The EurAsian Times, 22 APR, Ashish Dangwal)**

    China has unveiled new independent units within the People's Liberation Army (PLA), marking its most sweeping restructuring in nearly a decade. The move sees the dissolution of the old Strategic Support Force, replaced with three new arms dedicated to information, space, and cyber operations.

7. [China-Taiwan Weekly Update, April 18, 2024](#) **(ISW, 18 APR, Nils Peterson, Matthew Sperzel, Daniel Shats & Kaylin Nolan)**

The China–Taiwan Weekly Update is a joint product from the Institute for the Study of War and the American Enterprise Institute. The update supports the ISW–AEI Coalition Defense of Taiwan project, which assesses Chinese campaigns against Taiwan, examines alternative strategies for the United States and its allies to deter the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) aggression, and—if necessary—defeat the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The update focuses on the Chinese Communist Party's paths to controlling Taiwan and cross–Taiwan Strait developments.

8. [Chinese spies target Dutch industries to strengthen military, intelligence agency says](#) **(Reuters, 18 APR)**

Chinese spies have targeted the Dutch semiconductor, aerospace and maritime industries to try to strengthen China's armed forces, the Dutch military intelligence agency MIVD said in its annual report published on Thursday.

9. [Why You Can't Be an Iran Hawk and a Russia Dove](#) **(ISW, 18 APR, Frederick W. Kagan, Ashka Jhaveri, Annika Ganzeveld, Nicholas Carl, & George Barros)**

A Russian victory is an Iranian victory. Moscow and Tehran have formed a military bloc with the aim of defeating the United States and its allies in the Middle East, Europe, and around the world. Russian and Iranian military forces have been fighting alongside one another in Syria for nearly a decade. The Russians have given Iran advanced air defenses and access to other military technologies and techniques, in addition to a front-row seat observing their efforts to defeat American and NATO missile defenses in Ukraine

10. [German police arrest 2 suspected of spying for Russia](#) **(DW, 18 APR)**

German police have arrested two men on suspicion of spying for Russia. The German-Russian nationals have been accused of acting as agents for sabotage purposes.

11. ['Indefinite' Defense Department IDs Inconvenience Air Travelers, May Be Dropped As Acceptable Identification](#) **(Military.com, 16 APR, Patricia Kime)**

Military retirees and some spouses or dependents whose next-generation Department of Defense identification cards have an "INDEF" expiration date continue to face problems using their IDs to traverse Transportation Security Administration checkpoints at U.S. airports.

Israel & Iran

1. **[Residents of northern Israel brace for possible all-out war with Hezbollah](#) (Reuters, 30 APR, Andrew Macaskill)**

   Eli Harel was an Israeli soldier in his early thirties when he was sent into Lebanon in 2006 to battle fighters from the Iranian-backed group Hezbollah in a bloody, largely inconclusive month-long war.

2. **[Iran's Attack on Israel Has Deepened Concerns About Its Nuclear Program](#) (WSJ, 28 APR, Laurence Norman)**

   Iran's decision to launch more than 300 missiles and drones in its first direct attack on Israeli soil earlier this month showed an appetite for risk that is putting renewed focus on Tehran's nuclear program and whether it will continue to refrain from developing a bomb.

3. **[Israel-Iran tensions: Is Syria the new battlefield?](#) (DW, 24 APR, Cathrin Schaer)**

   Israel has been bombing Syria covertly for years, trying to stop anti-Israel forces in that country from getting any stronger. Some experts worry that the Gaza conflict will make things worse.

4. **[The Latest | Failed rocket strike launched on US-led coalition forces base in Syria](#) (AP News, 23 APR)**

   A failed rocket strike was launched at a base housing U.S.-led coalition forces at Rumalyn, Syria, marking the first time since Feb. 4 that Iranian-backed militias have attacked a U.S. facility in Iraq or Syria, a U.S. defense official said. No personnel were injured in the attack.

5. **[Satellite photos suggest Iran air defense radar struck in Isfahan during apparent Israeli attack](#) (AP News, 22 APR, Jon Gambrell)**

   Satellite photos taken Monday suggest an apparent Israeli retaliatory strike targeting Iran's central city of Isfahan hit a radar system for a Russian-made air defense battery, contradicting repeated denials by officials in Tehran of any damage in the assault.

6. **[Satellite image analyzed by AP shows damage after Iranian attack on Israeli desert air base](#) (AP News, 20 APR, Jon Gambrell)**

   An Iranian attack on an Israeli desert air base last week as part of [Tehran's unprecedented assault on the country](#) damaged a taxiway, a satellite image analyzed by The Associated Press on Saturday shows.

7. **[Mystery Weapon Appears In Iraqi Field After Israeli Strike (Updated)](#) (The Warzone, 20 APR, Tyler Rogoway)**

   There is growing evidence that Rocks, an air-launched quasi-ballistic missile, was used against an S-300 battery deep in Iran.

8. **[Israel Strikes Back (Updated)](#) (The Warzone, 19 APR, Tyler Rogoway)**

   The Israel Defense Forces have launched a reprisal operation against Iran five days after Iran launched hundreds of missiles and drones at Israel.

9. **Iran Fires at Suspected Israeli Attack Drones near Isfahan Air Base and Nuclear Site** (Military.com, 19 APR, Jon Gambrell)

Iran fired air defenses at a major air base and a nuclear site early Friday morning near the central city of Isfahan after spotting drones, which were suspected to be part of an Israeli attack in retaliation for Tehran's unprecedented drone-and-missile assault on the country.

10. **Iran-Israel tensions: Which countries can influence Iran?** (DW, 18 APR, Shabnam von Hein)

Countries across the geopolitical spectrum are urging de-escalation in the Middle East as Israel considers its response to the Iranian drone and missile attack.

11. **The Iranian-Israeli Cold War is Turning Hot** (National Interest, 16 APR, Ilan Berman)

Any serious observer of the Middle East knows that, long before Hamas' October 7 terror campaign and the resulting military offensive in the Gaza Strip, Israel was already embroiled in an undeclared war with another regional actor: the Islamic Republic of Iran. Jerusalem and Tehran have been waging a clandestine conflict throughout the region for decades. Over the years, that "shadow war" has entailed a great many things, from covert action to cyberattacks to targeted military strikes. But until now, it has been waged indirectly and largely away from the international spotlight.

12. **From nuclear sites to cyber attack: Israel's options in retaliating against Iran** (C Tech, 16 APR)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his immediate war cabinet are considering what action to take following Iran's attack on Saturday.

Allies including the United States have urged Israel not to risk igniting a wider regional conflict, and President Joe Biden has made clear U.S. forces would not join any retaliatory attack on Iran.

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, April 30, 2024
   Iran Update, April 29, 2024
   Iran Update, April 28, 2024
   Iran Update, April 27, 2024
   Iran Update, April 26, 2024
   Iran Update, April 25, 2024
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   Iran Update, April 20, 2024
   Iran Update, April 19, 2024
   Iran Update, April 18, 2024
   Iran Update, April 17, 2024
   Iran Update, April 16, 2024

2. **Rafah Offensive: What We Know Amid Evacuation Talk (Newsweek, 30 APR, Brendan Cole)**

   Israel is reportedly preparing for the evacuation of the population in Rafah in the Gaza Strip ahead of an imminent military operation.

3. **Hamas is reviewing an Israeli proposal for a cease-fire in Gaza, as a planned Rafah offensive looms (AP News, 27 APR, Samy Magdy & David Rising)**

   Hamas said Saturday it was reviewing a new Israeli proposal for a cease-fire in Gaza, as Egypt intensified efforts to broker a deal to end the months-long war and stave off a planned Israeli ground offensive into the southern city of Rafah.

4. **Chronology of Israel's war in Gaza (Reuters, 23 APR)**

   Israel and Hamas have been at war in Gaza since gunmen from the Palestinian militant group that runs the enclave attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and capturing 253 hostages, by Israeli tallies.

5. **Iran-Israel tensions highlight nuclear program (DW, 22 APR, Andrew Shale)**

   Tensions between Israel and Iran have turned the spotlight on Tehran's nuclear capabilities. The West accuses Iran of using its civil nuclear program as a cover for developing weapons — which Tehran denies.

6. **[Iranian government plays down suspected Israeli air attack](#)** (DW, 20 APR, Craig Crowther)

Thousands have taken to the streets of Tehran, but the Iranian government has downplayed the significance of a suspected Israeli air strike that came days after Iran's attack on Israel. At their meeting in Capri, G7 ministers urged both sides to avoid any further escalation.

Houthis Conflict

1. **[Houthis attack four ships in Indian Ocean, Red Sea](#) (Reuters, 29 APR, Nayera Abdallah & Enas Alashray)**

   Yemen's Houthis said they targeted the MSC Orion container ship in a drone attack in the Indian Ocean as part of their ongoing campaign against international shipping in solidarity with Palestinians against Israel's military actions in Gaza.

2. **[Yemen's Houthi rebels claim downing US Reaper drone, release footage showing wreckage of aircraft](#) (AP News, 28 APR, Jon Gambrell)**

   Yemen's Houthi rebels on Saturday claimed shooting down another of the U.S. military's MQ-9 Reaper drones, airing footage of parts that corresponded to known pieces of the unmanned aircraft.

3. **[Ballistic missiles fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels damage Panama-flagged oil tanker in Red Sea](#) (AP News, 27 APR, Jon Gambell)**

   Ballistic missiles fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels caused "minor damage" to a Panama-flagged oil tanker traveling through the Red Sea on Friday, authorities said.

4. **[Ship comes under attack off coast of Yemen as Houthi rebel campaign appears to gain new speed](#) (Fox News, 25 APR, AP)**

   A ship traveling in the Gulf of Aden came under attack Thursday, officials said, the latest assault carried out by Yemen's Houthi rebels over Israel's ongoing war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

5. **[Houthis Claim Responsibility in US Cargo, Naval Ship Attack](#) (Newsweek, 24 APR, Maura Zurick)**

   The Iran-aligned Houthi militia in Yemen on Wednesday claimed they targeted U.S. and Israeli vessels, according to a video from the rebel group's spokesperson.

6. **[Shipping industry urges UN to protect vessels after Iran seizure](#) (Reuters, 19 APR, Jonathan Saul)**

   Merchant ships and seafarers are increasingly in peril at sea as attacks escalate in the Middle East and the United Nations must do more to protect supply chains, the industry said in a letter released on Friday.

7. **[Iran says MSC Aries vessel seized for 'violating maritime laws'](#) (Reuters, 15 APR, Dubai Newsroom & Jonathan Saul)**

   The U.S. military said Sunday its forces destroyed one unmanned aerial vehicle in a Houthi rebel-held area of war-ravaged Yemen and another over a crucial shipping route in the Red Sea. It was the latest development in months of tension between the Iran-backed rebels and the U.S.

   The drones, which were destroyed Saturday morning, posed a threat to U.S. and coalition forces and merchant vessels in the region, said the U.S. Central Command.

Russia-Ukraine Conflict

1. **The Warzone Ukraine Situation Report:**

   Ukraine Situation Report: Frontline Defenses Deteriorating Under Russian Pressure – 29 APR

   Ukraine Situation Report: M1 Abrams Tanks Withdrawn From The Fight, Officials Say – 26 APR

   Ukraine Situation Report: Poland "Ready" To Host Nuclear Weapons – 22 APR

   Ukraine Situation Report: Russian Air Defense Systems Struck In Crimea – 17 APR

2. **Institute for The Study of War**

   Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, April 30, 2024
   Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, April 29, 2024
   Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, April 28, 2024
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   Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, April 16, 2024

3. **Russia shoots down six U.S.-made ATACMS missiles** (Reuters, 30 APR)

   Russia said on Tuesday that its air defense systems had shot down six U.S.-produced Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) launched by Ukraine over the last 24 hours.

4. **Ukraine War Maps Show Russia's Two Options for Advancing** (Newsweek, 30 APR, David Brennan)

   The ultimate goals of Russian forces pushing westward from the captured fortress city of Avdiivka remain unclear, according to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), as Kyiv tries to stem the Donetsk Oblast offensive and prepare for a larger summer push.

5. **Ukraine May Now Be Using WWI-Style Air Combat Tactics Against Drones** (The Warzone, 29 APR, Howard Altman & Thomas Newdick)

   Ukraine appears to have used the propeller-driven Soviet-era trainer in an effort to down Russian aerial drones.

6. **Ukraine Appears To Be Using Light Planes Converted Into Reusable Bomber Drones** (The Warzone, 26 APR, Howard Altman)

   The nearly intact Skyranger plane crashed with a bomb attached to its underside and clear indications that it was remotely piloted.

7. **Ukraine launches military charm offensive as conscription flags**

(Reuters, 23 APR, Dan Peleschuk)

Far from the trenches, at orderly new centres across Ukraine, civilian recruiters armed with laptops and info packs offer patriotic volunteers opportunities to join the war.

As Ukraine's efforts to conscript enough men to fight Russia are stymied by public scepticism, defence officials and military units are embarking on a multi-pronged charm offensive to recruit a citizens' army to resist the invasion.

8. **Russia to step up strikes on Western weapons in Ukraine** **(Reuters, 23 APR)**

Russia will intensify strikes on Ukrainian storage bases that house Western-supplied weapons, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Tuesday, as the United States prepares to approve and deliver a long-delayed batch of new military aid.

In remarks to defence officials, Shoigu said Russia had "dispelled the myth of the superiority of Western weapons" and its forces had gained the initiative along the 1,000 km (600-mile) battle front.

9. **Russian Troops Deploy Huge Smokescreen To Hide From Marauding Drones** **(The Warzone, 22 APR, Howard Altman)**

Russia is using the age-old tactic of laying down smoke to obscure its advancing vehicles from the modern scourge of drones.

10. **Ukraine rushes to fortify defenses for new Russian offensive** **(DW, 22 APR, Anna Pshemyska & Cynthia Cave)**

Ukraine is scrambling to strengthen defensive positions near its northern border with Russia and Belarus. The preparations are in anticipation of a looming Russian summer offensive. DW's Anna Pshemyska went to look at the new fortifications.

11. **Explainer: Russia's battlefield tactics in Ukraine** **(DW, 19 APR, Dmitry Ponyavin)**

Russia's battlefield strategy has been increasingly effective recently, allowing Russian forces to gradually seize or regain positions in the east of the country.

12. **Major Damage At Russian Airbase In Crimea After Ukrainian Attack** **(The Warzone, 19 APR, Thomas Newdick)**

Reports of destruction at the airbase, which was also home to an S-400/S-300 air defense system, are supported by satellite imagery.

13. **America's Stark Choice in Ukraine and the Cost of Letting Russia Win** **(ISW, 16 APR, Frederick W. Kagan)**

Russia cannot defeat Ukraine or the West - and will likely lose - if the West mobilizes its resources to resist the Kremlin. The West's existing and latent capability dwarfs that of Russia. The combined gross domestic product (GDP) of NATO countries, non-NATO European Union states, and our Asian allies is over $63 trillion. The Russian GDP is on the close order of $1.9 trillion.[2] Iran and North Korea add little in terms of materiel support. China is enabling Russia, but it is not mobilized on behalf of Russia and is unlikely to do so.[3] If we lean in and surge, Russia loses.